

A LITURGICAL PREPARATION AID

FOR LENT  
THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM  
AND THE EASTER SEASON

2026



*Courtesy of the  
Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions*

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Cover Design by Dr. Michael Poradek

Interior graphics by Brother Steve Ersperer, *Clip Art for Year A, B, C*  
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**WHAT WE HAVE DONE AND  
WHAT WE HAVE FAILED TO DO**  
✿  
**A PENANCE SERVICE FOR LENT 2026**

**THE ORDER FOR RECONCILING SEVERAL PENITENTS  
WITH INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**The Introductory Rites**

**Liturgical Song**  
**Greeting**  
**Introduction**  
**Prayer**

**The Celebration of the Word of God**

**First Reading**  
**Responsorial Psalm**  
**Second Reading**  
**Verse before the Gospel**  
**Gospel**  
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**Examination of Conscience**

**The Rite of Reconciliation**

**General Confession of Sins**  
**Litany or Song**  
**Lord's Prayer**  
**Prayer**  
**Individual Confession of Sin and Absolution**  
**Proclamation of Praise for God's Mercy**  
**Concluding Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**The Concluding Rites**

**Greeting**  
**Blessing**  
**Dismissal**

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## PREPARATION

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- Hospitality Ministers should be recruited to welcome the assembly as they arrive and to distribute worship aids.
- At least two readers should be appointed to proclaim the reading(s), to read the Examination of Conscience, and to lead the Litany. They are to be seated in the assembly.
- Musician(s) and cantor(s) should lead the assembly in song. Instrumental music may be played during individual confession. (A list of music suggestions is included herein.)
- A *Lectionary* or the *Order of Penance* should be readied with the appropriate readings.
- Lighting may be subdued. Candle(s) should be lit at the ambo.
- Stations for confessors should be prepared. Priests might stand or sit in isolated areas around the main body of the church to receive penitents. In this way, the communal nature of the rite is maintained. Candles may light these stations.
- For the sake of simplicity, the presider alone or the presider and preacher could participate in the procession. Other priests could be seated in the sanctuary or in a reserved area before the liturgy begins.

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## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

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### LITURGICAL SONG

When the faithful have gathered, and as the Priest enters the church, if appropriate, a psalm, antiphon, or appropriate song may be sung. (See music suggestions herein.)

### SIGN OF THE CROSS

### GREETING

Presider: **Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.**

All: **And with your spirit.**

### INTRODUCTION

*Sample*

Presider: **In this Lenten season we are all called to reflect on our own baptism and to remember that we are claimed for Christ. In the proclamation of the word and the grace of the sacraments, we are given ample opportunities grow as Christ's disciples.**

**But let us acknowledge that, too often, we fail to do so. We listen to culture instead of Christ's call. We pursue our own interests instead of serving the needs of others. We tear down instead of building up those whom we should protect. We shy away from public confrontation instead of standing up for justice and peace.**

**We gather tonight [today] to seek God's forgiveness for our sins. We acknowledge what we have done, but we must also recognize what we have failed to do.**

**Let us beg God's mercy and resolve to do better. And as we are forgiven, may we be more eager to forgive others and to bring God's peace to this fractured world.**

**Christ asks no less of those who belong to him.**

## PRAYER

Presider: **Let us pray, brothers and sisters, (brethren)  
that God, who calls us to conversion,  
will grant us the grace of true and fruitful repentance.**

*Silent prayer*

**Graciously hear the prayers of those who call upon you,  
we ask, O Lord,  
and forgive the sins of those who confess to you,  
granting us in your kindness both pardon and peace.  
Through Christ our Lord.**

All: **Amen.**

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## THE CELEBRATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

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The following are suggested readings. Alternative readings may be selected.

“If there are several readings, a Psalm or other appropriate liturgical song or even a period of silence should intervene between them, so that the word of God may be understood more deeply by everyone and heartfelt assent be given to it. If there is only one reading, it is desirable that it be taken from the Gospel” (*Order of Penance* 51).

The readings are printed elsewhere in this booklet, for ease of rehearsal.

### FIRST READING

#### **Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

*Today I have set before you life and prosperity,  
death and doom.*

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

#### **Psalm 130 (129): 1-2, 3-4, 5-6b, 6c-8**

*With the Lord is mercy,  
in him there is plentiful redemption.*

### SECOND READING

#### **Ephesians 4:1-3, 17-32**

*Live in a manner worthy of your call... Be renewed in the  
spirit of your minds, and put on a new self.*

### VERSE

#### **John 13:34**

*I give you a new commandment;  
Love one another as I have loved you.*

### GOSPEL

#### **Matthew 25:31-46**

*Whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine,  
you did for me.*

### HOMILY

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## BIBLICAL READINGS

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In the *Order of Penance*, Chapter IV provides “Various Texts to be Used in the Celebration of Reconciliation.” Besides beautiful options for greetings, invitations, and prayers, the chapter lists the following Scripture passages which may be used “For the Reconciliation of Several Penitents.” The text offers multiple options from the Old Testament (32); Psalms (15); New Testament Letters (28); and Gospels (26). [Please see *The Order of Penance*, nos. 101-201].

“The readings proposed here have been selected for the benefit of pastors and the faithful. For diversity, and according to the special nature of the assembly, other readings may be chosen” (OP 101).

### II. FOR THE RECONCILIATION OF SEVERAL PENITENTS

#### READINGS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

101. Gn 3:1-19: *She took some of its fruit and ate it.*
102. Gn 4:1-15: *Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.*
103. Gn 18:17-33: *For the sake of those ten, I will not destroy it.*
104. Ex 17:1-7: *They tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD in our midst or not?”*
105. Ex 20:1-21: *I, the LORD, am your God. You shall not have other gods.*
106. Dt 6:4-9: *Love the LORD, your God, with all your heart.*
107. Dt 9:7-19: *Your people have become depraved; they have already turned aside from the way I pointed out to them.*
108. Dt 30:15-20: *Today I have set before you life and prosperity, death and doom.*
109. 2 Sm 12:1-9, 13: *David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.” Nathan answered David: “The LORD on his part has forgiven your sin: you shall not die.”*
110. Neh 9:1-20: *The children of Israel gathered together fasting and confessed their sins.*
111. Wis 1:1-16: *Love justice because into a soul that plots evil wisdom enters not, nor dwells she in a body under debt of sin.*
112. Wis 5:1-16: *The hope of the wicked is like thistledown borne on the wind. But the just live forever.*
113. Sir 28:1-7: *Forgive your neighbor's injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven.*
114. Is 1:2-6, 15-18: *Sons have I raised and reared, but they have disowned me!*
115. Is 5:1-7: *My friend had a vineyard. He looked for the crop of grapes, but what it yielded was wild grapes.*
116. Is 43:22-28: *It is I, I, who wipe out, for my own sake, your offenses.*
117. Is 53:1-12: *The LORD laid upon him the guilt of us all.*
118. Is 55:1-11: *Let the scoundrel forsake his way, and the wicked man his thoughts; let him turn to the LORD for mercy; to our God, who is generous in forgiving.*
119. Is 58:1-11: *Then light shall rise for you in the darkness, and the gloom shall become for you like midday.*
120. Is 59:1-4, 9-15: *It is your crimes that separate you from your God.*
121. Jer 2:1-13: *Two evils have my people done: they have forsaken me, the source of living waters; They have dug themselves cisterns, broken cisterns, that hold no water.*
122. Jer 7:21-26: *Listen to my voice; then I will be your God and you shall be my people.*
123. Ez 11:14-21: *I will remove the stony heart from their bodies, and replace it with a natural heart, so that they will live according to my statutes.*

- 124. Ez 18:20-32: *If the wicked man turns away from all the sins he committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die.*
- 125. Ez 36:23-28: *I will sprinkle clean water upon you and place a new spirit within you and make you live by my statutes.*
- 126. Hos 2:16-25: *I will make a covenant for them on that day.*
- 127. Hos 11:1-11: *I took them in my arms; I drew them with human cords.*
- 128. Hos 14:2-10: *Return, O Israel, to the LORD, your God.*
- 129. Joel 2:12-19: *Return to me with your whole heart.*
- 130. Micah 6:1-15: *Do the right and love goodness, and walk humbly with your God.*
- 131. Micah 7:2-7, 18-20: *The LORD will again have compassion on us and cast into the depths of the sea all our sins.*
- 132. Zechariah 1:1-6: *Return to me and I will return to you.*

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

In longer Psalms, a selection of stanzas which form a coherent whole may be chosen instead of the entire Psalm.

- 133. Ps 13 (12):2-3, 4-5, 6  
R. (6a) I trust in your merciful love.
- 134. Ps 25 (24):1b-3, 4-5, 6, 7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-14, 15-16, 17-18, 19-20, 21-22  
R. (16a) Turn to me, Lord, and have mercy on me.
- 135. Ps 31 (30):2-3a, 3b-4, 5-6  
R. (6b) You will redeem us, O Lord, O faithful God.
- 136. Ps 32 (31):1-2, 3-4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11  
R. (5c) I will confess my transgression to the Lord.
- 137. Ps 36 (35):2, 3-4, 5, 6-7, 8, 9-10, 11-13  
R. (8) How precious is your mercy, O God!
- 138. Ps 50 (49):7, 8 and 14-15, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21, 22-23  
R. (23b) To one whose way is blameless, I will show the salvation of God.
- 139. Ps 51 (50):3-4, 5-6, 7-9, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21  
R. (14a) Restore in me the joy of your salvation.
- 140. Ps 73 (72):1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-12, 13-15, 16-17, 18-20, 21-22, 23-24, 25-26, 27-28  
R. (28a) For me to be near God is good.
- 141. Ps 90 (89):1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-15, 16-17  
R. (14) Fill us, O Lord, with your mercy, and we shall exult all our days.
- 142. Ps 95 (94):1-2, 3-5, 6-7b, 7c-9, 10-11  
R. (7c) O that today you would listen to the voice of the Lord!
- 143. Ps 119 (118):1 and 10-11, 12-13, 15-16  
R. (1) Blessed are those who walk in the law of the Lord.
- 144. Ps 123 (122):1, 2, 3-4  
R. (2e) Our eyes are on the Lord our God.
- 145. Ps 130 (129):1-2, 3-4, 5-6b, 6c-8  
R. (7bc) With the Lord there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption.

146. Ps 139 (138):1-3, 4-6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14, 15, 16, 17-18, 23-24  
 R. (23a) O search me, God, and know my heart.

147. Ps 143 (142):1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7, 8, 9-10, 11  
 R. (10) Teach me to do your will, my God.

#### READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

148. Rom 3:22-26: *They are justified freely by his grace through the redemption in Christ Jesus.*

149. Rom 5:6-11: *We boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.*

150. Rom 6:2-13: *You must think of yourselves as being dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus.*

151. Rom 6:16-23: *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

152. Rom 7:14-25: *Miserable one that I am! Who will deliver me from this mortal body? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

153. Rom 12:1-2, 9-19: *Be transformed by the renewal of your mind.*

154. Rom 13:8-14: *Throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.*

155. 2 Cor 5:17-21: *God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ.*

156. Gal 5:16-24: *Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified their flesh with its passions and desires.*

157. Eph 2:1-10: *God, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ.*

158. Eph 4:1-3, 17-32: *Be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the new self.*

159. Eph 5:1-14: *You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.*

160. Eph 6:10-18: *Put on the armor of God, that you may be able to resist on the evil day.*

161. Col 3:1-10, 12-17: *If you were raised with Christ, seek what is above. Put to death, then, the parts of you that are earthly.*

162. Heb 12:1-5: *In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood.*

163. Jas 1:22-27: *Be doers of the word and not hearers only.*

164. Jas 2:14-26: *What good is it if someone says he has faith but does not have works?*

165. Jas 3:1-12: *If anyone does not fall short in speech, he is a perfect man.*

166. 1 Pt 1:13-23: *You were ransomed not with perishable things like silver or gold but with the precious Blood of Christ as of a spotless unblemished Lamb.*

167. 2 Pt 1:3-11: *Be all the more eager to make your call and election firm.*

168. 1 Jn 1:5 – 2:2: *If we acknowledge our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from every wrongdoing.*

169. 1 Jn 2:3-11: *Whoever hates his brother, is still in the darkness.*

170. 1 Jn 3:1-24: *We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers.*

171. 1 Jn 4:16-21: *God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him.*

172. Rev 2:1-5: *Repent, and do the works you did at first.*

173. Rev 3:14-22: *Because you are lukewarm, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.*

174. Rev 20:11-15: *All the dead were judged according to their deeds.*

175. Rev 21:1-8: *The victor will inherit these gifts, and I shall be his God, and he will be my son.*

## GOSPEL READINGS

176. Mt 3:1-12: *Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand!*
177. Mt 4:12-17: *Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand.*
178. Mt 5:1-12: *When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and his disciples came to him.*
179. Mt 5:13-16: *Your light must shine before others.*
180. Mt 5:17-47: *But I say to you.*
181. Mt 9:1-8: *Courage, child, your sins are forgiven.*
182. Mt 9:9-13: *I did not come to call the righteous but sinners.*
183. Mt 18:15-20: *You have won over your brother.*
184. Mt 18:21-35: *So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart.*
185. Mt 25:31-46: *Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.*
186. Mt 26:69-75: *He went out and began to weep bitterly.*
187. Mk 12:28-34: *The first of all the commandments.*
188. Lk 7:36-50: *But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little.*
189. Lk 13:1-5: *If you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!*
190. Lk 15:1-10: *There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents.*
191. Lk 15:11-32: *While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion.*
192. Lk 17:1-4: *If your brother wrongs you seven times in one day and returns to you seven times saying, "I am sorry," you should forgive him.*
193. Lk 18:9-14: *O God, be merciful to me a sinner.*
194. Lk 19:1-10: *The Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost.*
195. Lk 23:39-43: *Today you will be with me in Paradise.*
196. Jn 8:1-11: *Go, and from now on do not sin any more.*
197. Jn 8:31-36: *Everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin.*
198. Jn 15:1-8: *He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and everyone that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit.*
199. Jn 15:9-14: *You are my friends if you do what I command you.*
200. Jn 19:13-37: *They will look upon him whom they have pierced.*
201. Jn 20:19-23: *Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them.*

## A SAMPLE EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

*Other formulas may be used*

**Presider:** **Sisters and brothers,**  
**our Father knows all our failings,**  
**but asks us to call them to mind**  
**so that we may seek out his forgiveness.**

**Minister #1:**

- **Do I pray daily?**
- **Do I receive the sacraments regularly?**
- **Do I keep Sundays and holy days sacred?**
- **Do I fulfill my commitments as a member of my faith community?**
- **What is my attitude toward the sacrament of reconciliation?**
- **Have I tried to grow in the life of the Spirit through prayer and the reading of the word of God?**
- **Do I trust God's goodness and providence, even in times of crisis and doubt?**

**Minister #2:**

- **Do I respect my own body as a gift from God?**
- **Do I control my vices, including abuses of food and drink?**
- **Have I made good use of the gifts God has given me?**
- **Do I work too hard and too long? Do I neglect my family and health?**
- **Have I been lazy and given too much time to leisure or entertainment?**

**Minister #1:**

- **In my household, have I contributed to the well-being and happiness of the rest of my family? Am I patient? Am I loving?**
- **Do I treat my parents with respect?**

- **Am I ever angry with those I love?**
- **Have I been faithful in my relationships?**

**Minister #2:**

- **Have I imposed my will on others without respecting their freedom and rights?**
- **Am I intolerant of others' ideas or inattentive to others' needs?**
- **Have I perpetuated racism, prejudices and stereotypes?**
- **Do I treat people with disabilities with respect?**

**Minister #1:**

- **Do I share my time and my treasure with others in need?**
- **Have I ignored the poor in our midst?**
- **Have I indulged in reading, conversation, or entertainments that are contrary to Christian decency and respect for human life?**
- **Do I use the earth's resources wisely?**
- **Do I purchase a lot of material goods that I don't really need?**

**Minister #2:**

- **Am I ever afraid to act in a Christian manner, afraid of what others might think?**
- **Have I accepted suffering as a share in the suffering of Christ?**
- **Is the hope of eternal life my inspiration for all I do?**
- **Do I sincerely want to be set free from sin, turn again to God, and resolve to begin again?**

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## THE RITE OF RECONCILIATION

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### GENERAL CONFESSON OF SIN

Deacon or Brothers and sisters (Brethren),  
Minister: calling to mind the kindness of God our Father,  
let us confess our sins, that we may obtain his mercy.

All: I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done  
and in what I have failed to do,  
through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;  
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

### LITANY

Deacon or Let us humbly pray to Christ our Savior,  
Minister: whom we have as a righteous advocate with the Father,  
that he will forgive us our sins  
and cleanse us from all iniquity.

D or M: You were sent to bring good news to the poor  
and to heal the contrite of heart.

All: Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner. **OR** Lord, have mercy.

D or M: You did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.

All: Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner. **OR** Lord, have mercy.

D or M: You forgave much to the woman who loved much.

All: Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner. **OR** Lord, have mercy.

D or M: You did not refuse to sit at table with tax collectors and sinners.

All: Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner. **OR** Lord, have mercy.

D or M: You carried the lost sheep on your shoulders back to the fold.

All:           Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner. **OR** Lord, have mercy.

D or M:       You did not condemn the woman taken in adultery, but told her to go in peace.

All:           Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner. **OR** Lord, have mercy.

D or M:       You called Zacchaeus the tax collector to conversion and new life.

All:           Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner. **OR** Lord, have mercy.

D or M:       You promised paradise to the repentant thief.

All:           Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner. **OR** Lord, have mercy.

D or M:       You are seated at the right hand of the Father, and live for ever to intercede for us.

All:           Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner. **OR** Lord, have mercy.

## LORD'S PRAYER

D or M:       Let us now pray together to the Father as Christ himself commanded us, that as we forgive one another our trespasses, he will forgive us our sins:

All:           Our Father, ...

## PRAYER

Presider:      O God, who have prepared helps suited to our weakness, grant, we pray, that we may receive their healing effects with joy and reflect them in a holy way of life. Through Christ our Lord.

All:           Amen.

## INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

*The presider or other minister might tell the assembly where the confessors will be located. Some brief words regarding the manner of confessions should be given. The people may be encouraged to accept one of the penances which are found in the worship aid or the confessors may give a penance suited to the individual. The assembly may be advised to remain in church if there is to be a common ending. Quiet instrumental music might be played during this time.*

### PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

**Confessor:** 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 for the forgiveness of sins;  
through the ministry of the Church,  
may God grant 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.**

**Penitent:** Amen.

### PROCLAMATION OF PRAISE FOR GOD'S MERCY

*"When the individual confessions have been completed, the Priest who is presiding over the celebration, with the other Priests near him, invites all present to offer thanks and encourages them to do good works by which the grace of repentance in the life of each one and of the entire community will be shown. It is therefore appropriate for all to sing a Psalm or hymn or to say a litany to acknowledge God's power and mercy, for example, the Canticle of the Blessed Virgin Mary or Psalm 136 (135):1-9, 13-14, 16, 24-26" (OP 56).*

*See the enclosed music suggestions or use one of the Scripture citations below.*

Psalm 28: 6-7  
Psalm 32: 1-7, 10-11  
Psalm 54  
Psalm 66  
Psalm 95  
Psalm 98: 1-9  
Psalm 100: 1-5  
Psalm 103: 1-4, 8-18

Psalm 136: 1-9, 13-14, 16, 24-26  
Psalm 145: 1-21  
Psalm 146:2-10  
Isaiah 61: 10-11  
Daniel 3:52-57  
Luke 1:46-55 (Magnificat)  
Ephesians 1:3-10  
Revelation 15: 3-4

## CONCLUDING PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Presider: Almighty and merciful God,  
who wonderfully created human nature,  
and still more wonderfully restored it,  
you do not abandon sinners,  
but pursue them with a father's love;  
you sent your Son into the world  
to destroy sin and death by his Passion  
and restore life and joy to us by the Resurrection;  
you poured the Holy Spirit into our hearts  
that we might be your children and heirs;  
you constantly renew us by the Sacraments of salvation,  
that we may be freed from slavery to sin  
and be transformed more fully day by day  
into the image of your beloved Son.

We give you thanks for the wonders of your mercy  
and praise you with the whole Church,  
singing to you a new song  
with voice, heart, and deed.  
To you be glory, through Christ, in the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.

All: **Amen.**

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## THE CONCLUDING RITES

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### GREETING

Presider: **The Lord be with you.**

All: **And with your spirit.**

### BLESSING

A Deacon may say the invitation.

Deacon: **Bow down for the blessing.**

Presider: **May the Lord guide your hearts in the love of God and the patience of Christ.**

All: **Amen.**

Presider: **May you walk in newness of life and please God in all things.**

All: **Amen.**

Presider: **And may almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ~~and~~ and the Holy Spirit.**

All: **Amen.**

### DISMISSAL

Then a Deacon, or other minister or the Priest himself, dismisses the assembly:

Deacon: **The Lord has forgiven your sins. Go in peace.**

All: **Thanks be to God.**

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## READINGS

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### FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

#### A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy

Moses said to the people:

“Today I have set before you  
life and prosperity, death and gloom.”

If you obey the commandments of the LORD, your God,  
which I enjoin on you today,  
loving him, and walking in his ways,  
and keeping his commandments, statutes and decrees,  
you will live and grow numerous,  
and the LORD, your God,  
will bless you in the land you are entering to occupy.

If, however, you turn away your hearts and will not listen,  
but are led astray and adore and serve other gods,  
I tell you now that you will certainly perish;  
you will not have a long life  
on the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and occupy.

I call heaven and earth today to witness against you:  
I have set before you life and death,  
the blessing and the curse.

Choose life, then,  
that you and your descendants may live,  
by loving the LORD, your God,  
heeding his voice, and holding fast to him.

For that will mean life for you,  
a long life for you to live on the land that the LORD swore  
he would give to your fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”

The word of the Lord.

**R. (7bc) With the Lord there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption.**

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;  
Lord, hear my voice!  
O let your ears be attentive  
to the sound of my pleadings.

**With the Lord there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption.**

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,  
Lord, who could stand?  
But with you is found forgiveness,  
that you may be revered.

**With the Lord there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption.**

I long for you, O LORD,  
my soul longs for his word.  
My soul awaits the Lord  
more than watchmen for daybreak.

**With the Lord there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption.**

More than watchmen for daybreak,  
let Israel hope for the LORD.  
For with the LORD there is mercy,  
in him is plentiful redemption.  
It is he who will redeem Israel  
from all its iniquities.

**With the Lord there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption.**

**A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians**

I, then, a prisoner for the Lord,  
urge you to live in a manner  
worthy of the call you have received,  
with all humility and gentleness,  
with patience,  
bearing with one another through love,  
striving to preserve the unity of the spirit  
through the bond of peace:

So I declare and testify in the Lord  
that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do,  
in the futility of their minds;  
darkened in understanding,  
alienated from the life of God because of their ignorance,  
because of their hardness of heart,  
they have become callous  
and have handed themselves over to licentiousness  
for the practice of every kind of impurity to excess.

That is not how you learned Christ,  
assuming that you have heard of him  
and were taught in him,  
as truth is in Jesus,  
that you should put away the old self of your former way of life,  
corrupted through deceitful desires,  
and be renewed in the spirit of your minds,  
and put on the new self,  
created in God's way in righteousness and holiness of truth.

Therefore, putting away falsehood,  
speak the truth,  
each one to his neighbor,  
for we are members one of another.

Be angry but do not sin;  
do not let the sun set on your anger,  
and do not leave room for the Devil.

**The thief must no longer steal,  
but rather labor,  
doing honest work with his own hands,  
so that he may have something to share with one in need.**

**No foul language should come out of your mouths,  
but only such as is good for needed edification,  
that it may impart grace to those who hear.**

**And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God,  
with which you were sealed for the day of redemption.**

**All bitterness, fury, anger, shouting, and reviling  
must be removed from you,  
along with all malice.**

**And be kind to one another, compassionate,  
forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ.**

**The word of the Lord.**

**VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL**

**John 13:34**

**I give you a new commandment:  
love one another as I have loved you.**

**GOSPEL**

**Matthew 25: 31-46**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.**

**Jesus said to his disciples:**

**“When the Son of Man comes in his glory,  
and all the angels with him,  
he will sit upon his glorious throne,  
and all the nations will be assembled before him.**

**And he will separate them one from another,  
as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.**

**He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.**

**Then the king will say to those on his right,  
‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father.**

**Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.**

For I was hungry and you gave me food,  
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,  
a stranger and you welcomed me,  
naked and you clothed me,  
ill and you cared for me,  
in prison and you visited me.'

Then the righteous will answer him and say,  
'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you,  
or thirsty and give you drink?

When did we see you a stranger and welcome you,  
or naked and clothe you?

When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?'

And the king will say to them in reply,  
'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did  
for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'

Then he will say to those on his left,  
'Depart from me, you accursed,  
into the eternal fire prepared for the Devil and his angels.

For I was hungry and you gave me no food,  
I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,  
a stranger and you gave me no welcome,  
naked and you gave me no clothing,  
ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.'

Then they will answer and say,  
'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty  
or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison,  
and not minister to your needs?'

Then he will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you,  
what you did not do for one of these least ones,  
you did not do for me.'

And these will go off to eternal punishment,  
but the righteous to eternal life."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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## SAMPLE PENANCES

*Choose one of the following penances to atone for sins and accept God's mercy.*

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### FOR ADULTS

- Think of someone you have been uncharitable towards and pray for them each day for a week.
- Make a call to someone who is ill or alone. Plan a visit and bring a meal.
- During the next week, spend an hour in prayer for those who are the victims of war.
- Make a commitment to bring food to the parish food pantry.
- Think of one thing that you are eating or drinking that is bad for your health. Eliminate it for one month and donate that money to a soup kitchen.
- Identify a person whom you have offended by your unkind words and pray for them each day for a week.
- Reflect on the Corporal Works of Mercy. Act on one of them -- feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit those in prisons, bury the dead, or give alms to the poor.
- Reflect on one of the following Lenten readings from Year A:

|                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Romans 5:12-19    | John 4:5-42          |
| 2 Timothy 1:8b-10 | Ephesians 5:8-14     |
| Matthew 17:1-9    | Romans 8:8-11        |
| Romans 5:1-2, 5-8 | Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18 |

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### FOR YOUTH

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- Eliminate TV for one night. Read from the Bible or your religion text.
- Reach out to a lonely person in class and encourage one other person to do the same. Have lunch together.
- Donate your next babysitting wages to the poor.
- For one whole week, do the dishes or set the table without being asked.
- Donate the money you would have spent on a fast food meal to your parish outreach ministry. Send it anonymously.

## MUSIC SUGGESTIONS FOR THE LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE 2026

|   |                           |         |
|---|---------------------------|---------|
| Again We Keep This Solemn Fast                    | Scagnelli/ERHALT UNS HERR | GIA     |
| Amazing Grace                                     | Newton                    | various |
| Be Not Afarid/ <i>No Temas Más</i>                | Dufford                   | OCP     |
| Change Our Hearts                                 | Cooney                    | OCP     |
| Eternal Lord of Love                              | Cain                      | GIA     |
| Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing                | Dudley-Smith              | GIA     |
| Forgive our Sins as We Forgive                    | Herklots                  | WLP     |
| Lord, Your Almighty Word                          | Marriott/Giardini         | various |
| Grant to Us, O Lord                               | Lucien Deiss              | WLP     |
| Healer of Our Every Ill                           | Haugen                    | GIA     |
| Hosea   | Norbet                    | OCP     |
| I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say                    | Bonar/ R.V. Williams      | Oxford  |
| Lead Us to Your Light                             | Carol Browning            | GIA     |
| Let Justice Roll Like a River                     | Haugen                    | GIA     |
| Let Us Sing to the Lord/ <i>Cantemos al Señor</i> | Alonso/Mahler             | GIA     |
| Loving and Forgiving                              | Soper                     | OCP     |
| Mercy, O God                                      | O'Brien                   | GIA     |
| My Soul in Stillness Waits                        | Haugen                    | GIA     |
| My Soul Rejoices                                  | Alstott                   | OCP     |
| No Greater Love                                   | Joncas                    | GIA     |
| O Jesus, Healer of Wounded Souls                  | Rubalcava                 | OCP     |
| Our Father, We Have Wandered                      | Nichols/ Bach             | various |
| Out of Darkness                                   | Walker                    | OCP     |
| <i>Perdón Señor</i>                               | Traditional Spanish       | OCP     |
| <i>Perdóname, Jesús</i>                           | William Y Flor            | OCP     |
| Remember Your Mercy, Lord                         | Inwood                    | GIA     |
| Return to God                                     | Haugen                    | GIA     |
| Sacred Silence                                    | Booth/Pixler              | OCP     |
| Save Us, O Lord                                   | Dufner                    | OCP     |
| Seek the Lord                                     | O'Connor                  | OCP     |
| The Cross of Jesus                                | O'Brien                   | GIA     |
| The Glory of These Forty Days                     | tr. Bell/ Bach            | Oxford  |
| The Reign of God                                  | Delores Duffer            | GIA     |
| The Trumpet in the Morning                        | Rory Cooney               | GIA     |
| The Word is in Your Heart                         | Moore                     | GIA     |
| There is a Longing                                | Quigley                   | OCP     |
| There's a Wideness in God's Mercy                 | Faber                     | various |
| To You, O Lord, I Lift Up My Soul                 | Hurd                      | OCP     |
| Tree of Life                                      | Thompson                  | WLP     |
| Turn My Heart, O God                              | Haugen                    | GIA     |
| Turn to Me  | Foley                     | OCP     |
| Turn to the Living God                            | True                      | GIA     |
| We Cannot Measure How You Heal                    | Bell                      | GIA     |
| Where Charity and Love Prevail                    | Benoit                    | various |
| You Alone   | Hart                      | OCP     |

## LITANIES/CHANTS

|   |                      |     |
|---|----------------------|-----|
| Two Litanies for Advent/Lent              | Richard Proulx       | WLP |
| Gather Us in Mercy, Lord                  | Alonso               | GIA |
| Hold Us in Your Mercy: Penitential Litany | Cooney/Daigle        | GIA |
| Penitential Litany                        | Prendergast/Sullivan | OCP |
| Litany of Peace                           | Bridge (St. Francis) | OCP |

## PROCLAMATION OF PRAISE FOR GOD' S MERCY

|   |                          |               |
|---|--------------------------|---------------|
| Blest be the Lord (Ps 91)                             | Schutte                  | OCP           |
| Canticle of Mary (Magnificat)                         | Green, Daw, Joncas       | various       |
| Father, We Thank Thee Who has Planted                 | RENZEZ A DIEU            | various       |
| God is Here! As We His People                         | ABBOTT'S LEIGH           | GIA           |
| God Whose Giving Knows No Ending                      | Edwards/ RUSTINGTON      | GIA           |
| Great is Thy Faithfulness                             | Chisholm/Runyan          | LMGM          |
| His Love is Everlasting                               | Roberts                  | LMGM          |
| I Turn to You   | Joe Mattingly            | WLP, 003679   |
| I Turn to You, Lord                                   | Craig and Kristen Colson | OCP, 20267 Z2 |
| I Turn to You, O Lord                                 | Jeremy Young             | GIA, G-2896   |
| Sing, My Tongue, the Song of Triumph                  | PICARDY                  | GIA           |
| Thanks be to You                                      | Haugen                   | GIA           |
| <i>The Psalter – Psalms and Canticles for Singing</i> | Isele                    | Westminster   |
| Press   |                          |               |
| There's A Wideness in God's Mercy                     | Faber/ IN BABILON        | OCP           |
| Those Who Seek Your Face                              | Christopher Walker       | OCP, 7150     |

## Selected Psalmody

|                             | <u>OCP</u>      | <u>GIA</u>                            | <u>WLP</u>     |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| Psalm 19                    | Joncas          | Proulx, Alonso                        | Haugen         |
| Psalm 27                    | DeBruyn         | Proulx                                | Isele          |
| Psalm 30                    | Inwood          | Guimont, Inwood                       |                |
| Psalm 51: 3-4, 18-19, 20-21 | Willcock        | Craig, Haugen Berrell, Ward, Schaefer |                |
| Psalm 85                    | Cortez, Hurd    | Haugen, Carroll, Dameans              | French, Bogdan |
| Psalm 103:1-8, 11           | Cortez, Dufford | Cotter, Haugen                        | Kolar, Stahl   |
| Psalm 119                   | Booth           | Batastini                             |                |
| Psalm 130                   | Hurd, Smith     | Haugen                                | Janco          |

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Q. WHAT IS THE PROPER TIME FOR EASTER VIGIL?

A. On Saturday evening, April 4, the sun will set in our diocese at \_\_\_\_\_. The end of civil twilight (nightfall) will occur at \_\_\_\_\_. Ideally, the Easter Vigil celebration should not begin before \_\_\_\_\_. Please check the website of the Naval Observatory for the exact time of nightfall in your area. [https://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/RS\\_OneDay](https://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/RS_OneDay)

“According to a most ancient tradition, this night is one of vigil for the Lord, and the Vigil celebrated during it, to commemorate that holy night when the Lord rose from the dead, is regarded as the mother of all holy vigils. For in that night, the Church keeps vigil, waiting for the resurrection of the Lord, and celebrates the sacraments of Christian initiation” (*Paschale Solemnitatis: Circular Letter Concerning the Preparation and Celebration of the Easter Feasts*, no. 77. Congregation for Divine Worship, January 16, 1988, [quoting Exodus 12:42; St. Augustine, Sermon 219; and the *Ceremonial of Bishops*].

“‘The entire celebration of the Easter Vigil takes place at night. It should not begin before nightfall; it should end before daybreak on Sunday.’ This rule is to be taken according to its strictest sense. Reprehensible are those abuses and practices that have crept into many places in violation of this ruling, whereby the Easter Vigil is celebrated at the same time of day that it is customary to celebrate anticipated Sunday Masses” (*Ibid*; no.78, quoting the *Roman Missal*).

### Q. THE WORD “TRIDIUM” MEANS “THREE DAYS.” HOW DO WE CELEBRATE OVER THREE DAYS?

A. “The Paschal Triduum of the Passion and Resurrection of the Lord begins with the evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper, has its center in the Easter Vigil, and closes with Vespers (Evening Prayer) of the Sunday of the Resurrection” (Universal Norms for the Liturgical Year and the General Roman Calendar, 19). Sunday also begins the Easter season.

This seventy-two hour period is the most important celebration of our entire liturgical calendar. The Sacred Paschal Triduum is actually ONE liturgy over three days. We may go home and come back again, but we do not actually “begin” and “end” our daily celebrations.

### Q. WHAT IS THE PROPER PLACE FOR THE PASCHAL CANDLE?

The paschal candle is a symbol for Christ, “May the light of Christ rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds” (RM, Easter Vigil). It is to be a genuine candle, and its design and size should be in proportion to the sanctuary in which it will be placed.

During the Easter Vigil and throughout the Easter Season, the paschal candle is to be placed in the sanctuary, near the altar or the ambo. Placed at the ambo, it is as if Christ is teaching us and the neophytes (A. Nocent, *The Liturgical Year*).

After the Easter Season it is moved to a place of honor in the baptistery, for use in the celebration of baptism. (Often, in newer construction, receptacles for the candle are imbedded near the font.) In the celebration of a funeral, the paschal candle is placed near the coffin to indicate that the death of a Christian is one’s own passover. The paschal candle should not otherwise be lit nor placed inside the sanctuary outside the Easter season (*Paschale Solemnitatis*, 99).

### Q. SHOULD OUR PARISH CELEBRATE A TENEBRAE SERVICE?

A. Tenebrae was service of the canonical hours during Holy Week which was suppressed in the revision of Holy Week (1955-1956). The celebration of the Hours is still encouraged, but not in this dramatic format.

In his book, *Glory in the Cross*, Fr. Paul Turner notes: “The Circular Letter recommends the common celebration of the Office of Readings and Morning Prayer on this day [Friday] and on Holy Saturday. It says that this office was formerly called Tenebrae, but the former practices of methodically extinguishing candles and beating hymnals on pews in the dark are no longer part of the Liturgy of the Hours. These liturgical offices incorporate the singing of hymns and psalms.”

“The most appropriate form is Morning Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours. You could precede or replace it with the Office of Readings. Part IV of the General Instruction of the Liturgy of the Hours encourages the Office of Readings, which replaces the former Tenebrae” (Rev. Paul Turner, Blog, on March 17, 2018).

**A LITURGICAL YEAR CALENDAR ADVISORY  
FOR THE SEASONS OF LENT AND EASTER 2026**

| DAY       | DATE    | LITURGICAL DAY   | RANK | COMMENTS   |
|-----------|---------|--|------|--|
| Wednesday | Feb 18  | Ash Wednesday  | 2    | Lect #219<br>Funeral Mass not permitted  |
| Sunday    | Feb 22  | First Sunday of Lent   | 2    | Lect #22; Rite of Election   |
| Sunday    | Mar 1   | Second Sunday of Lent  | 2    | Lect #25   |
| Sunday    | Mar 8   | Third Sunday of Lent   | 2    | Lect #28; Scrutiny I   |
| Sunday    | Mar 15  | Fourth Sunday of Lent  | 2    | Lect #31; Scrutiny II  |
| Thursday  | Mar 19  | Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary              | 3    | Funeral Mass permitted<br>Lect #543<br>Gloria, Creed, Proper Preface<br>Food – BB, Chapter 53                              |
| Sunday    | Mar 22  | Fifth Sunday of Lent   | 2    | Lect #34, Scrutiny III   |
| Wednesday | Mar 25  | The Annunciation of the Lord                                 | 3    | Lect #545<br>Funeral Mass permitted<br>Genuflect at “and by the Holy Spirit...became man”                                  |
| Sunday    | Mar 29  | Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord                       | 2    | Procession: Lect #37<br>Gospel A<br>Mass: Lect #38   |
| Monday    | Mar 30  | Monday of Holy Week  | 2    | Lect #257  |
| Tuesday   | Mar 31  | Tuesday of Holy Week   | 2    | Lect #258  |
| Wednesday | Apr 1   | Wednesday of Holy Week                                       | 2    | Lect #259  |
| Thursday  | Apr 2   | Thursday of Holy Week (Day)                                  | 2    | Funeral Mass not permitted   |
|           | Varies  | Chrism Mass  |      | Lect. #260; Blessing of Oils and Consecration of Chrism  |
| Thursday  | Apr 2   | Holy Thursday (Evening)<br>Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper | 1    | Lect #39<br>Funeral Mass not permitted   |
| Friday    | Apr 3   | Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)              | 1    | Lect #40<br>Funeral Mass not permitted   |
| Saturday  | Apr 4   | Holy Saturday  | 1    | BB, Chapter 54<br>Rites of Immediate Preparation: OCIA 185-189<br>Funeral Mass not permitted<br>Communion only as Viaticum |
|           | April 4 | The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night                           | 1    | Lect #41; Easter Vigil may not begin before nightfall; Funeral Mass not permitted  |
| Sunday    | April 5 | Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord                | 1    | Lect #42;<br>Funeral Mass not permitted<br>(Gospel at Lect #41,42 or 46)   |
| Monday    | Apr 6   | Monday within the Octave of Easter                           | 2    | Lect # 261; Proper Preface   |

|           |         |  |        |  |
|-----------|---------|--|--------|--|
| Tuesday   | Apr 7   | Tuesday within the Octave of Easter  | 2      | Lect #262  |
| Wednesday | Apr 8   | Wednesday within the Octave of Easter  | 2      | Lect #263  |
| Thursday  | Apr 9   | Thursday within the Octave of Easter   | 2      | Lect #264  |
| Friday    | Apr 10  | Friday within the Octave of Easter   | 2      | Lect #265  |
| Saturday  | Apr 11  | Saturday within the Octave of Easter   | 2      | Lect #266  |
| Sunday    | Apr 12  | Second Sunday of Easter<br>(or Sunday of Divine Mercy)   | 2      | Lect #43   |
| Sunday    | Apr 19  | Third Sunday of Easter   | 2      | Lect #46   |
| Saturday  | Apr 25  | St. Mark, Evangelist (Feast)   | 7      | Lect #555  |
| Sunday    | Apr 26  | Fourth Sunday of Easter  | 2      | Lect #49   |
| Wednesday | Apr 29  | Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church  | 10     | Lect. #557   |
| Saturday  | May 2   | Saint Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church  | 10     | Lect. #560   |
| Sunday    | May 3   | Fifth Sunday of Easter   | 2      | Lect #52   |
| Sunday    | May 10  | Sixth Sunday of Easter   | 2      | Lect #55 may use second reading and gospel from Seventh Sunday of Easter |
| Thursday  | May 14  | The Ascension of the Lord ( <i>in provinces of Boston, Hartford, NY, Omaha, and Philadelphia</i> )<br>OR Saint Matthias, Apostle (Feast)                                     | 2<br>7 | Lect #58; holy day of obligation<br>Lect #564                            |
| Sunday    | May 17  | Seventh Sunday of Easter ( <i>in provinces of Boston, Hartford, NY, Omaha, and Philadelphia</i> )<br>The Ascension of the Lord ( <i>all other ecclesiastical provinces</i> ) | 2<br>2 | Lect #59<br>Lect #58   |
| Sunday    | May 24  | Pentecost Sunday   | 2      | Vigil: Lect Supplement #62A<br>Day: Lect #62                             |
|           |         | ORDINARY TIME  |        |  |
| Monday    | May 25  | The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church  | 10     | Lect #572 A  |
| Sunday    | May 31  | The Most Holy Trinity  | 3      | Lect #164  |
| Sunday    | June 7  | The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ   | 3      | Lect #167  |
| Friday    | June 12 | The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus   | 3      | Lect #170  |



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## LECTIONARY READINGS: YEAR A

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**Ash Wednesday, February 18**

Joel 2:12-18  
Psalm 51:3-4, 6ab, 12-13, 14, 17  
2 Corinthians 5:20 – 6:2  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Rend your hearts, not your garments.  
Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.  
Be reconciled to God. Behold, now is the acceptable time.  
Your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

**First Sunday of Lent, February 22**

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7  
Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17  
Romans 5:12-19  
Matthew 4:1-11

The creation of our first parents, and sin.  
Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.  
Where sin increased, there grace increased all the more.  
Jesus fasted for forty days and forty nights and was tempted.

**Second Sunday of Lent, March 1**

Genesis 12:1-4a  
Psalm 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22  
2 Timothy 1:8b-10  
Matthew 17:1-9

The call of Abraham, the father of God's people.  
Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.  
God has saved us and called us to be holy.  
Jesus' face shone like the sun.

**Third Sunday of Lent, March 8**

Exodus 17:3-7  
Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9  
Romans 5:1-2, 5-8  
  
John 4:5-42 OR  
John 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

**First Scrutiny (OCIA 141-146, 150-156)**  
Give us water, so that we may drink.  
If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.  
The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit  
that has been given to us.  
The water that I shall give will become a spring of eternal life.

**Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 15**

1 Samuel 16:6-7, 10-13a  
Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6  
Ephesians 5:8-14  
John 9:1-41 OR  
John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

**Second Scrutiny (OCIA 164-170)**  
David is anointed as king of Israel.  
The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.  
Arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.  
The man who was blind went off and washed himself and came back  
able to see.

**Solemnity of Joseph, Husband of the Virgin Mary, Thursday, March 19**

2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16  
Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29  
Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22  
Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a  
OR  
Luke 2:41-51a

The Lord God will give him the throne of David, his father.  
The son of David will live for ever.  
Abraham believed, hoping against hope.  
Joseph did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him.

Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety.

**Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, Wednesday, March 25**

Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10  
Psalm 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11  
Hebrews 10:4-10  
Luke 1:26-38

Behold, the virgin shall conceive  
Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.  
As it is written of me in the scroll, behold I come to do your will, O God.  
Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son

**Fifth Sunday of Lent, March 22**

Ezekiel 37:12-14  
Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8  
Romans 8:8-11  
John 11:1-45 OR  
John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

**Third Scrutiny (OCIA 171-177)**  
I will put my spirit in you that you may live.  
With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.  
The Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you.  
I am the resurrection and the life.

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## HOLY WEEK READINGS

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**Psalm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, March 29 (A)**

Matthew 21:1-11

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Isaiah 50:4-7

My face I did not shield from buffets and spitting, knowing that I shall not be put to shame.

Psalm 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Philippians 2:6-11

Christ humbled himself. Because of this God greatly exalted him.

Matthew 26:14-27:66 OR

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 27:11-54

**Monday of Holy Week, March 30 (ABC)**

Isaiah 42:1-7

He will not cry out, nor make his voice heard in the street.

(First oracle of the Servant of the Lord.)

Psalm 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

John 12:1-11

Let her keep this for the day of my burial.

**Tuesday of Holy Week, March 31 (ABC)**

Isaiah 49:1-6

I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth. (Second oracle of the Servant of the Lord.)

I will sing of your salvation.

Psalm 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, P, 17

One of you will betray me; the cock will not crow before you deny me three times.

**Wednesday of Holy Week, April 1 (ABC)**

Isaiah 50:4-9a

My face I did not shield from buffets and spitting.

(Third oracle of the Servant of the Lord.)

Psalm 69:9-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34

Lord, in your great love, answer me.

Matthew 26:14-25

The Son of Man indeed goes, as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed.

**Thursday of Holy Week [varies]**

Isaiah 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9

**Mass of Chrism (ABC)**

The LORD anointed me and sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly, and to give them oil of gladness.

Psalm 89:21-22, 25, 27

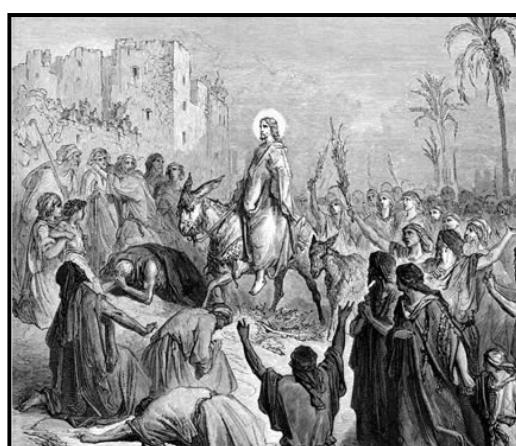
For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Revelation 1:5-8

Christ has made us into a kingdom, priests for his God and Father.

Luke 4:16-21

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because of which he has anointed me.



*Detail -- Gustave Doré*

## **READINGS FOR THE SACRED TRIDUUM**

## **Holy Thursday - Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, April 2**

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14            | The law regarding the Passover meal.  |
| Psalm 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18 | Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.                                 |
| 1 Corinthians 11:23-26          | For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord. |
| John 13:1-15                    | Jesus loved them to the end.  |

## **Good Friday - Celebration of the Lord's Passion, April 3**

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Isaiah 54:13 – 53:12                | He himself was wounded for our sins.<br>(Fourth oracle of the Servant of the Lord.) |
| Psalm 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25 | Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.  |
| Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9              | Jesus learned obedience and became the source of salvation for all who obey him.    |
| John 18:1 – 19:42                   | The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ.   |

**Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord: The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night, April 4**

| Easter Sunday or the Resurrection of the Lord               | The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night, April 4                                       |
|---|---|
| Genesis 1:1 – 2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a                            | God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good.                  |
| Psalm 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12,                                 | Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.                      |
| 13-14, 24, 35 OR  |   |
| Psalm 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20 and 22                         | The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.                                    |
| Genesis 22:1-18 or  |   |
| Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18                            | The sacrifice of Abraham our father in faith.                                     |
| Psalm 16:5, 8-9, 11   |   |
| Exodus 14:15 – 15:1   |   |
| Exodus 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18                              | You are my inheritance, O Lord.   |
| Isaiah 54:5-14  |   |
| Psalm 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13                               | The Israelites marched on dry land through the midst of the sea.                  |
| Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.   |   |
| Isaiah 55:1-11  | With enduring love, the Lord your redeemer takes pity on you.                     |
| I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.           |   |
| Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6                                       | Come to me that you may have life. I will renew with you an everlasting covenant. |
| You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation. |   |
| Baruch 3:9-15, 32 – 4:4                                     | Walk toward the splendor of the Lord.   |
| Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11                                       | Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.                                     |
| Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28                                    |   |
| Psalm 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4                                      | I shall sprinkle clean water upon you and I shall give you a new heart.           |
| OR Isaiah 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6                                 | Like a deer that longs for running streams, my soul longs for you, my God.        |
| OR Psalm 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19                             | You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.                       |
| Create a clean heart in me, O God.                          |   |
| Romans 6:3-11   | Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more.                                       |
| Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23                                 | Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.   |
| Matthew 28:1-10   | He has been raised from the dead and is going before you to Galilee.              |

**Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord: Mass During the Day, April 5**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Easter Sunday or the Resurrection of the Lord at Mass During the Day, April 19 | We ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.                  |
| Acts 10:34a, 37-43   | This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.          |
| Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23  | (OR Alleluia)   |
| Colossians 3:1-4   | Seek what is above, where Christ is.                                    |
| OR 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8  | Clear out the old yeast, so that you may become a fresh batch of dough. |
| SEQUENCE   | <i>Victimae paschali laudes</i>   |
|  |   |
| John 20:1-9  | He had to rise from the dead.   |
| OR Matthew 28:1-10   | He has been raised from the dead and is going before you to Galilee.    |
| OR Luke 24:13-35   | Stay with us it is almost evening. [at an afternoon or evening Mass]    |

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## THE EASTER SEASON & THE PERIOD OF MYSTAGOGIA

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“Since the distinctive spirit and power of the period of post-baptismal catechesis or mystagogy derive from the new, personal experience of the sacraments and of the community, its main setting is the so-called Masses for Neophytes, that is, the Sunday Masses of the Easter Season. Besides being occasions for the newly baptized to gather with the community and share in the mysteries, these celebrations include particularly suitable readings from the Lectionary...” (OCIA 247).

### YEAR A

#### Second Sunday of Easter/ Sunday of Divine Mercy

Acts 2:42-47  
Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24  
1 Peter 1:3-9  
John 20:19-31

All who believed were together and had all things in common.  
Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting. (OR Alleluia)  
God has given us new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.  
Eight days later Jesus came and stood in their midst.

#### Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14, 22-33  
Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11  
1 Peter 1:17-21  
Luke 24:13-25

It was impossible for Jesus to be held by death.  
Lord, you will show us the path of life. (OR Alleluia)  
You were saved with the precious Blood of Christ, as with that of a spotless, unblemished lamb.  
They recognized Jesus in the breaking of bread.

#### Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:1, 4a, 36-41  
Psalm 23:1-2a, 2b-4, 5, 6  
1 Peter 2:20b-25  
John 10:1-10

God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.  
The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. (OR Alleluia)  
You have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.  
I am the gate for the sheep.

#### Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 6:1-7  
Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19  
1 Peter 2:4-9  
John 14:1-12

They chose seven men filled with the Spirit.  
Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you. (OR Alleluia)  
You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.  
I am the way and the truth and the life.

#### Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17  
Psalm 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20  
1 Peter 3:15-18  
John 14:15-21

Peter and John laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.  
Let all the earth cry out to God with joy. (OR Alleluia)  
Put to death in the flesh, Christ was raised to life in the Spirit.  
I will ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate.

#### The Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11  
Psalm 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9  
  
Ephesians 1:17-23  
Matthew 28:16-20

As the apostles were looking on, Jesus was lifted up.  
God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.  
(OR Alleluia)  
God seated Jesus at his right hand in the heavens.  
All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

#### Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:12-14  
Psalm 27:1, 4, 7-8  
Alleluia  
1 Peter 4:13-16  
John 17:1-11a

All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer.  
I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living OR  
  
If you are insulted for the name of Christ, blessed are you.  
Father, glorify your Son.

## Pentecost Sunday – Vigil Mass

Genesis 11:1-9  
or Exodus 19:3-8a, 16-20b  
or Ezekiel 37:1-14  
or Joel 3:1-5

Psalm 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30

Romans 8:22-27

John 7:37-39

It was called Babel because there the Lord confused the speech of all the world.  
The Lord came down upon Mount Sinai before all the people.  
Dry bones of Israel, I will bring spirit into you, that you may come to life.  
I will pour out my spirit upon the servants and handmaids.

Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth. (or Alleluia)

The Spirit intercedes with inexpressible groanings.

Rivers of living water will flow.

## Pentecost Sunday – Extended Readings for the Vigil Mass

Genesis 11:1-9  
Psalm 33:10-11, 12-13, 14-15  
Prayer

Exodus 19:3-8a, 16-20b  
Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56

OR

Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11  
Prayer

Ezekiel 37:1-14  
Psalm 107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9  
Prayer

Joel 3:1-5  
Psalm 104: 1-2, 24 and 35, 27-28, 29-30  
Prayer

Romans 8:22-27

Gloria

John 7:37-39

It was called Babel because there the Lord confused the speech of all the world.  
Response: Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.  
(See *Roman Missal*)

The Lord came down upon Mount Sinai before all the people.  
Response: Glory and praise for ever!

Response – Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.  
(See *Roman Missal*)

Dry bones of Israel, I will bring spirit into you, that you may come to life.  
Response: Give thanks to the Lord; his love is everlasting. (or Alleluia)  
(Three options provided in *Roman Missal*)

I will pour out my spirit upon the servants and handmaids.

Response: Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth. (or Alleluia)

The Spirit intercedes with inexpressible groanings.

## Pentecost Sunday – Mass During the Day

Acts 2:1-11

Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34

1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13

SEQUENCE

John 20:19-23

They were filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak.

Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth. (OR Alleluia)

In one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.

*Veni, Sancte Spiritus*

As the Father sent me, so I send you: receive the Holy Spirit.

## RITES BELONGING TO THE PERIOD OF PURIFICATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT

“The Period of Purification and Enlightenment of the elect normally coincides with Lent and begins with ‘Election.’ Both in the liturgy and in liturgical catechesis, through remembrance of Baptism or preparation for it, and by penitence, Lent renews the community of the faithful together with the elect and disposes them to recall the Paschal Mystery, which the Sacraments of Initiation apply to individuals. In this period, the elect together with the local community give themselves to spiritual recollection, so that they may prepare themselves for the Paschal Feasts and for Initiation by the Sacraments...” (OCIA 138).

“The time of purification and enlightenment is given to a more intense preparation of spirit and heart, which has the character of recollection rather than of catechesis, and is intended to purify hearts and minds by examination of conscience and penitence. This period is intended as well to enlighten the hearts of the elect with a deeper knowledge of Christ the Savior” (OCIA 139).

“The ‘Scrutinies,’ which are celebrated solemnly on Sundays, have the double purpose of what was mentioned earlier, namely to reveal what is weak, sick, and sinful in the hearts of the elect so that it can be healed; and what is honorable, strong and holy, so that it can be strengthened...” (OCIA 141). In accord with ancient tradition, the readings of Year A are to be used, with the traditional gospels of the Samaritan Woman, the Man Born Blind, and the raising of Lazarus, respectively (cf. OCIA 146).

“The Rites of Handing On of the Creed and of the Lord’s Prayer are to be celebrated after the Scrutinies, if they have not already taken place. In these rites, with the formation of the elect completed or underway for a suitable time, the Church lovingly entrusts to them the texts regarded from antiquity as a summary of its faith and prayer. The ‘Rites of Handing On,’ by which the Church entrusts to the elect ancient texts of faith and prayer, that is, the Creed and the Lord’s Prayer, have the purpose of enlightening them...” (OCIA 147). Ideally, the presentations should be celebrated within Mass, with the faithful present (cf. OCIA 157, 178).

The Rites of Immediate Preparation are celebrated on Holy Saturday. They are celebrated on the day most proximate to the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation and, as a rule, should not be omitted. Among these rites is the Recitation of the Creed. Again, according to ancient custom, the Elect recite (“give back,” *reditio*) the Creed which they had been given (“handed on,” *traditio*).

It is very important to remember that these rites are for the catechumens (Elect) only! Those who have been baptized should not take part in rites intended for unbaptized catechumens.

|                       |   |                       |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Second Sunday of Lent | Penitential Rite (candidates; optional) | OCIA 459-472          |
| Third Sunday of Lent  | First Scrutiny                          | OCIA 141-145, 151-56  |
| Third Week of Lent    | Handing On of the Creed                 | OCIA 148, 157-163     |
| Fourth Sunday of Lent | Second Scrutiny                         | OCIA 164-170          |
| Fifth Sunday of Lent  | Third Scrutiny                          | OCIA 171-177          |
| Fifth Week of Lent    | Handing On of the Lord’s Prayer         | OCIA 149, 178-184     |
| Holy Saturday         | Rites of Immediate Preparation          | OCIA 185-199, 203-205 |

**FIRST SCRUTINY**  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A)**  
**THE SAMARITAN WOMAN AT THE WELL**



**THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Reading**

**Exodus 17:3-7**

*Give us water so that we may drink.*

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9**

*If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*

**Second Reading**

**Romans 5:1-2, 5-8**

*The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.*

**Verse Before the Gospel**

**see John 4: 12, 15**

*Lord, you are truly the Savior of the world;  
give me living water, that I may never thirst again.*

**Gospel**

**John 4:5 – 42 [or John 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42]**

*The water that I shall give will become a spring of eternal life.*

**Homily**

**SCRUTINY**

**Prayer in Silence**  
**Invitation**  
**Prayer**

*The Elect and sponsors are invited to come forward.*

*The Elect kneel, sponsors place a hand on their shoulders*

**Intercessions for the Elect**

*See OCIA 153 (option A or B)*

**Exorcism**

*See OCIA 154 (option A or B)*

**Prayer**

*to the Father*

**Laying On of Hands**

*to the Holy Spirit*

**Prayer**

*to Jesus Christ*

**Song**

*Suggestion: From Ashes to the Living Font (Verses for Lent III) Hommerding/ ST.FLAVIAN*

**Dismissal of the Elect**

*See OCIA 155 (options A, B, C, or D)*

**CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST**

## **HANDING ON OF THE CREED**

### **An Order of Service**

“The Rite of Handing On of the Creed takes place during the week following the First Scrutiny. It is desirable that the Rite of Handing On of the Creed takes place in the presence of the community of the faithful after the Liturgy of the Word at a weekday Mass with the appropriate readings for these Rites” (OCIA 157). For more details, please see OCIA nos. 157-162 and *Lectionary for Mass*, no. 748.

#### **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

##### **FIRST READING**

Deuteronomy 6:1-7

*Hear, O Israel! You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart.*

##### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Psalm 19 (18): 8, 9, 10, 11

*Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.*

*R. (John 6:68c)*

##### **SECOND READING**

*Romans 10: 8-13 -- The confession of faith of those believing in Christ*

OR

*1 Corinthians 15: 1-8a or 1-4 – Through the Gospel you are also being saved if you hold fast to the word I preached to you.*

##### **VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL**

John 3:16

God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him might have eternal life.

##### **GOSPEL**

*Matthew 16:13-18 – You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church. OR*

*John 22:44-50 -- I came into the world as light, so that anyone who believes in me might not remain in darkness.*

##### **HOMILY**

##### **HANDING ON OF THE CREED**

*The elect come forward to listen to the Creed. The Apostles' Creed or the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed is recited by the priest and assembly.*

##### **PRAYER OVER THE ELECT**

Invitation to Prayer

Silent Prayer

Prayer

##### **DISMISSAL OF THE ELECT**

##### **CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST**

**SECOND SCRUTINY  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT  
THE MAN BORN BLIND**



**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Reading**

**1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a**

*David is anointed as king of Israel.*

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6**

*The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

**Second Reading**

**Ephesians 5:8-14**

*Arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.*

**Verse before the Gospel**

**John 8:12**

*I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
whoever follows me will have the light of life.*

**Gospel**

**John 9: 1-41 [or John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]**

*The man who was blind went off and washed himself  
and came back able to see.*

**Homily**

**SCRUTINY**

*The Elect and sponsors are invited to come forward.*

**Prayer in Silence**

**Invitation  
Prayer**

*The Elect kneel, sponsors place a hand on their shoulders*

**Intercessions for the Elect**

*See OCIA 167 (option A or B)*

**Exorcism**

**Prayer  
Laying On of Hands  
Prayer**

*See OCIA 168 (option A or B)*

*to the Father  
to the Holy Spirit  
to Jesus Christ*

**Song**

*Suggestion: Christ, be our Light!*

*Text and Tune: Bernadette Farrell © 1993, 2000 Published by OCP.*

**Dismissal of the Elect**

*See OCIA 169 (options, A, B, C. or D)*

**CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST**

**THIRD SCRUTINY  
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT  
THE RAISING OF LAZARUS**



**THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Reading**

**Ezekiel 37:12-14**

*I will put my spirit in you that you may live.*

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8**

*With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.*

**Second Reading**

**Romans 8:8-11**

*The Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you.*

**Verse before the Gospel**

**John 11:25a, 26**

*I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;  
whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will never die.*

**Gospel**

**John 11:1-45 [or John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]**

*I am the resurrection and the life.*

**Homily**

**SCRUTINY**

*The Elect and sponsors are invited to come forward.*

**Prayer in Silence**

**Invitation  
Prayer**

*The Elect kneel, sponsors place hand on their shoulders*

**Intercessions for the Elect**

*See OCIA 174 (option A or B)*

**Exorcism**

**Prayer  
Laying On of Hands  
Prayer**

*See OCIA 175 (option A or B)*

*to the Father  
to the Holy Spirit  
to Jesus Christ*

**Song**

*Suggestion: O Christ, Who Shared our Mortal Life*

*Text: Herman G. Steumpfle, Jr. © 1993, GIA Publications, Inc.*

*Tune: KINGSFOLD by Ralph Vaughn Williams, 1872-1958*

**Dismissal of the Elect**

*See OCIA 176 (Options A, B, C, or D)*

**CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST**

## **HANDING ON OF THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **An Order of Service**

“The Handing On of the Lord’s Prayer takes place during the week following the Third Scrutiny. It is desirable that the Rite take place in the presence of the community of the faithful after the Liturgy of the Word at a weekday Mass, with the appropriate readings for these Rites...” (OCIA 178). For more details, please see OCIA nos. 178-184 and *Lectionary for Mass*, no. 749.

### **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

#### **FIRST READING**

*Hosea 11:1b, 3-4, 8e-9 -- I drew them with human cords, with bands of love.*

#### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

*Psalm 23 (22):1b-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 – The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

**OR**

*Psalm 103 (102):1-2, 8 and 10, 11-12, 13 and 14 -- As a father has compassion on his children, the Lord's compassion is on those who fear him.*

#### **SECOND READING**

*Romans 8:14-17, 26-27 – You received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, “Abba!”*

**OR**

*Galatians 4:4-7 – God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out, “Abba! Father!”*

#### **VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL**

**Romans 8:15**

*For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, “Abba! Father!”*

#### **PRESENTATION OF THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*The Elect come forward to listen to the Gospel.*

#### **GOSPEL**

*Matthew 6:9-13 Lord, teach us to pray.*

#### **HOMILY**

#### **PRAYER OVER THE ELECT**

*See OCIA 182*

*Invitation to Prayer*

*Silent Prayer*

*Prayer*

#### **DISMISSAL OF THE ELECT**

*See OCIA 183 (options A, B, C, or D)*

#### **CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST**

**RITES OF IMMEDIATE PREPARATION**  
**Holy Saturday**  
**An Order of Service**

Celebrated on Holy Saturday, these rites are an immediate preparation for the sacraments. The OCIA provides options for the order in which the rites are celebrated. Please see OCIA 185-205 regarding the selection of rites. "If because of necessity the Creed could not be handed on, it is not recited" (OCIA 186).

The choosing of a baptismal name is not celebrated in the dioceses of the United States. A diocesan bishop has discretion to authorize its use in particular circumstances. Please see OCIA nos. 33.4, 73, and 200.

**MODEL FOR A CELEBRATION OF THE RITES OF IMMEDIATE PREPARATION**

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| SONG  | OCIA 187         |
| SIGN OF THE CROSS   |                  |
| GREETING  | OCIA 188         |
| READING OF THE WORD OF GOD  | OCIA 189         |
| HOMILY  | OCIA 190         |
| CELEBRATION OF THE RITES CHOSEN (193-202)   | OCIA 191         |
| CONCLUDING RITES  | OCIA 192         |
| <br><b>RECITATION OF THE CREED</b>  | <br>OCIA 193-196 |
| READING   | OCIA 194         |
| <i>Matthew 16:13-17 – You are Christ, the Son of the living God. OR<br/>    John 6:35, 63-71 --To whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.</i> |                  |
| HOMILY  |                  |
| <i>If the Ephphatha Rite is celebrated at this time, see OCIA 199.</i>  |                  |
| PRAYER FOR THE RECITATION OF THE CREED  | OCIA 195         |
| RECITATION OF THE CREED   |                  |
| <i>The Elect, alone, recite the Apostle's Creed or the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed.</i>   |                  |
| <br><b>EPHPHATHA RITE</b>   |                  |
| READING   | OCIA 198         |
| <i>Mark 7:31-37 He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.<br/>    A brief homily</i>   |                  |
| EPHPHATHA RITE  | OCIA 199         |
| <br><b>CHOOSING OF A CHRISTIAN NAME</b>   | <br>OCIA 200-202 |
| <i>Not in the dioceses of the USA, unless at the discretion of the Diocesan Bishop.</i>   |                  |
| <br><b>CONCLUDING RITES</b>   | <br>OCIA 203-205 |
| PRAYER OF BLESSING  |                  |
| DISMISSAL   |                  |



## PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

### THE COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM

*Please see the Roman Missal for complete rubrics and texts.*

#### **First Form: The Procession**

Assembly gathers outside, at a smaller church, or other suitable place, holding branches

Priest may wear a cope (which he sets aside after the procession) or chasuble

- Antiphon
  - "Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel. Hosanna in the highest." OR
  - "*Hosanna filio David: benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Rex Israel: Hosanna in excelsis.*"
  - OR other suitable chant
- Sign of the Cross
- Greeting
- Address
- Prayer
- Branches sprinkled with holy water
- Proclamation of the Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11 *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*
- [Homily]
- Invitation
- Procession to the Church
  - Antiphon1 and Psalm 24 (23)
  - OR
  - Antiphon 2 and Psalm 47(46)
  - OR
  - Hymn to Christ the King ["Glory and honor and praise be to you, Christ King and Redeemer..."]
  - OR other suitable chant (e.g., All Glory, Laud and Honor)
- Responsory or other Chant

#### **Second Form: The Solemn Entrance**

The people are gathered inside the church

The ministers are gathered in a place other than the sanctuary, visible to most of the Assembly

- Antiphon -- Hosanna or other suitable chant
- Sign of the Cross
- Greeting
- Address
- Prayer
- Branches Sprinkled with Holy Water
- Proclamation of the Gospel
- Procession of the Ministers to the sanctuary
- Veneration of the Altar
- [Kyrie / Lord, have mercy]
- Collect (at the chair)

### Third Form: The Simple Entrance

- Procession to the Altar
  - with Entrance Antiphon Cf. Jn 12:1, 12-13; Ps 24(23):9-10
  - OR priest recites this Antiphon when he reaches the altar
- Sign of the Cross
- Greeting
- Penitential Rite
- Collect

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-7

*My face I did not shield from buffets and spitting,  
knowing that I shall not be put to shame.*

Psalm 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24

*My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?*

Philippians 2:6-11

*Christ humbled himself. Because of this God greatly exalted him.*

Philippians 2:8-9

*Christ became obedient to the point of death,  
even death on a cross.*

*Because of this, God greatly exalted him*

*and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.*

Matthew 26:14-27:66 OR Matthew 27:11-54

*The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Read without candles or incense)  
or a period of silence*

Gospel

Homily

Creed

Universal Prayer

### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of the Altar

---

Presentation Hymn

---

Prayer over the Offerings

---

Eucharistic Prayer

Preface

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy, holy, holy

Acclamations

The Passion of the Lord

I, II, III

Lord's Prayer

Lamb of God: \_\_\_\_\_

Sign of Peace

---

Breaking of the Bread

Lamb of God: \_\_\_\_\_

Invitation to Holy Communion

---

Communion Hymn(s)

---

Prayer after Communion

### CONCLUDING RITE

Greeting

---

Prayer over the People

---

Dismissal

---

[Closing Hymn]



## THURSDAY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER: AT THE EVENING MASS

### INTRODUCTORY RITE

Entrance Procession/ Hymn

Greeting

Presentation of the Oils

Glory to God

sung

Collect

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Exodus 12: 1-8, 11-14

*The law regarding the Passover meal.*

Psalm 116: 12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18

*Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.*

1 Corinthians 11: 23-26

*For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup,  
you proclaim the death of the Lord.*

John 13:34

*... Love one another as I have loved you.*

John 13: 1-15

*Jesus washes the feet of his disciples*

Second Reading

Chant before the Gospel

*optional*

Antiphons: *The Roman Missal provides seven options*

Hymn: \_\_\_\_\_

Omitted

Gospel

Homily

Washing of the Feet

*gifts for the poor, bread and wine*

Antiphons or Hymn

Profession of Faith

Preface: "The Sacrifice and Sacrament of Christ"

General Intercessions

Eucharistic Prayer I with embolisms

Eucharistic Prayer

Lamb of God: \_\_\_\_\_

Preface

Holy, holy, holy

Eucharistic Prayer

Memorial Acclamation

Great Amen

Communion Rite

Lord's Prayer

Sign of Peace

Breaking of the Bread

Distribution of Holy Communion

Hymn(s)

Prayer After Communion

Transfer of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Incensation

Acclamation or Hymn

Procession to Place of Reposition

[Stripping of the Altar]

*Pange Lingua* or other hymn

"at an appropriate time"



## FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD [GOOD FRIDAY]

Entrance of the Ministers

in silence; red vestments, reverence altar  
Ministers lie prostrate or kneel for a time.  
"Let us pray" is omitted

Prayer

### **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

First Reading

Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12

*He was wounded for our sins (Fourth Servant Song)*

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25

*Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.*

Second Reading

Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

*Jesus learned obedience and became the source of salvation for all who obey him.*

Chant Before the Gospel

Phil 2:8-9

*Christ became obedient to the point of death.*

Gospel

John 18:1 - 19:42

*The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Homily

For the Church, Pope, all orders and degrees of the faithful, catechumens, unity of Christians, the Jewish people, those who do not believe in Christ, those who do not believe in God, those in public office, those in tribulation.

Silent Prayer

Introduction

The Solemn Intercessions

Kneel/Silent Prayer

Prayer

### **THE ADORATION OF THE HOLY CROSS**

The Showing of the Holy Cross

First Form

The deacon carries the Cross through the church to the sanctuary; the priest unveils it gradually

Second Form

The priest or deacon goes to the door of church, receives the unveiled Cross

Invitation

Priest: "Behold the wood of the Cross, on which hung the salvation of the world."

Procession

All: "Come, let us adore."

Adoration of the Holy Cross

Antiphon or Hymn \_\_\_\_\_  
a single Cross; candles on right and left; options for chants or music

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

[Covering of the Altar]

*by priest or deacon, wearing a humeral veil, accompanied by candles*

Ciborium to the Altar

"Behold the Lamb of God..."

Lord's Prayer

Hymn(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Invitation to Communion

Distribution of Communion

Prayer after Communion

Prayer over the People

Departure

*All depart in silence after genuflecting to the Cross*



## EASTER SUNDAY, THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD: THE EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT

*A blazing fire is prepared in a suitable place outside the church. The priest approaches with the ministers, one of whom carries the Paschal Candle. The processional cross and candles are not carried.*

### **THE SOLEMN BEGINNING OF THE VIGIL OR LUCERNARIUM**

The Blessing of the Fire and Preparation of the Candle

Sign of the Cross [new]

Greeting

Instruction

Blessing of the Fire

Preparation of the Candle

Lighting of the Paschal Candle

cross, Alpha and Omega, current year; grains of incense  
from the Easter Fire

Procession

Chant

Priest lights his candle

Lighting of Assembly's Candles

thurifer leads people with unlit candles  
"The Light of Christ." "Thanks be to God."  
from the Paschal Candle  
(*those persons already baptized*)

The Easter Proclamation/Exsultet

by a deacon, priest, or other person  
Long Form or Short Form

### **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

Introduction

Reading I

Responsorial Psalm

Genesis 1:1 - 2:2 OR Genesis 1:1, 26-31a  
Psalm 104: 1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35  
OR Psalm 33: 4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20-22

Prayer

Reading II

Responsorial Psalm

Prayer

Genesis 2: 1-18 OR Gen 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18  
Psalm 16: 5, 8, 9-10, 11

Reading III

Responsorial Psalm

Prayer

Exodus 14:15 - 15:1  
Exodus 15: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18

Reading IV

Responsorial Psalm

Prayer

Isaiah 54: 5-14  
Psalm 30: 2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13

Reading V

Responsorial Psalm

Prayer

Isaiah 55: 1-11  
Isaiah 12: 2-3, 4, 5-6

Reading VI

Responsorial Psalm

Prayer

Baruch 3:9-15, 32-4:4  
Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11

Reading VII

Responsorial Psalm

Prayer

Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28  
Psalm 42:3, 5; 43: 3,4 (when baptism is celebrated) OR Is 12:2-3, 4bcd,  
5-6 OR Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19 (when baptism is not celebrated)

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Gloria             |   |
| Collect            |   |
| Epistle            | <i>Romans 6: 3-11 Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more.</i>                           |
| Responsorial Psalm | <i>Psalm 118: 1-2, 16, 17, 22-23</i>  |
| Gospel             | <i>Matthew 28:1-10 He has been raised from the dead and is going before you to Galilee.</i> |
| Homily             |   |

### **BAPTISMAL LITURGY**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Presentation of the Candidates for Baptism   |  |
| Invitation to Prayer                         | Setting: _____   |
| Litany of the Saints                         | with hands extended... lowering paschal candle into water  |
| Blessing of Baptismal Water                  | Setting: _____<br><i>see Roman Ritual [OCIA]</i>           |
| Prayer                                       |  |
| Acclamation                                  |  |
| Renunciation of Sin                          |  |
| Profession of Faith                          |  |
| Baptism                                      |  |
| Clothing with a White Garment                |  |
| Presentation of a Lighted Candle             |  |
| The Renewal of Baptismal Promises            | By Assembly; [new] may also be done with the Elect (above) |
| Sprinkling with Baptismal Water              |  |
| Celebration of Reception into Full Communion |  |
| Invitation                                   |  |
| Profession of Faith                          |  |
| Act of Reception                             |  |
| Celebration of Confirmation                  |  |
| Invitation                                   |  |
| Laying on of Hands                           |  |
| Anointing with Chrism                        |  |
| Universal Prayer                             |  |

### **THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Presentation of the Offerings   | <i>by the neophytes</i>                                 |
| [Presentation Hymn]             |   |
| Prayer over the Offerings       |   |
| Eucharistic Prayer              |   |
| Preface                         | Preface I of Easter                                     |
| Holy, holy, holy                |   |
| Eucharistic Prayer              | EP I with embolisms [cf. Roman Missal and Roman Ritual] |
| Memorial Acclamation            |   |
| Great Amen                      |   |
| Communion Rite                  |   |
| Lord's Prayer                   |   |
| Sign of Peace                   |   |
| Breaking of the Bread           | Lamb of God: _____                                      |
| Invitation to Communion         | "Behold the Lamb of God..."                             |
| Distribution of Communion       | Hymns: _____  |
| Silence or Hymn of Thanksgiving | _____   |
| Prayer After Communion          | _____   |

### **CONCLUDING RITE**

|                 |                                |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Greeting        |                                |
| Solemn Blessing | see RM #68                     |
| Dismissal       | see RM #69; Alleluia, alleluia |

*Note: The "double alleluia" is sung at the dismissal on Easter Sunday (the Vigil and Mass of Easter Day), during the Octave of Easter, and on Pentecost (Vigil and Day). It is not used on the other days of the Easter season.*



## THE SACRED TRIDIUM: EASTER SUNDAY THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD: THE MASS OF EASTER DAY

### INTRODUCTORY RITES

Opening Hymn \_\_\_\_\_

Greeting \_\_\_\_\_

[Sprinkling Rite]

Glory to God \_\_\_\_\_

Collect \_\_\_\_\_

Setting: \_\_\_\_\_

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 10: 34a, 37-43

Responsorial Psalm \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 118: 1-2, 16-17, 22-23 (24)

Setting: \_\_\_\_\_

Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8

Second Reading \_\_\_\_\_

*Victimae Paschali Laudes*

Sequence \_\_\_\_\_

Alleluia; Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed; ...

Gospel Acclamation \_\_\_\_\_

Setting: \_\_\_\_\_

Gospel \_\_\_\_\_

John 20:1-9 OR Luke 24:1-12 (from the Easter Vigil)

OR Luke 24:13-35 (at an afternoon or evening Mass)

Homily \_\_\_\_\_

see Easter Vigil #55

Renewal of Baptismal Promises \_\_\_\_\_

Song \_\_\_\_\_

Sprinkling with Blessed Water \_\_\_\_\_

Omitted [*The Creed may be recited if there is no renewal of*

Creed \_\_\_\_\_

*baptismal promises.*]

Prayers of the Faithful/Universal Prayer \_\_\_\_\_

### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of the Altar \_\_\_\_\_

I II III

Presentation Hymn \_\_\_\_\_

Preface I of Easter: "The Paschal Mystery"

Prayer over the Offerings \_\_\_\_\_

proper forms of *Communicantes* and *hanc igitur* if EP I is used

Eucharistic Prayer \_\_\_\_\_

Preface

I

Eucharistic Prayer

II

Holy, holy, holy

III

Acclamations

Lord's Prayer \_\_\_\_\_

Preface

Sign of Peace \_\_\_\_\_

I

Breaking of the Bread \_\_\_\_\_

II

Invitation to Holy Communion \_\_\_\_\_

III

Communion Hymn(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Lamb of God: \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer After Communion \_\_\_\_\_

see Easter Vigil #68

### CONCLUDING RITE

[Announcements] \_\_\_\_\_

Greeting \_\_\_\_\_

Alleluia, alleluia

Solemn Blessing \_\_\_\_\_

see Easter Vigil #68

Dismissal \_\_\_\_\_

Closing Hymn \_\_\_\_\_



**THE SACRED TRIDUUM  
EASTER SUNDAY: THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD  
EVENING PRAYER**

*The Paschal Candle is lit and placed near the ambo.*

**INTRODUCTORY RITE**

Introductory Verse

Presider:

All:

O God, **X** come to my assistance.

Lord, make haste to help me.

Doxology

Presider:

All:

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

Hymn

**PSALMODY**

Antiphon I

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the Lord's tomb,  
alleluia.

Psalm

Psalm 110:1-5, 7

Antiphon I

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the Lord's tomb,  
alleluia.

Antiphon II

Come and see the place where the Lord was buried, alleluia.

Psalm

Psalm 114

Antiphon II

Come and see the place where the Lord was buried, alleluia.

Antiphon III

Jesus said: Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to set out for Galilee;  
there they will see me, alleluia.

Revelation 19:1-7

NT Canticle

Jesus said: Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to set out for Galilee;

Antiphon III

there they will see me, alleluia.

**THE WORD OF GOD**

Reading

Hebrews 10:12-14

Silence

Antiphon

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad, alleluia.

**GOSPEL CANTICLE**

Antiphon

On the evening of the first day of the week, the disciples were gathered together behind locked doors; suddenly, Jesus stood among them and said: Peace be with you, alleluia.

Canticle of Mary

Luke 1: 46-55

Antiphon

On the evening of the first day of the week, the disciples were gathered together behind locked doors; suddenly, Jesus stood among them and said: Peace be with you, alleluia.

## **INTERCESSORY PRAYER**

### Invitation

Presider: With joy in our hearts, let us call upon Christ the Lord, who died and rose again, and lives always to intercede for us:  
All: Victorious King, hear our prayer.

### Intercessions

Presider: Light and salvation for all peoples,  
All: send into our hearts the fire of your Spirit;  
as we proclaim your resurrection.

Presider: Let Israel recognize in you her longed-for Messiah,  
All: and the whole earth be filled with the knowledge of your glory.

Presider: Keep us in the communion of your saints,  
All: and grant us rest from our labors in their company.

Presider: You have triumphed over death, your enemy;  
destroy in us the power of death,  
All: that we may live only for you, victorious and immortal Lord.

Presider: Savior Christ, you were obedient even to accepting death,  
and were raised up to the right hand of the Father,  
All: in your goodness, welcome your brothers and sisters  
into the kingdom of your glory.

### Lord's Prayer

Presider: Gathering our prayers and praises into one,  
let us offer the prayer Christ himself taught us.  
All: Our Father,...

### Collect

*(first option)*

Presider: God our Father,  
by raising Christ your Son  
you conquered the power of death  
and opened for us the way to eternal life.  
Let our celebration today  
raise us up and renew our lives  
by the Spirit that is within us.  
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.  
All: Amen.

## **CONCLUDING RITE**

### Dismissal

Presider: Go in peace, alleluia, alleluia.  
All: Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.

## ABOUT THE FEDERATION OF DIOCESAN LITURGICAL COMMISSIONS

The Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions was founded in 1969 by the Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy in order to assist with the implementation of the *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* and the revised liturgical books. Fifty-seven years later, our mission remains the same. The members of our Federation continue to serve Bishops, clergy, and parish liturgists in our roles as directors of Offices of Worship and members of diocesan liturgical commissions.

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Courtesy of the  
Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions  
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