

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 Priest-celebrant: e.g., Mass for the Sanctification of Human Labor. Resources for liturgy, preaching, and taking action have been prepared by the USCCB.

September 26:

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 pray for an increase in the solidarity of all humanity and a movement towards "An Ever Wider 'We.'" More information and resources may be found on the Vatican website.

October 24:

World Mission Sunday

World Mission Sunday is celebrated annually on the penultimate Sunday in October. On this day, Catholics are invited to recommit themselves to the common baptismal vocation to be missionaries, through prayer, participation in the Eucharist, and by giving generously to the collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Parishes may wish to pray a "World Mission Rosary," before or after Mass on this Sunday.



Pope Francis Issues *Traditionis custodes*

On July 16, His Holiness, Pope Francis, issued an apostolic letter *motu proprio* entitled *Traditionis custodes* ("Guardians of the Tradition"), on the celebration of the pre-conciliar liturgical forms. The letter made several significant changes to preexisting norms, most especially those established in 2007 through Pope Benedict XVI's apostolic letter *Summorum pontificum*. That previous document had allowed for priests to celebrate the liturgical rites according to the 1962 liturgical books without the need to seek permission from the local bishop or the Holy See. It had also spoken of two "forms" of the Roman Rite, with the pre-conciliar liturgies referred to as the "Extraordinary Form" of the Roman Rite, and those promulgated after the Second Vatican Council termed the "Ordinary Form."

In *Traditionis custodes*, Pope Francis established that the post-conciliar liturgical books should now serve as “the unique expression of the *lex orandi* [the law of prayer] of the Roman Rite.” The Holy Father also affirmed that it is the diocesan bishop’s exclusive competence to authorize any use of the 1962 *Missale Romanum* in his diocese. It is within the bishop’s purview to decide whether parishes who offer the pre-conciliar liturgy are “effective... for spiritual growth,” and he should “take care not to authorize the establishment of new groups.” As well, those who celebrate the pre-conciliar form of the liturgy must not, in any way, deny the validity of the Second Vatican Council or the reformed liturgical rites.

In the future, priests who wish to celebrate the older rites must request permission to do so from the diocesan bishop, and newly ordained priests must seek permission from the Apostolic See. The letter concluded by noting that “previous norms, instructions, permissions, and customs that do not conform to the provisions of the present *motu proprio* are abrogated.”



Pope Francis explained his reasons for issuing these new norms in a letter to the world’s bishops which accompanied the papal *motu proprio*. The Holy Father observed that a recent survey sent to his brother bishops concerning the celebration of the pre-conciliar liturgies had revealed several problems with the implementation of previous norms that had allowed for these celebrations. Noting that his predecessors, especially Pope Saint John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI, had given wider latitude for the use of the older liturgical books in order to “recover the unity of an ecclesial body with diverse liturgical sensibilities,” Pope Francis lamented the fact that these

generous permissions were often “exploited to widen... gaps, reinforce divergences, and encourage disagreements that injure the Church.” In point of fact, the Holy Father explained, the celebration of the previous liturgical forms was all too frequently accompanied by a refusal to accept the Second Vatican Council and its liturgical reforms, a denial which, in some cases, even led to a “rejection of the Church and her institutions.”

In light of these concerns, Pope Francis asked bishops to “provide for the good of those who are rooted in the previous form of celebration and need to return in due time to the Roman Rite promulgated by Saints Paul VI and John Paul II, and, on the other hand, to discontinue the erection of new personal parishes tied more to the desire and wishes of individual priests than to the real need of the ‘holy People of God.’”

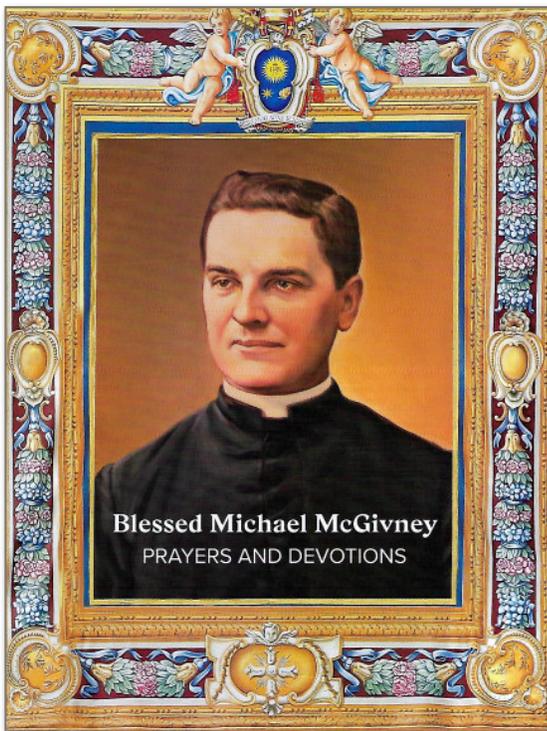
The Holy Father’s focus on the unity of the Church in *Traditionis custodes* is not new, inasmuch as previous pontiffs, from Pope Saint Paul VI through Pope Benedict XVI, consistently made the acceptance of the Second Vatican Council and its liturgical reforms a necessary precondition when allowing for the

celebration of the older liturgical rites. Echoing the teachings of his predecessors, Pope Francis has indicated that an attraction to the previous liturgical forms must never be used “to doubt the Holy Spirit himself who guides the Church.” In fact, the Holy Father noted, this same Spirit of unity should also guide the celebration of the newer rites:

I am saddened by abuses in the celebration of the liturgy on all sides. In common with Benedict XVI, I deplore the fact that “in many places the prescriptions of the new *Missal* are not observed in celebration, but indeed come to be interpreted as an authorization for or even a requirement of creativity, which leads to almost unbearable distortions.” ... The path of the Church must be seen within the dynamic of Tradition “which originates from the Apostles and progresses in the Church with the assistance of the Holy Spirit.”

In the Archdiocese of New York, these new norms are in process of being implemented, and consultation with archdiocesan leaders is underway to determine how they will be further realized locally. As this takes place, local parish communities may wish to reflect more deeply on the Holy Father’s words that liturgies should be celebrated “within the dynamic of Holy Tradition.” Clergy and lay leaders might, for example, use this as a time to review longstanding parish liturgical practices, ensuring that these are expressive of universal liturgical norms and a shared Catholic faith.

Liturgical Q and A: Celebrating “Blesseds” and Liturgical Calendars



Over the summer, archdiocesan clergy received notification from the Cardinal’s Office concerning permission to celebrate Mass on August 13 in honor of Blessed Father Michael McGivney, a priest of the Archdiocese of Hartford and the founder of the Knights of Columbus. To date, this feast day has not been inscribed on the particular calendars of the United States or the Archdiocese of New York. For this reason, it would not normally have been possible to celebrate this feast day, as liturgical law allows for the public veneration and liturgical celebration of “Blesseds” only where this has been permitted by law and with the permission of the Holy See. However, a recent letter from the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments to the Knights of Columbus noted that it will be possible to celebrate a votive Mass in honor of Father McGivney with the permission of the local ordinary and respecting the rules of precedence laid out in the Table of Liturgical Days. The USCCB’s Bishops’ Committee on Divine

Worship confirmed that, in this case, a local Ordinary may permit the celebration of Blessed Michael McGivney’s feast at his discretion, and even when this feast day does not appear on the local calendar. Liturgical texts for this celebration in future years may be found at the [following link](#).

*“Sing a New Song: Best Practices for 21st Century Music Ministry” Online Webinar:
Wednesday, September 29*

Join the archdiocesan Music Commission for a discussion on best practices in the area of pastoral music ministry, focusing on the search process for new parish musicians and how to navigate clergy–musician relationships. How should a musician best approach their job as a new music minister? What are the ingredients for success in a music ministry program? How can the process of arranging weddings, funerals, and occasional services be streamlined? What are some best practices for finding, hiring, and keeping a great music minister? These topics and many more will be discussed during this two-hour online workshop, presented by Vincent Carr of the American Guild of Organists. Tickets are \$15, and registration may be found at: singanewsongworkshop.eventbrite.com.



Notifications on Upcoming Feasts



Below are listed several recent additions to the General Roman Calendar and the particular calendar for the United States, along with links to proper liturgical texts:

- Saint Faustina Kowalska · October 5 · optional memorial · [Liturgical Texts](#)
- Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos · October 5 · optional memorial [USA] · [Liturgical Texts](#)
- Saint John XXIII · October 11 · optional memorial · [Liturgical Texts](#)
- Saint John Paul II · October 22 · optional memorial · [Liturgical Texts](#)
- In 2021, the Solemnity of All Saints falls on a Monday and is not a holy day of obligation. Even though the Solemnity of All Saints outranks a Sunday of Ordinary Time in the Table of Liturgical

Days, the Mass of precept (obligation) takes precedence in these cases. Thus, evening Masses on Sunday, October 31 should celebrate the Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time. The *Liturgy of the Hours*, however, strictly follows the liturgical ranking of days in the Table. And so, Evening Prayer I of All Saints should be celebrated on Sunday evening, October 31. It is, however, permissible to celebrate Evening Prayer II of the Sunday in Ordinary Time in communal celebrations of the faithful.

- A reminder that, in 2021, the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) falls on a Saturday and is immediately followed on Sunday by the Feast of the Holy Family. When celebrating consecutive feast days, there are often questions regarding which Mass is to be celebrated on Saturday evening. In the case of Christmas and Holy Family, both are days of precept, but Christmas occupies a higher place on the Table of Liturgical Days. Therefore, if pastors schedule Mass on the evening of Saturday, December 25, the *Nativity Mass during the Day* is celebrated. The following chart may be helpful in answering questions that will undoubtedly arise during these days:

Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)	Holy Family
Obligation may be fulfilled from the evening of Friday, December 24 through Saturday, December 25	Obligation may be fulfilled from the evening of Saturday, December 25 through Sunday, December 26
Obligation may be fulfilled at: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vigil Mass or Mass at Night of the Nativity• Morning/afternoon/evening Mass on December 25	Obligation may be fulfilled at: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Afternoon/evening Mass on December 25• Morning/afternoon/evening Mass on December 26

Upcoming Events

Ordinarate of the Chair of Saint Peter Roman Rite Mass featuring works of the English cathedral tradition. Friday, September 24, 7:00 pm, Saint Vincent Ferrer Church, Manhattan. [More information.](#)

Society for Catholic Liturgy Annual Conference. September 23-25, University of Notre Dame. [More information.](#)

Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions National Meeting. September 28-30. Hosted by the Diocese of San Diego. [More information.](#)

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SING A NEW SONG:

*Best Practices for the
21st Century Music Ministry*

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 | 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM EST

Join us for a discussion on best practices in the area of pastoral music ministry, focusing on the search process for new parish musicians and how to navigate clergy–musician relationships. How should a musician best approach their job as a new music minister? What are the ingredients for success in a music ministry program? How can the process of arranging weddings, funerals, and occasional services be streamlined? What are some best practices for finding, hiring, and keeping a great music minister? These topics and many more will be discussed during this two-hour online workshop, presented by the Archdiocese of New York’s Liturgy Office.



***Presenter:
Vincent Carr***

Carr is currently Director of Sacred Music at Our Lady of the Lake Church in Verona, New Jersey, as well as the National Councillor of Education for the American Guild of Organists. Most recently, he served as Associate Professor of Organ & Sacred Music at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, and also served on the faculties of Montclair State University and William Paterson University.

ONLINE ZOOM WORKSHOP

*Tickets: \$15 | Register at:
singanewsongworkshop.eventbrite.com*



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