

# LITURGY UPDATE

## Liturgical Memos

### September 1:

#### World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

On this World Day of Prayer, a Votive Mass or Mass for Various Needs may be celebrated at the discretion of the celebrant: e.g., Mass for the Sanctification of Human Labor. Resources for liturgy and preaching have been prepared by the USCCB.

### September 5:

#### Optional Memorial of Saint Teresa of Calcutta

This celebration appears on the particular calendar of the Archdiocese in recognition of Mother Teresa's many visits to the New York area and the ongoing ministry of the Missionaries of Charity in the Archdiocese.

### October 5:

#### Anniversary of the Dedication of Saint Patrick's Cathedral

This anniversary is celebrated as a feast in archdiocesan parishes and a solemnity in the Cathedral.

### September 25:

#### World Day of Migrants and Refugees

This Day of Prayer is observed annually on the last Sunday in September, when Catholics worldwide are called upon to remember those displaced by conflict and persecution. This year, Pope Francis has asked the Church to reflect on the theme of "Building the Future with Migrants and Refugees." More information and resources may be found on the [Vatican website](http://www.vatican.va).



## Pope Francis' Reflections on the *Ars Celebrandi*

On June 29, the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Pope Francis issued an apostolic letter entitled *Desiderio desideravi* on the liturgical formation of the People of God. The document takes its title from the words of Jesus to the apostles at the Last Supper - "I have earnestly desired (*desiderio desideravi*) to eat this Passover meal with you."

In his letter, Pope Francis offers a meditation meant to assist the Church in understanding the beauty and dynamism of the liturgy. He explains that this brief document is not intended to be a comprehensive treatment of all the historical and pastoral aspects of the Church's liturgical life; rather, it focuses on certain issues which the Holy Father believes deserve greater attention in our time. These include

a recovery of a symbolic world view in light of a post-modern emphasis on individualism and subjectivism and the rekindling of a sense of the liturgy as a place of encounter with Christ.

Quoting the early 20th century liturgist Romano Guardini, Pope Francis maintains that the first task in liturgical formation is for humanity to “become once again capable of symbols.” He admits, however, that this is not easy to achieve, “because modern man has become illiterate, no longer able to read symbols” (44). In response, Pope Francis draws attention to the manner in which the sacraments of the Church use created matter to communicate the life and love of God as “instruments of salvation, vehicles of the Spirit, [and] channels of grace” (46). This, he says, is similarly true of the human body, inasmuch as it can express an openness to the transcendence of God that characterizes the soul. Indeed, bodily actions performed by the celebrant and the gathered faithful are striking symbols of an interior posture of worship.

It is with reference to liturgical gestures and postures that Pope Francis offers an extended reflection on the *ars celebrandi*, or the “art of celebrating” the liturgy. Pope Benedict XVI had already drawn attention to the importance of the *ars celebrandi* in his 2007 post synodal exhortation *Sacramentum caritatis*. At that time, Pope Benedict noted that the liturgy is firstly the work of Christ, in which the People of God participate by virtue of their baptism. For this reason, the “art of celebrating” the liturgy is not a call to personal creativity, but rather, a faithful observance of liturgical norms which are expressive of the worship of the entire Church, head and members. Amongst the various elements which make up the liturgy, Pope Benedict especially emphasized the proper use of liturgical symbols, including the “simplicity of gestures and sobriety of [the] orderly sequence of signs [which] communicate and inspire more than contrived and inappropriate additions” (40).



In *Desiderio desideravi*, Pope Francis similarly draws attention to the connection between the *ars celebrandi* and the proper use of symbols. He notes that even simple actions such as “gathering, careful walking in procession, being seated, standing, kneeling, singing, being in silence, acclamations, looking and listening” are ways in which the worship of the Church is manifested (51). And, whereas discussions of the *ars celebrandi*

often focus only on the actions of the presiding celebrant, Pope Francis indicates that the entire Body of Christ should be concerned with this aspect of right worship; in fact, he writes, “the *ars*

*celebrandi* is required [emphasis added] of the entire assembly that celebrates” (54). For this reason, Pope Francis underscores the need to develop within the Church’s members a sense of “liturgical etiquette,” or a “discipline” involving liturgical actions that is formative. He explains, “these are gestures that place order within our interior world making us live certain feelings, attitudes, behaviors. They are an action that engages the body in its entirety, that is to say, in its being a unity of body and soul” (51).

Although all the baptized should be taught to celebrate the liturgy well, Pope Francis highlights the pivotal role that the celebrant plays in fostering a proper *ars celebrandi* in a community. He notes that the gestures and words of presiders have a special “sacramental weight,” such that the assembly should be able to perceive in these the presence of the risen Lord Himself (51). A desire to share Christ with those gathered should lead celebrants to a careful examination of their own presiding style, to distinguish those aspects of their gestures and vocalizations that are conduits of the divine from those which distract or draw attention only to oneself. To this end, Pope Francis offers a liturgical examination of conscience for celebrants in *Desiderio desideravi*, noting the inadequacies of styles characterized by a “rigid austerity or an exasperating creativity, a spiritualizing mysticism or a practical functionalism, a rushed briskness or an overemphasized slowness, a sloppy carelessness or an excessive finickiness, a superabundant friendliness or priestly impassibility” (54). All of these mistaken approaches to celebrating the liturgy are the result, he writes, of a “heightened personalism” wherein the celebrant becomes the center of attention, in lieu of Christ.



The antidote to such an approach, Pope Francis maintains, is for the celebrant to enter into an ever deepening communion with the Lord. It is in prayer that the celebrant develops a greater appreciation for the love of God for himself and for each person and becomes, as it were, “overpowered by this desire of communion that the Lord has toward each person. It is as if he were placed in the middle between

Jesus’ burning heart of love and the heart of each of the faithful, which is the object of the Lord’s love” (57). It is thus through the celebrant’s prayerful humility before Christ and in recognizing the dignity of his priestly office that the celebrant is able to foster a true encounter with Christ and all those gathered through the art of celebrating the liturgy.



### *Forthcoming Order of Penance Confirmed for Use*

In April, the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments confirmed a new English translation of the *Order of Penance* for use in the United States. It is anticipated that this ritual text will be implemented sometime in early 2023.



The new *Order of Penance* makes two minor changes to the longstanding English translation of the formula of absolution while keeping the essential words of the formula the same. The alterations are underlined below:

God, the Father of mercies,  
through the Death and Resurrection of his Son  
has reconciled the world to himself  
and poured out the Holy Spirit [*Spiritus Sanctum effudit*] for the forgiveness of sins;  
through the ministry of the Church  
may God grant [*tribuat*] you pardon and peace.  
AND I ABSOLVE YOU FROM YOUR SINS,  
IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, + AND OF THE HOLY  
SPIRIT.  
R. Amen.

In its decree, the Congregation also approved the addition of the following formula for the Act of Contrition, which is now included amongst ten other options given in the *Order of Penance*.

O my God,  
I am heartily sorry for having offended you,  
and I detest all my sins because of your just punishments,  
but most of all because they offend you, my God,  
who are all good and deserving of all my love.  
I firmly resolve, with the help of your grace,  
to sin no more and to avoid the near occasions of sin.  
Amen.

Penitents may feel free to use any of the given options for the Act of Contrition, or even compose their own prayer which expresses sorrow for sins, the intention to avoid sin in the future, and the resolution to perform a given penance.

## *Liturgical Books Currently in Use*

The USCCB's Committee on Divine Worship has recently published a list of ritual books that are currently approved for liturgical use in the United States and given updates on several forthcoming texts. A number of these resources have been newly translated and published in recent years. Parishes may want to use the following list and notes from the USCCB to ensure that all liturgical books in sacristies and in use are up to date:

The dates in *italics* refer to the current Latin *editiones typicae*. Years in (parentheses) refer to earlier U.S. editions, and years in **bold** refer to the current U.S. English edition.

### **For the Eucharist**

- *Roman Missal* 2008 (1974; 1985) **2011**
- *Excerpts from the Roman Missal* ("Book of the Chair") **2018**
- *Lectionary for Mass* 1981 (1970) **1998/2002**
- *Lectionary for Mass Supplement* **2017**
- *Collection of Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary* 1987 (1992) **2012**
- *Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest* (1988; 2007) **2012**
- *Eucharistic Prayers for Masses with Children* 2002 (1985) **2011**
- *Lectionary for Masses with Children* **1993**

### **For the other sacraments and sacramentals**

- *Roman Pontifical* (1978) **2012**
  - *Ordination of a Bishop, of Priests, and of Deacons* 1989 (1978; 2003; 2012) **2021**
  - *Order of Confirmation* 2003 (1978; 2012) **2015**
  - *Order of the Blessing of Oils and the Consecration of Chrism* 1971 (1985; 2012) **2019**
  - *Order of the Dedication of a Church and an Altar* 1977 (1989) **2018**
  - *Order of Blessing of Abbots and Abbesses* 2010 (1978) **2012**
  - *Order of the Consecration of Virgins* 1970 (1978) **2012**
  - *Institution of Lectors and Acolytes* 1972 (1978) **2012**
  - *Institution of Catechists* 2021
- *Roman Ritual*
  - *Order of Baptism of Children* 2003 (1970) **2020**
  - *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* 1972 (1974) **1988**
  - *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside Mass* 1974; **1976**
  - *Order of Celebrating Matrimony* 2008 (1970) **2016**
  - *Order of Penance* 1974 (1975; 2010) **2023**
  - *Pastoral Care of the Sick: Rites of Anointing and Viaticum* 1972 (1974) **1983**

- o *Book of Blessings* 1994; **1989**
- o *Order of Christian Funerals* 1969 (1971) **1989**
- o *Rite of Religious Profession* 1970; **1989**
- o *Exorcisms and Related Supplications* 2005; **2017**

### Other liturgical books

- *Roman Martyrology* 2004
- *Ceremonial of Bishops* 2008; **1989**
- *Order of Crowning an Image of the Blessed Virgin Mary* 1981; **1987**
- *Liturgy of the Hours* 2000; **1975/1976**

### Conference-approved texts containing excerpts of ritual books

- *Order for the Solemn Exposition of the Holy Eucharist* **1993**
- *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers* (1988; 2007) **2020**
- *Blessing on the Fifteenth Birthday* (bilingual) **2008**
- *Blessing of a Child in the Womb* (bilingual) **2012**

As of April 2022, two English ritual books approved by the USCCB were awaiting confirmation from the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments – the *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults* and *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharistic Mystery Outside Mass*. An updated translation of the *Order of the Anointing of the Sick and of Their Pastoral Care* has been completed by ICEL and should come to the bishops for vote soon. New English translations are also in process for the following rites: the *Blessing of Abbots and Abbesses*, *Religious Profession*, *Consecration of Virgins*, *Crowning an Image of the Blessed Virgin Mary*, and the *Roman Martyrology*.

### Ritual books in Spanish

- *Misal Romano* 2008; **2018**
- *Celebraciones dominicales en ausencia de presbítero* (bilingual) **2007**
- *Ritual para el Bautismo de los niños* 2003; **2009**
- *Rito de la Iniciación cristiana de adultos* 1972; **1993**
- *Ritual del Matrimonio* 2008; **2010**
- *Ritual de exequias cristianas* 1969; **2002**
- *Bendición al cumplir quince años* (bilingual) **2008**
- *Bendición de una criatura en el vientre materno* (bilingual) **2012**

Six Spanish-language liturgical books and two fascicles have been confirmed for liturgical use in the United States. In addition, three books in Spanish are pending: the *Bendicional* and revised *Ritual de la Iniciación cristiana de adultos* are awaiting confirmation by the Holy See, and a new

translation of the *Ritual de la Unción de los enfermos y de su atención pastoral* is anticipated for a vote in the near future.

For other rites that do not have a confirmed U.S. Spanish edition – for example, the *Leccionario*, rituals for Penance, Ordination, etc. – any Spanish translation lawfully approved by another Conference of Bishops may be used. Ritual books from Mexico tend to be the most popular in this country, and many of them are available through Liturgical Press or from the Mexican publishing house Buena Prensa.



### *Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions Offers Weekly Presentations on the OCIA*

The Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions has announced an ongoing series of webinars which will feature expert presenters, online chats, and downloadable handouts on the forthcoming Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA). This new translation of the *Ordo Initiationis Christianae Adultorum* will be available to parishes in 2023. The

FDLC webinars are designed to assist pastors, deacons, OCIA coordinators, and musicians in implementing the new OCIA and rediscovering the various components of this ritual book. Each presentation is offered in English and Spanish and is 75 minutes in length. More information and registration may be found on the [FDLC website](https://www.fdlc.org/).

ENGLISH Wednesday	SPANISH Thursday	TOPIC	SPEAKERS IN ENGLISH	SPEAKERS IN SPANISH
Aug 31	Sept 1	Vision of the OCIA	Lesia Truxaw	Fr. Victor Reyes
Sept 7	Sept 8	History of Initiation / USA edition	Rita Thiron	Fr. Pedro Lopez
Sept 14	Sept 15	Preaching for the Rites	Fr. Michael Connors, CSC Msgr. Michael Ibach, JCL	Fr. Richard Vega
Sept 21	Sept 22	Canonical Issues in OCIA Process	Msgr. Michael Ibach, JCL	Fr. Jesús Mariscal, JCL
Sept 28	Sept 29	Discernment	Fr. Tom Ranzino Sr. Donna Steffen, SC	Dcn. Modesto Cordero
Oct 12	Oct 13	Music for the Rites	Dr. Steven Janco	Dr. Dolores Martinez
Oct 19	Oct 20	OCIA as Adapted for Children	Sr. Sandy DeMasi, SSJ	Olivia Cornejo
Oct 26	Oct 27	The Revised National Statutes	Rita A. Thiron	Fr. Jesús Mariscal, JCL
Nov 2	Nov 3	Role of the Bishop in OCIA	Fr. Jim Bessert	Fr. Michael Lewis

Nov 9	Nov 10	Initiating Community: Roles and Proper Ministers	Dr. Donna Eschenauer	Dr. Ximena DeBroeck
Nov 16	Nov 17	Period of Evangelization/ Pre-Catechumenate	Victoria Tufano	Nelly Lorenzo
Dec 7	Dec 8	About the Rite of Entrance	Dr. Patricia Hughes	Dr. Dolores Martinez and Fr. Carlos Velasquez
Dec 14	Dec 15	Catechumenate Period/ Catechesis	Todd Williamson	Dr. Ximena DeBroeck
Jan 4	Jan 5	About the Rites of Sending/ Election	Laura Bertone	Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller and Dr. Dolores Martinez
Jan 11	Jan 12	Period of Purification & Enlightenment, Scrutinies Handing on Rites/Rites of Immediate Preparation Initiation Rites	Fr. Jan Michael Joncas	Fr. Pedro Lopez
Jan 18	Jan 19	Handing on Rites/Rites of Immediate Preparation	Fr. Paul Turner	Fr. Paul Turner
Jan 25	Jan 26	Initiation Rites	Fr. Robert Kennedy	Fr. Richard Vega
Feb 1	Feb 2	Initiation in Exceptional Circumstances	Dr. Eileen Jaramillo, JCL Dr. Carmel Ann Sperti	Nelly Lorenzo
Feb 8	Feb 9	Rites for the Baptized	Fr. Ron Oakham, O Carm.	Fr. Tim Piasecki
Feb 15	Feb 16	Period of Mystagogy	Fr. Marcus McFadin	Rosie Hernandez

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**CLARA GERDES BARTZ**

Most Holy Redeemer and Nativity Parish, Manhattan

**JARED LAMENZO**

Basilica of St. Patrick's Old Cathedral, Manhattan

**SARAH JANE E. STARCHER GERMANI**

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