

LITURGY UPDATE

Liturgical Memos

February 28, March 6, 13:

Scrutiny Rites for Elect

When the scrutinies are celebrated within Mass, the readings of Cycle A should be proclaimed. In this case, the proper gospel prefaces for Cycle A are also to be used.

March 21:

Reconciliation Monday

Parishes are asked to offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation from 4:00-8:00pm on Holy Monday.

March 27-May 15:

Easter Season

The Paschal candle should be placed near the altar or ambo from the Easter Vigil through Evening Prayer of Pentecost Sunday. This candle need be lit only in "the more solemn liturgical celebrations" of the Easter season (*Roman Missal*, "Easter Vigil", 70).

During this same period, the extended form of the dismissal at Mass (e.g., "Go in peace, alleluia, alleluia") should be said or sung from the Easter Vigil through the Second Sunday of Easter, inclusive, and on the Solemnity of Pentecost.

April 4:

Solemnity of the Annunciation

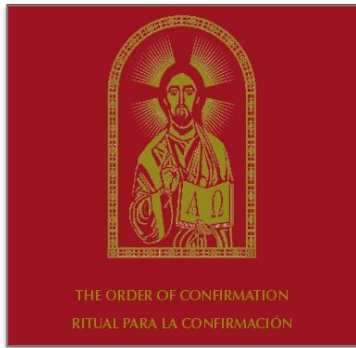
Inasmuch as Good Friday falls on March 25th this year, the Solemnity of the Annunciation is transferred to the Monday following the Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday).



Reform of the Holy Thursday Foot-Washing Rite

In January of this year, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments announced that the rubrics for the foot-washing rite in the *Mass of the Lord's Supper* have been altered. Whereas the description of the rite given in the *Roman Missal* formerly stated, "*The men who have been chosen* are led to the minister..." (*Mass of the Lord's Supper*, 11), this text has now been changed to read, "*Those who are chosen from amongst the people of God* are led by the ministers...."

The Congregation explained that the modification of this rubric, made at the request of Pope Francis, permits pastors to select a small group of the faithful who represent the variety and unity of each part of the people of God to participate in the foot-washing rite. This small group "can be made up of men and women, and it is appropriate that they consist of people young and old, healthy and sick, clerics, consecrated men and women and laity." In performing this rite, priests are invited to intimately conform



Revised Rite of Confirmation Published

The USCCB's Secretariat of Divine Worship has announced the publication of the revised *Order of Confirmation/Ritual para la Confirmación*. This ritual book offers an updated English translation of the 1971 *Ordo Confirmationis* in accordance with the principles set forth in *Liturgiam authenticam*. While this revised ritual book may be used immediately, its use becomes required in the United States as of Pentecost (May 15) this year. The bilingual edition is published exclusively by USCCB Communications and may be ordered for \$49.95 at the [USCCB's website](http://www.usccb.org).

Information regarding the new translation may be downloaded directly from the [Liturgy Office website](http://www.usccb.org), which hosts [lecture notes](#) from a recent seminar on the revised text which took place at Saint Joseph's Seminary. This presentation will be repeated on [March 18 at Saint John Nepomucene Church in Manhattan](#) (see page 4 for additional details).

themselves to Christ, who "came not to be served but to serve" (Mt 20:28).

In a commentary accompanying this decree, Archbishop Arthur Roche, Secretary of the Congregation, noted that this ritual act has taken many forms over the centuries. The Holy Thursday foot-washing is first mentioned in a 7th-century Roman *ordo*, in which the bishop is described as washing the feet of twelve clerics in his house on Holy Thursday. This rite was carried out in various ways in monastic houses and parishes throughout the medieval era. The post-Tridentine *Caeremoniale Episcoporum* (1600) describes a related custom, wherein the bishop would wash, dry, and kiss the feet of thirteen poor people after dressing, feeding, and giving a charitable donation to them. This action was performed outside of the celebration of the liturgy, in the afternoon or evening of Holy Thursday.

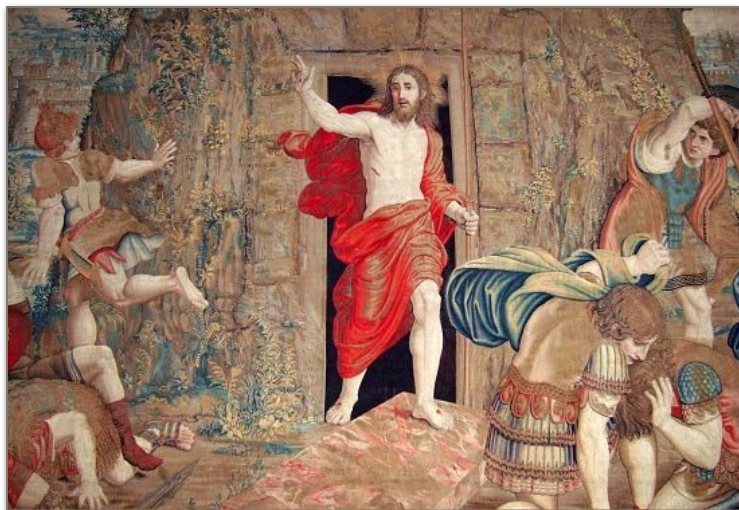
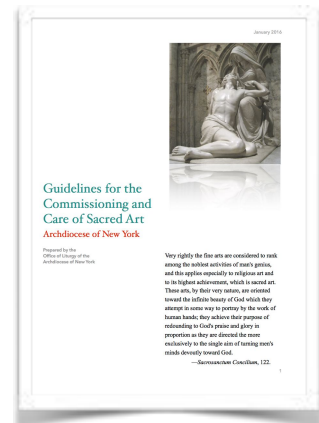
In 1955, Pope Pius XII moved the foot-washing rite to within the celebration of the *Mass of the Lord's Supper*, where it was placed after the homily. This optional rite involved washing and drying of the feet of "twelve selected men." The 1970 *Missale Romanum* retained this practice, but omitted the indication that those to have their feet washed must number twelve. The most recent rubrical change announced by the Congregation permits pastors to choose not only men but individuals from amongst all the members of the People of God to partake in the foot-washing rite.

Archbishop Roche noted that the historical development of this rite indicates its movement from a purely imitative act (wherein a bishop and twelve clerics represent Christ and the apostles), to one which symbolically expresses the meaning of Christ's actions on Holy Thursday: namely, that in giving Himself for the salvation of the human race, Christ calls all to follow His example of loving service to others. In this way, the rite stands as a visual expression of the command of Christ to "love one another as I have loved you" (Jn 3:14).

It should be noted that the number of persons to be selected for the foot-washing rite continues to be left to the pastor's discretion. As well, this rite remains optional within the celebration of the *Mass of the Lord's Supper* and may be performed where pastoral reasons suggest its suitability.

New Archdiocesan Guidelines for the Commissioning and Care of Sacred Art

In January, the Liturgy Office published [archdiocesan guidelines for sacred art, vessels, and vestments](#). These guidelines are intended to serve as a resource to pastors and others who are entrusted with the commissioning, care, and disposition of works of sacred art in parishes and other archdiocesan institutions. An appendix includes guidelines from the USCCB's Secretariat of Divine Worship for the cleansing of altar linens and communion vessels, as well as the use of the sacarium. This document may be accessed and downloaded at the [Liturgy Office website](#).



"The Music of Holy Week" Workshop - March 4

On Friday, March 4, from 2:00pm-5:30pm, Saint Joseph's Seminary will host a workshop focusing on the processional chants of Palm Sunday, the antiphons for the washing of feet on Holy Thursday, the Reproaches for the veneration of the Holy Cross on Good Friday, and the *Exsultet* of the Easter Vigil. This presentation is ideal for parish musicians, cantors, music and liturgy directors, clergy (especially deacons), RCIA and religious education

instructors, and all who wish to have a greater understanding of these beautiful works of sacred music. The cost of the workshop is \$10. Registration may be found at the [Liturgy Office website](#).

Resources for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Lectors

Parishes preparing to train new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Lectors are invited to download the [archdiocesan guidelines](#) for these ministries from the [Liturgy Office website](#).

These guidelines provide a brief history and description of these liturgical roles, as well as a synopsis of current legislative norms.

The Liturgy Office is also able to forward a list of well-qualified speakers to deaneries and parishes who are seeking to provide training for these ministries. Deans and pastors are encouraged to [contact the Liturgy Office](#) for further details.



Archdiocesan Distribution of Holy Oils

In the Archdiocese of New York, the distribution of Holy Oils during Holy Week will take place according to the following schedule:

At Saint Patrick's Cathedral

Six-ounce bottles of Holy Oils will be prepared and distributed by the seminarians to clergy and official parish representatives at the conclusion of the Chrism Mass. Old oils will not be accepted at the Cathedral.

At Saint Joseph's Seminary

During Holy Week, seminarians will distribute the prepared bottles of Holy Oils at the following times:

Wednesday, March 23 - 10:30am-4:30pm

Thursday, March 24 - 10:30am-2:30pm

Saturday, March 26 - 10:30am-2:30pm

Parishes with larger vessels of oil may fill them at the Seminary. Old oils will be accepted at the Seminary for proper disposal.



“Preparing for the Easter Vigil” Seminar

- March 4

On Friday, March 4, at 7:00pm, clergy, music directors, RCIA coordinators, lectors, and others interested in the liturgies of Holy Week are invited to learn about the history, theology, reforms, and pastoral implementation of the Easter Vigil. The seminar will be presented by Fr. Matthew Ernest, S.T.D. Registration for this event may be found at the [Liturgy Office website](#). Those who are attending the “Music of Holy Week” workshop in the afternoon may opt to have dinner at Saint Joseph’s Seminary for an additional \$15.

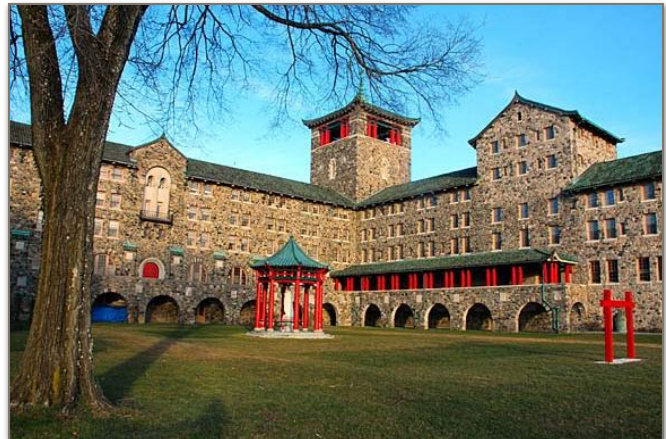
“Revised Rite of Confirmation” Seminar - Second Date Added

In response to several requests received by the Liturgy Office, the “Revised Rite of Confirmation” seminar will be offered again at a second location. This presentation will take place in Manhattan at Saint John Nepomucene Church on Friday, March 18, at 7:00pm, and will focus on the new English translation of the Rite of Confirmation (see page two of this newsletter). The seminar will be led by Fr. Matthew Ernest, S.T.D., and attendees may register at the [Liturgy Office website](#).

Day of Recollection for Parish Musicians with Bishop O'Hara - April 9

On April 9, from 10:00am-2:00pm, at Maryknoll Seminary in Ossining, music directors, adult choir members, instrumentalists, and others involved in parish music ministry are invited to join **Bishop John O'Hara**, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of New York, for a day of prayer, reflection, and music-making with fellow parish musicians from around the archdiocese. The day will include the celebration of Solemn Morning Prayer, a

conference with Bishop O'Hara on the spirituality of the parish musician, and a Holy Hour with sacred music provided by the Saint Barnabas Church Children's Choir. Opportunities for the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered throughout the day. Registration fee (to defray the cost of lunch) is \$10. Attendees are invited to register at the [Liturgy Office website](#).



Upcoming Events

Lenten Evening of Prayer and Sacred Music. March 3, at 7:00pm. Saint Joseph's Church in Somers. More information: www.stjosephsomers.org.

Pueri Cantores Music Festival for Youth. April 22-23. Saint Paul's Church (Treble Choirs) and Saint Malachy's Church (High School Choirs) in Manhattan. More information: pcchoirs.org.

Liturgical Music Institute. July 25-29. Seminary of the Immaculate Conception (Huntington). More information: music@icseminary.edu or www.liturgicalmusicinstitute.org.

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