

OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP

OCTOBER 2025

Website for the Office for Divine Worship

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JUBILEE YEAR 2025

Please see our archdiocesan website for the Jubilee Year, <https://archphila.org/holyyear/>.

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>

Archdiocesan Closing of the Jubilee Year is December 28, 2025,

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph,

at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul,

at the 11:00 AM Solemn Mass

Archbishop Nelson J. Perez, Celebrant and Homilist

LITURGICAL CALENDAR ITEMS

RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday, October 5, 2025

The USCCB Respect Life Program begins anew each year on Respect Life Sunday, the first Sunday in October. The program is highlighted in liturgies and marked by special events. The USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities publishes a program packet each year to call attention to numerous human life issues. These materials are especially helpful for priests, parish groups, schools, and other organizations. For more information or to request packets, visit:

<http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/respect-life-program/>

Intentions for the Universal Prayer for Respect Life can be found on the website for the Office for Divine Worship.

Priests and deacons may consider, in conjunction with Respect Life Sunday, using the Rite for the Blessing of a Child in the Womb, published by the United States Conferences of Catholic Bishops in 2012. For more information on this Rite and to order in English or Spanish, see:

<http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/prayers/pro-life-blessings.cfm>.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

TWENTY NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday, October 19, 2025

*The Mass for the Evangelization of Peoples, number 18 of the Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions in the Roman Missal, may be used on World Mission Sunday. The Readings can be those of the Sunday or those for the *Evangelization of Peoples* in Volume IV of the *Lectionary for Mass*.*

Looking ahead to...

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS

Saturday, November 1, 2025

This year since the Holy Day falls on a Saturday, it is not a day of obligation.

On Friday evening, Evening Prayer 1 of the Solemnity is prayed. Also, if there is a Mass celebrated on Friday evening, then it is the Mass of the Solemnity.

THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (All Souls' Day)

Sunday, November 2, 2025

The Saturday evening Mass, the Anticipated Mass on November 1, is the Mass of All Souls for the pastoral benefit of the faithful.

TIME OF THE EASTER VIGIL 2026

The Easter Vigil is the first Mass of Easter Sunday and is not in any way to be considered an Anticipated Mass for Easter Sunday. This is why the discipline of the Church insists that it should not begin before nightfall in any circumstance. It may be helpful to know that sunset, according to a variety of models, occurs approximately at 7:35 PM on April 4, 2026. This information is provided at this time to assist with calendar planning for 2025-2026. In general, given the variable date for Easter, it seems best to schedule the Easter Vigil each year for 8:00 PM or later.

MASS FOR THE CARE OF CREATION

The new liturgical texts for the *Mass for the Care of Creation* are only available in Latin and have not been translated into English or, in fact, into any other languages to date for use.

When our Holy Father offered the *Mass for the Care of Creation* this past July 2025, he did so by celebrating the Mass in Italian but made use of the new prayers in Latin. Once the new texts are translated and available, this information will be published in this mailing.

Here is a press report from the FDLC on the new texts, <https://fdlc.org/2025/07/new-mass-formulary-for-the-care-of-creation/>.

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*.

Please see the flyer attached to this mailing about the workshop on Christian Initiation for adults on Saturday, October 11, 2025.

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.

Please see the flyer attached to this mailing with the full schedule of liturgical ministry workshops for 2025-2026.

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/>.