

# OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP

## MAY 2025

**Website for the Office for Divine Worship**

Website: [www.odwphiladelphia.org](http://www.odwphiladelphia.org)

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### JUBILEE YEAR 2025

Please see our archdiocesan website for the Jubilee Year, <https://archphila.org/hollyyear/>. This is the site for local information on the Jubilee Year — archdiocesan observances and resources.

Additional websites with information on the Jubilee Year:

<https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/it.html>

<https://www.usccb.org/committees/jubilee-2025>

EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL INFORMATION  
FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

<https://www.phillyeucharisticrevival.org/>

Please see the link below for sheet music for the hymn of the Eucharistic Revival, Let the Earth Acclaim (in English and Spanish):

[https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/post/sheet-music-available-for-new-eucharistic-hymns?\\_hsmi=283496485&\\_hsenc=p2ANqtz-8yfd0ViHAkXN5FZT2DCEnq-P0agJI9G0394neBfJHvvMS-XjEdilKOITMkYbLjbajvfP0hHylbgj\\_MMSXFRXxQ1IcCIA](https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/post/sheet-music-available-for-new-eucharistic-hymns?_hsmi=283496485&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-8yfd0ViHAkXN5FZT2DCEnq-P0agJI9G0394neBfJHvvMS-XjEdilKOITMkYbLjbajvfP0hHylbgj_MMSXFRXxQ1IcCIA)

## LITURGICAL CALENDAR ITEMS

### SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

**Thursday, May 29, 2025**

The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord is observed as a Holy Day of Obligation.

### ORDINATIONS AT THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

The Ordination of Transitional Deacons will take place on Saturday, May 10, 2025, and of Priests will take place on Saturday, May 17, 2025. Please include an intention in the Universal Prayer on the Sundays before each Ordination for those who will receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

## CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

The Office for Divine Worship has the responsibility for direction, guidance and support of pastors and those who collaborate with them in the formation of adults for Christian Initiation. Additional information on Christian Initiation for adults can be found on the website for the Office for Divine Worship, under the heading *Christian Initiation*.

### MASSES FOR THE NEOPHYTES AND A PENTECOST CELEBRATION DURING EASTER TIME

The *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*, numbers 247-251, provides helpful guidance for the pastoral care of the newly baptized adults at Easter. Gatherings that also include the celebration of Mass should be arranged for the neophytes. In addition, a special celebration should be arranged for the neophytes, their godparents and the community near to Pentecost to conclude the Period of Mystagogy.

### RECEPTION OF BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS INTO THE FULL COMMUNION OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

The *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults* allows for people baptized in another ecclesial community, although never treated as catechumens, to benefit from the doctrinal and spiritual formation and catechesis of the unbaptized. Additionally, the use of the Combined Rites for catechumens and candidates gives the candidates an important sense of the Sacred Liturgy and participation with the Church leading to Confirmation and Communion. However, many candidates do not require a full program parallel to the

catechumenate and so their formation may be separate and distinct from the unbaptized catechetical sessions.

*Preparation and celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation for baptized non-Catholics are an essential element of their Reception (See Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, no. 482).*

### **Reception of Candidates and Valid Baptism and Conditional Baptism**

All non-Catholic Christians seeking full communion must be validly baptized. The following norm is to be observed in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia regarding the reception of candidates into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church:

*Baptism is the doorway to all of the Sacraments. Therefore, the sacred minister needs moral certitude that a person was baptized with the Trinitarian formula and the triple water pouring/immersion before other Sacraments are celebrated. This moral certitude requires more than the evidence of a baptismal certificate and must be the case in each individual circumstance. Such moral certitude can often be readily obtained through inquiry with the candidate. When moral certitude is lacking, a conditional Baptism is necessary (see Canon 869).*

Additional information on valid baptism and conditional baptism can be found on the website for the Office for Divine Worship.

### **CONFIRMATION FOR ROMAN CATHOLIC ADULTS**

The ordinary minister of the Sacrament of Confirmation for baptized Roman Catholics is the Bishop. Typically, this occurs during the pastoral visit of the Bishop to the parish. *Every effort should be made to prepare Catholic Adults for Confirmation to participate in the parish celebration with the Bishop.*

Additionally, Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez will confer the Sacrament of Confirmation for adult baptized Roman Catholics at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on **Pentecost Sunday, June 8, 2025, at the 11:00 AM Solemn Mass.**

- **A pastor who foresees the genuine pastoral need to confirm an adult baptized Roman Catholic can do so only with the specific delegation of the Bishop (see Canon 882).** This delegation is required for the validity of the Sacrament in the case of a Roman Catholic candidate. Please send this request for delegation to the Office for Divine Worship.
- **The Archbishop gives this faculty to all priests of the Archdiocese to confirm adult baptized Roman Catholics, 16 years of age and older, on any**

**occasion from Palm Sunday through Pentecost Sunday.** If you have any questions about this faculty, please contact the Office for Divine Worship. There is no need for an additional letter requesting this faculty during this period specified by the Archbishop. *Priests are reminded that only the 2016 revised The Order of Confirmation may be used to celebrate the Sacrament.*

Candidates are to be at least sixteen years of age, who are already catechized in the faith, attend Mass regularly on Sundays, and, if married, validly married in the Church.

- *If for some serious reason, a school age baptized Roman Catholic—elementary and high school—is unable to be confirmed by the Bishop during his pastoral visit to the parish, then this candidate, with the permission of the pastor, may be presented for the Sacrament of Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday. The pastor’s permission is to be included with the registration forms to be sent to the Office for Divine Worship.*

Preparation for this Sacrament at the parish should include serious catechetical instruction on the Sacrament of Confirmation, an opportunity for the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation prior to the Sacrament of Confirmation, and the selection of a sponsor.

Please see the website of the Office for Divine Worship to register each baptized Catholic adult for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation on June 8, 2025. All registrations are handled electronically.

#### **PLEASE NOTE**

*Full Sacramental Initiation—Baptism, Confirmation and the first Reception of Holy Communion—apart from the Easter Vigil, outside of the immediate danger of death, requires the permission of the Archbishop (see OCIA, no. 331). Archbishop Perez delegates the Office for Divine Worship to give this permission. Please contact the Office for Divine Worship for such circumstances.*

*If there are any questions about the celebration of Baptism in unusual or irregular circumstances, please contact the Office for Divine Worship.*

#### **UPCOMING WORKSHOPS**

#### **WORKSHOPS FOR LITURGICAL MINISTERS**

*If any parish or institution would like a workshop for liturgical ministers, especially Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, please contact the Office for Divine Worship. If a parish or institution conducts its own workshop for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, please contact the Office for Divine Worship to obtain the mandate letters from the Archbishop of Philadelphia for the new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.*

## EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

- **All Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, without exception, are to have a current appointment letter from the Archbishop of Philadelphia.**
- **Extraordinary Ministers who serve in institutions and schools throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia are typically commissioned for service in their parishes and likewise commissioned for service in the institution and/or school.**
- Candidates are to be fully initiated practicing Catholics, high school graduates, not in an invalid marriage, recognized for faith and devotion to the Holy Eucharist as well as for service in the parish/institution/school. Pastors/chaplains are reminded to be discerning in the invitation to members of the lay faithful to carry out this ministry.
- Pastors and chaplains are encouraged to send new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to the archdiocesan formation sessions. Letters of Appointment from the Archbishop will then follow. *Veteran Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are also welcome to attend.*
- Pastors and chaplains are reminded to inform the Office for Divine Worship if they conduct their own formation and to send to this office their request for new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Request forms can be found on the Office for Divine Worship website. Letters of Appointment from the Archbishop will then follow.
- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are appointed for a three-year term and for the place where they are commissioned. Terms may be renewed if agreeable to both the pastor/chaplain and the Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.
- All records of active Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are maintained by the parish/institution/school.
- **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are commissioned after participation in a training session, according to the form found in the *Book of Blessings*, Chapter 63, "Order for the Commissioning of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion."**
- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion only serve in the parishes/institutions/schools for which they are commissioned.

## GUIDELINES FOR THE BUILDING AND RENOVATING OF CHURCHES AND CHAPELS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia, in addition to what is described in the liturgical ritual books, follows the guidelines of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for the building and renovating of churches and chapels. These guidelines are found in the USCCB document, *Built of Living Stones: Art, Architecture and Worship*, 2007, Fifth Printing, revised.

## GUIDELINES FOR CHAPELS IN RECTORIES

The Office for Divine Worship, according to the Archdiocesan Policy Manual, has oversight for Chapels in Rectories. Pastors are asked to review these guidelines for compliance. Please direct any questions or concerns about chapels in rectories to the Office for Divine Worship.

## RECURRING INFORMATION

### **THE PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL, THE ARCHANGEL**

Many parishes and institutions within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia pray the prayer to Saint Michael in conjunction with the celebration of Mass. You are reminded that this devotional prayer is to take place outside of Mass. It is not to be prayed as the concluding prayer of the Universal Prayer nor as part of the Communion Rite.

### **TIME FOR VIGIL MASSES AND ANTICIPATED MASSES**

The time for Vigil Masses and Anticipated Masses in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia is no earlier than 4:00 PM. This applies to Holy Days of Obligation as well, including Christmas.

### **THE MASS SCHEDULE FOR HOLY DAYS WHEN THE OBLIGATION IS SUSPENDED**

In the United States, there are three Holy Days, Solemnities, when the obligation to participate in Mass is suspended when the observance falls on a Monday or a Saturday—the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (January 1), the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15), and the Solemnity of All Saints (November 1). In these instances, the Mass schedule certainly can be modified. However, there should be the celebration of one Mass at least for the benefit of the faithful who desire to attend Mass.

## LINKS TO HELPFUL INFORMATION

### THE LITURGICAL EXCHANGE

For information about the new Liturgical Exchange in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, please see: <https://www.liturgicalexchange.com/>.

Please consider spring cleaning your sacristies and storage areas for liturgical items no longer needed or in use. The *Liturgical Exchange* provides a great service within and outside the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for those looking to repurpose liturgical items for churches and chapels.

### FOR THE MOST RECENT NEWSLETTER FROM THE USCCB

Individual issues of the Newsletter are posted online around the fifteenth of the month approximately three months after they have been released to subscribers.

For information on subscribing to the newsletter, visit:

<https://www.usccb.org/committees/divine-worship/newsletter>.

### FOR PAST MONTHLY MAILINGS OF THE OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP

Visit: <http://www.odwphiladelphia.org/sacred-liturgy/monthly-mailings/>.