



Office for Divine Worship Newsletter

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Bishop Persico Publishes Prayer for a New Bishop

With the celebration of his 75th birthday, Bishop Persico published a prayer for a new bishop for the Diocese of Erie and directs its use beginning the First Sunday of Advent, November 30, 2025.

O Almighty God,
Pour forth the Holy Spirit upon the Holy Father
and those who assist him
in the discernment of our new bishop.
May the one chosen have the strength
to be a compassionate leader,
who models humility and joy.
Grant him the wisdom of Solomon,
the courage of the apostles,
and the tenderness of your Son, the Good Shepherd.

We also pray for the Diocese of Erie
that he is called to serve.
May we welcome him with open hearts
and work with him in a spirit of synodality,
called to listen, collaborate, and build unity.

Through the intercession of the
Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church,
St. Joseph, the protector of the Church,
and St. Patrick, the patron of our diocese,
may we journey the path of life
with an unwavering focus
on the hope we have in Christ.

For he lives and reigns forever and ever.
Amen.

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Dilexi Te Apostolic Exhortation of the Holy Father Leo XIV

The following are excerpts from *Dilexi Te* (DT), which speaks about the relationship between liturgy and serving the poor:

Writing about the assembly gathered in prayer on the first day of the week, [Saint Justin] underscored that at the heart of the Christian liturgy, it is not possible to separate the worship of God from concern for the poor. Consequently, at a certain point in the celebration: “they who are well-to-do, and willing, give what each thinks fit; and what is collected is deposited with the president, who succors the orphans and widows, and those who, through sickness or any other cause, are in want, and those who are in bonds, and the strangers sojourning among us, and in a word takes care of all who are in need.” This demonstrates that the nascent Church did not separate belief from social action: faith without witness through concrete actions was considered dead, as Saint James taught us (cf. 2:17) (DT, #40).

In [Saint John Chrysostom’s] homilies, he exhorted the faithful to recognize Christ in the needy: “Do you wish to honor the body of Christ? Do not allow it to be despised in its members, that is, in the poor, who have no clothes to cover themselves. Do not honor Christ’s body here in church with silk fabrics, while outside you neglect it when it suffers from cold and nakedness... [The body of Christ on the altar] does not need cloaks, but pure souls; while the one outside needs much care. Let us therefore learn to think of and honor Christ as he wishes. For the most pleasing honor we can give to the one we want to venerate is that of doing what he himself desires, not what we devise... So you too, give him the honor he has commanded, and let the poor benefit from your riches. God does not need golden vessels, but golden souls.”

Dilexi Te, cont'd.

Affirming with crystal clarity that, if the faithful do not encounter Christ in the poor who stand at the door, they will not be able to worship him even at the altar, he continues: "What advantage does Christ gain if the sacrificial table is laden with golden vessels, while he himself dies of hunger in the person of the poor? Feed the hungry first, and only afterward adorn the altar with what remains." He understood the Eucharist, therefore, as a sacramental expression of the charity and justice that both preceded and accompanied it. That same charity and justice should perpetuate the Eucharist through love and attention to the poor (DT, #41).

Consequently, charity is not optional but a requirement of true worship. Chrysostom vehemently denounced excessive wealth connected with indifference for the poor. The attention due to them, rather than a mere social requirement, is a condition for salvation, which gives unjust wealth a condemnatory weight. "It is very cold and the poor man lies in rags, dying, freezing, shivering, with an appearance and clothing that should move you. You, however, red in the face and drunk, pass by. And how do you expect God to deliver you from misfortune?... You often adorn an unfeeling corpse, which no longer understands honor, with many varied and gilded garments. Yet you despise the one who feels pain, who is torn apart, tortured, tormented by hunger and cold." This profound sense of social justice leads him to affirm that "not giving to the poor is stealing from them, defrauding them of their lives, because what we have belongs to them" (DT, #41).

Reminder: Placement of the Nativity Scene in Church

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, pastors and liturgy planners are reminded that if a Nativity scene is displayed inside the church, it should not be placed in the sanctuary (presbyterium). The Book of Blessings instructs that the manger be set in a location suitable for prayer and devotion and easily accessible to the faithful (nos. 1542–1544). The scene should never obscure the altar, ambo, or presider's chair, but instead invite quiet reflection on the mystery of the Incarnation. Whether inside the church or outdoors, the crèche is meant to inspire prayer and wonder, helping all who see it draw closer to Christ, whose humble birth we joyfully proclaim.

Ritual Editions of Anointing of the Sick to Be Released January 1, 2026

Five publishers are producing a total of eleven ritual editions of the *Order of the Anointing of the Sick and of their Pastoral Care and Ritual de la Unción de los enfermos y de su atención* pastoral for liturgical use in the United States. Seven of the books are in English, one is in Spanish, and three are bilingual editions. Three pocket size editions are softcover, while the others are hardcover.

Presales for all editions are currently underway, and books may be distributed and sold as of January 1, 2026. As a reminder, first-use of the new Anointing rite begins on February 11, 2026, the memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes and annual World Day of the Sick, with mandatory use as of Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026.

Information on the available ritual editions is summarized for the benefit of our readers:

Catholic Book Publishing Corp. (CatholicBookPublishing.com, 877-228-2665)

English, regular size: 7¼" × 10¼", 240 pgs., \$34

English, pocket size: 4" × 6¼", 336 pgs., \$25

Bilingual, pocket size: 4" × 6¼", 656 pgs., \$29

Liturgical Press (LitPress.org, 800-858-5450)

English: 6" × 9", 304 pgs., \$59.95

Spanish: 6" × 9", 288 pgs., \$59.95

Liturgy Training Publications (LTP.org, 800-933-1800)

English: 5¼" × 8", 336 pgs., \$48

Bilingual: 5¼" × 8", 672 pgs., \$68

Magnificat (bookstore.Magnificat.net, 970-416-6670)

English, regular size: 5" × 7¾", 280 pgs., \$29.95

English, pocket size: 4¼" × 5½", 280 pgs., \$24.95

Midwest Theological Forum (TheologicalForum.org, 630-541-8519)

English: 7.18" × 10¼", 206 pgs., \$49.95

Bilingual: 7.18" × 10¼", 394 pgs., \$69.95

Jubilee of Prisoners

The Jubilee of Prisoners will be held on Sunday, December 14, 2025. "In every part of the world, believers, and their Pastors in particular, should be one in demanding dignified conditions for those in prison, respect for their human rights and above all the abolition of the death penalty, a provision at odds with Christian faith and one that eliminates all hope of forgiveness and rehabilitation. In order to offer prisoners a concrete sign of closeness, I would myself like to open a Holy Door in a prison, as a sign inviting prisoners to look to the future with hope and a renewed sense of confidence." (Pope Francis, "Hope Does Not Disappoint," Bull of Indiction of the Ordinary Jubilee of the Year 2025). For additional resources, please see: [Jubilee of Prisoners](#).

December 2025 Liturgical Calendar

December 3: Saint Francis Xavier, Priest - Memorial (white)

December 7: Second Sunday of Advent

- No Vigil Mass for the Immaculate Conception. All Masses of December 7 will be celebrated as the Second Sunday of Advent

December 8: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Patronal Feast Day of the United States of America - Holy Day of Obligation

- No Vigil Mass for the Immaculate Conception; all Masses of December 7 will be celebrated as the Second Sunday of Advent
- Ritual Masses (i.e. Order of Matrimony, Funerals) are not permitted
- Gloria is sung or said
- Creed is said
- Mass proper is found in the Proper of Saints
- Solemn Blessing #1 or #15 may be used
- Today is a solemnity. Incorporating incense, festive music, and a more formal Gospel procession is appropriate

December 9: Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin - optional memorial (white)

December 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe, Feast

Patroness of the Americas

- Gloria is sung or said
- Creed is omitted
- Add the needs of pregnant women for the Universal Prayer; for sample intercessions, see *Book of Blessings*, Chapter 1, section 8, "Order for the Blessing of a Mother"

December 13: Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr - Memorial (red)

December 14: Third Sunday of Advent (*Gaudete Sunday*)

- Liturgical Color: Rose or Violet
- The Gloria is not sung or said
- Creed is recited

December 17-24: Weekday Masses

- Second part of Advent begins
- The prayer texts and readings for Weekday Masses are taken from the specific calendar date
- *O Antiphons* begin
- Preface II of Advent may be used beginning December 15

December 22: Fourth Sunday of Advent

- The Gloria is not sung
- Creed is recited
- Preface II of Advent is used

December 2025 Liturgical Calendar, cont'd.

Christmas Masses

- Vestments: White/Gold
- The Gloria is sung or said
- The Creed is recited. *Remind the assembly that all kneel when the incarnation is mentioned*
- Solemn Blessing for the Nativity of the Lord (#2) may be used
- Blessing of the Nativity Scene can be found in Book of Blessing, Ch. 48
- Blessing of a Christmas Tree can be found in the Book of Blessing, Ch.49
- There are four Mass settings (proper antiphons, readings, and orations) for the Solemnity of the Nativity. The Roman Missal contains four Mass settings for the Nativity of Jesus:
 - ◊ at the Vigil Mass,
 - ◊ at the Mass during the Night,
 - ◊ at the Mass at Dawn, and
 - ◊ at the Mass during the Day
- The *Lectionary for Mass (LM)* likewise has four sets of readings. While Mass formularies ought to correspond to the actual time of day or night, there is greater flexibility for choosing the readings. The *LM* indicates that the first set of readings for Mass at the Vigil “may also be used for Masses on Christmas Day, with the option of choosing from one or other of the three sets of readings according to the pastoral needs of each congregation” (rubric from the *Lectionary for Mass*, 13).

December 24 and 25: Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

Anticipated Masses for the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord **start at 4 pm at the earliest.**

Midnight Mass

The Christmas Proclamation should be sung before the Mass during the Night begins; the text is found in Appendix I of the Missal. The Entrance Hymn immediately follows the chant.

December 26: Saint Stephen, the First Martyr, Feast

- Liturgical color: red
- Gloria is sung or said
- Solemn Blessing for the Nativity of the Lord may be used to unify the days of the octave

December 27: Saint John the Evangelist, Apostle and Evangelist, Feast

- Liturgical color: red
- Gloria is sung or said
- Solemn Blessing for the Nativity of the Lord may be used

December 28: Feast of the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

- Liturgical color: white
- Gloria is sung or said
- Creed is recited
- Solemn Blessing #2, #3, or Prayer over the People #25 may be used
- Blessing of a Family (see *Book of Blessings*, Ch. 1)

Jubilee 2025 Information

Bishop Persico Issues Jubilee Indulgence Decree

The indulgence, a priceless gift of divine mercy, is one of the special *signs* of the Jubilee Year. On Wednesday, November 27, 2024, Bishop Persico issued a decree outlining the requirements for the reception of indulgences related to the Jubilee Year 2025 in the Diocese of Erie. All the *truly repentant* faithful, moved by a spirit of charity, who, purified through the sacrament of penance and refreshed by Holy Communion, will be able to obtain the indulgence by undertaking spiritual activities as outlined in the decree found at: [Diocese of Erie Indulgence Decree](#).

Places of Jubilee Pilgrimage in the Jubilee Year

Every Jubilee celebration has aspects of pilgrimage. The sites of pilgrimage are the holy doors of the four papal basilicas in Rome. In the dioceses of the world, the cathedral church is a place of pilgrimage. In the Diocese of Erie, Bishop Persico has designated Saint Leo Magnus Church in Ridgway as a secondary place of pilgrimage.

Mass “For the Holy Year”

The Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments confirmed three new Mass formularies, “For the Holy Year.” These Masses may be celebrated whenever special celebrations are held during the Jubilee, except on solemnities, Sundays and feasts, during Holy Week and the Easter Triduum, days within the Octaves of the Nativity and of Easter, Advent weekdays from December 17 to December 24 inclusive, the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls’ Day) and Ash Wednesday. The proper readings provided may only be used in Ordinary Time; during the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter, the usual daily readings are required. In addition to the Mass prayers and readings, the Dicastery also provides five samples for the Penitential Act, and four invitations, responses, and concluding orations for the Universal Prayer. These liturgical resources are available in the attachment to this newsletter and at: [USCCB Jubilee Year Votive Masses and Various Needs](#).

In light of the Jubilee’s theme, “Pilgrims of Hope,” the prayers naturally stress the themes of pilgrimage and hope. Incorporated into Christ, the faithful are a Body of believers, filled with hope. They look forward to the Lord’s coming in the present and at the end of the ages, an expectation which gives them an eternal vision and moves them to make pilgrimage to God and neighbor. The titles of the Prefaces underline the Christocentric meaning of the Jubilee Year: “Christ, our sole hope,” (Form A); “Christ, our true hope,” (Form B); and “Christ, God and man, the Savior of all” (Form C).

The readings provided for this Mass are nearly identical to those of the annual Chrism Mass (Lectionary for Mass, no. 260): Isaiah 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9; Psalm 89:21-22, 25 and 27; and Luke 4:16-21. In Isaiah, the prophet declares that he has been anointed by the Lord “to announce a year of favor,” and, in the Psalm, God speaks about his servant David: “with my holy oil [I have] anointed him.” These passages culminate in the Gospel passage from Luke, where Christ, at the beginning of his public ministry, reads the prophecy of Isaiah (61:1-2) and declares it fulfilled: “The Lord has sent me to announce a year of favor.” In addition to these selections, there is one additional option for the First Reading, Romans 5:5-11, whose verse 5 opens the Bull of Indiction: “Hope does not disappoint.”

Jubilee Logo

Individuals and organizations may download the Jubilee logo in high resolution and the main languages at: [Jubilee Logo](#).

Since the logo is subject to copyright, its use is intended for pastoral and non-profit purposes only.

Such use is to be linked to the following pastoral and ecclesial initiatives with no commercial purposes:

- Place the trademark on materials related to the Jubilee, such as: pamphlets, postcards, brochures, posters, outlines, banners, websites and other media;
- Place branding on pastoral materials to be used for spiritual preparation for the Jubilee;
- Place trademark on promotional materials related to the Jubilee, particularly on posters, banners, T-shirts, hats, mugs, and other materials and media; not for commercial use.

Jubilee Websites: Vatican: <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html>

Diocesan: <https://www.eriercd.org/holyyear2025.html>

Jubilee Hymn

“Pilgrims of Hope” is the Jubilee 2025 hymn. Prepared by Pierangelo Sequeri, set to music by Francesco Meneghello, the hymn intercepts the many themes of the Holy Year: creation, fraternity, God’s tenderness, and hope.

The English translation, recording and music can be found at: [Jubilee Hymn](#).

Eucharistic Congress 2029

Courtesy of Catholic News Service:

The National Eucharistic Congress, Inc. is thrilled to share that initial steps preparing for the 11th National Eucharistic Congress in 2029 have begun. The location for the event has not been shared but organizers of the event will provide more details in the near future.

Recurring Information:

Colds and Flu

People feeling ill should avoid receiving Communion from the chalice. Priests are encouraged to use good pastoral common sense to calm the fears of the faithful during cold and flu season. An example of this might include reminding the faithful not to receive the Precious Blood, if they are ill.

Workshops for Liturgical Ministers

If any parish or institution would like a workshop for liturgical ministers, especially Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion or lectors, please contact the Office for Divine Worship. If a parish or institution conducts its own workshop for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, please remember to present candidates for this ministry to the Bishop when they are deemed prepared by the pastor or chaplain of said institution.

The following resource is available from the Liturgical Institute at Mundelein for the formation of parish liturgical ministers: Parish Liturgical Ministers.

Time for Vigil Masses and Anticipated Masses

The time for Vigil Masses and Anticipated Masses in the Diocese of Erie is no earlier than 4:00 PM. This applies to Holy Days of Obligation as well, including Christmas.

Time of the Easter Vigil 2026

The Easter Vigil is the first Mass of Easter Sunday and is not in any way to be considered an Anticipated Mass for Easter Sunday. This is why the discipline of the Church insists that it should not begin before nightfall in any circumstance. It may be helpful to know that sunset, according to a variety of models, occurs approximately at 7:24 PM on April 4, 2026. This information is provided at this time to assist with calendar planning for 2025/2026. In general, given the variable date for Easter, it seems best to schedule the Easter Vigil each year for 8:30 PM or later.

Copyrights

According to the United States Copyright Office, if you reproduce, distribute, publicly display, or derive a new piece from a copyrighted work without the permission of the copyright owner, you may have infringed on copyright. That could include putting a poem or song on your website, printing an essay or column in your bulletin, or even streaming a service on your website, Facebook or YouTube that includes the performance of hymns from a hymnal you have purchased. The safest thing a church can do is only to use copyrighted materials when you have the express written permission of the copyright owner. This is generally accomplished by purchasing the appropriate license. The majority of parishes use OneLicense.net.

In worship aids:

- To license the readings for a worship aid, parishes can contact: Mary Elizabeth Sperry at msperry@uscgb.org. If you need any other clarification, please call the Office for Divine Worship at 814-824-1271.
- For reprinting excerpts of the Roman Missal in a worship aid, credit is given to the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL).

On screens:

- The Committee on Divine Worship does not permit projecting readings and liturgical texts on screens during the liturgy. The bishops believe that since people spend much time on screens, the Sacred Liturgy should be a prayerful break from that. They also think screens distract from the liturgy itself.



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The Liturgical Year 2026

Issued by the Office for Divine Worship to assist you in forming the liturgical calendar for your parish or congregation.

With Evening Prayer I of the First Sunday of Advent, the New Year of the Church for 2026 begins.
It runs from Sunday, November 30, 2025 through November 28, 2026.

Principal Celebrations of the Liturgical Year 2026

First Sunday of Advent	November 30, 2025
Ash Wednesday	February 18, 2026
Easter Sunday	April 5, 2026
The Ascension of the Lord (Thursday)	May 14, 2026
Pentecost Sunday	May 24, 2026
The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ	June 7, 2026
First Sunday of Advent	November 29, 2026

Cycles of the Lectionary for Mass

Sunday Cycle	YEAR A	November 30, 2025 to November 22, 2026
Weekday Cycle	CYCLE II	January 12, 2026 to February 17, 2026 May 25, 2026 to November 28, 2026

Liturgy of the Hours

November 30, 2025 - January 11, 2026	Advent, Christmas	Volume I
January 12, 2026 - February 17, 2026	Weeks 1 to 6, Ordinary Time	Volume III
February 18, 2026 - May 24, 2026	Lent, Triduum, Easter	Volume II
May 25, 2026 - August 1, 2026	Weeks 8 to 17, Ordinary Time	Volume III
August 2, 2026 - November 28, 2026	Weeks 18 to 34, Ordinary Time	Volume IV

Holy Days of Obligation

In addition to Sunday, the days to be observed as Holy Days of Obligation in the Latin Rite dioceses of the United States of America, in 2026, in conformity with Canon 1246, are as follows:

January 1	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
May 14, 2026	Solemnity of the Ascension (Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter)
August 15	Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
November 1	Solemnity of All Saints
December 8	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
December 25	Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Following the 1991 decision of the USCCB and with the 1992 confirmation of the Congregation for Bishops, when:

- the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (January 1st);
- the Solemnity of the Assumption (August 15th);
- the Solemnity of All Saints (November 1st);

falls on a Saturday or Monday, the precept to attend Mass is abrogated (removed.)

As December 8, 2025 falls on a Monday,
Immaculate Conception **is** a Holy Day of Obligation.

January 1, 2026 falls on a Thursday, and therefore,
the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God **is** a Holy Day of Obligation.

August 15, 2026 falls on a Saturday, and therefore,
the Solemnity of the Assumption **is not** a Holy Day of Obligation.

Miscellaneous Notes

- In a notification dated December 8, 1998, of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments (Prot. n. 2671/98/L), the Obligatory Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary becomes an Optional Memorial in years when it conflicts with another Obligatory Memorial. Therefore, Saturday, June 13 is a weekday in Ordinary Time, as well as the Optional Memorials of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, of Saint Anthony of Padua, Priest and doctor of the Church, and of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday, thus giving the Priest Celebrant the freedom to choose what is appropriate for the circumstances.
- Saturday, August 15 is the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This year, the obligation to attend Mass on this date is abrogated, in accord with the complementary norm to canon 1246 §2 confirmed for the dioceses for the United States of America.

Miscellaneous Notes

- The Anniversary of the Dedication of Saint Peter Cathedral is celebrated on May 17.
 - ◊ In the Diocese of Erie, this day is ranked as a feast in all places outside the Cathedral.
 - ◊ At Saint Peter Cathedral, it is observed as a solemnity.

However, in 2026, May 17 falls on the Seventh Sunday of Easter. Therefore, the celebration of the Cathedral's dedication is transferred to Monday, May 18, and observed **only** at Saint Peter Cathedral.
- Weddings, whether within Mass or outside of Mass, **may not be celebrated on Sundays**. On Saturdays, they **must begin no later than 3:00 pm** to avoid conflict with confessions and the Vigil Mass, which may start as early as 4:00 pm. This policy takes effect immediately.
- As noted on the previous page, *the Ascension of the Lord is celebrated on Thursday*, and not transferred to the Seventh Sunday of Easter.
- The paschal candle must be new each year and receive its blessing at the Easter Vigil. Old paschal candles may not be reused at the Easter Vigil. *Paschale Solemnitatis*, the 1988 Circular Letter concerning the preparation and celebration of the Easter feasts, states that the paschal candle must “be made of wax, never be artificial, be renewed each year, be only one in number, and be of sufficiently large size so that it may evoke the truth that Christ is the light of the world” (no. 82). This does not mean that the old candle must be thrown away. Most suppliers of candles accept the return of used candles. These suppliers will then recycle the wax to produce new candles. If, for some reason, a parish is unable to recycle the candle wax, then the old paschal candle, as a blessed object (a sacramental) must be appropriately disposed. This could involve burning the candle in a devotional manner (privately as opposed to publicly and liturgically) or even burying the candle in blessed ground. Candles are made to be burned, however, and it is better to find a way to either recycle or burn the wax.

Funeral Masses on Holy Days

“Among the Masses for the Dead, the Funeral Mass holds first place. It may be celebrated on any day except for Solemnities that are Holy Days of Obligation, Thursday of Holy Week (Holy Thursday), the Paschal Triduum, ...with due regard also for all the other requirements of the norm of the law.” (GIRM 380; emphasis added.)

On these days, the body of the deceased may be brought to the church and the *Funeral Liturgy Outside Mass* may be celebrated. Funeral Masses are permitted on Holy Days only when the precept to attend Mass is abrogated.

Funeral Masses on Sundays

GIRM 380 prohibits Funeral Masses on the Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Easter. Furthermore, in the Diocese of Erie, Funeral Masses are not allowed after 3:00 pm Saturday and all day Sunday. Sunday is the day of the community, the parish assembly, and its ministers. If there is a need for a Sunday funeral in the judgment of the pastor, the regional Episcopal Vicar is to be consulted.

Ritual Masses on Sundays and Solemnities

“Ritual Masses are connected to the celebration of certain Sacraments or Sacramentals. They are prohibited on the Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Easter, on Solemnities, on the days within the Octave of Easter, on the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day), on Ash Wednesday, and during Holy Week, and furthermore, due regard is to be had for the norms set out in the ritual books or in the Masses themselves.” (GIRM 372)

Holy Matrimony

Holy Matrimony, both within Mass as well as outside of Mass is not to begin later than 3:00 pm on Saturdays and are not to be celebrated at all on Sundays in the Diocese of Erie.

Baptism and Confirmation

The same principle (GIRM 372) applies to ritual Masses for the conferral of Baptism or Confirmation. When the ritual Mass is not celebrated, one of the readings may be replaced by one chosen from the *Lectionary for Ritual Masses* appropriate to the sacrament celebrated. The final blessing proper to the ritual Mass may always be used.

First Communion

It is appropriate that children should receive their First Communion on a Sunday of Easter (see *Circular Letter Concerning the Preparation and Celebration of Paschal Feasts* #103.) Above all, First Holy Communion should unite families, the parish, and all communicants more closely to the Lord's Supper on Sunday, the Lord's Day.

Additions to the Third Typical Edition of the Roman Missal in English since 2011

After the reforms of the Second Vatican Council, the General Roman Calendar was first promulgated in 1969 by Pope Saint Paul VI, and has subsequently been amended over the years by the Holy See with new celebrations. The last major revision was in 2002, but since the publication of the Roman Missal, Third Edition, the following celebrations have been added to the General Roman Calendar or otherwise changed:

Saint Marianne Cope

January 23

On July 10, 2013, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments confirmed the inscription of Saint Marianne Cope, Virgin, into the Proper Calendar for the Dioceses of the United States of America. Her proper liturgical texts in English and Spanish were confirmed the following day.

St. Marianne Cope is celebrated every year as an Optional Memorial on January 23. This is also the date of the Optional Memorial of Saint Vincent, Deacon and Martyr, which was transferred from January 22 in order to allow for the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. (In years when the Day of Prayer is transferred to January 23, the liturgical celebrations of both St. Vincent and St. Marianne Cope are omitted.)

Collect

O God, who called us to serve your Son
in the least of our brothers and sisters,
grant, we pray, that by the example and intercession
of the Virgin Saint Marianne Cope,
we may burn with love for you and for those who suffer.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Saint Gregory of Narek

February 27

On January 25, 2021, Pope Francis ordered the inscription of Saint Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church, into the General Roman Calendar. St. Gregory is celebrated each year as an Optional Memorial on February 27.

Collect

Almighty ever-living God,
who were pleased to imbue with mystical doctrine Saint Gregory of Narek,
the teacher and glory of the Armenian people,
grant us, by his teaching,
to learn the art of speaking with you
and constantly to fortify our life
with the Sacraments of the Church.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Saint John De Avila

May 10

On January 25, 2021, Pope Francis ordered the inscription of Saint John De Avila, Priest and Doctor of the Church, into the General Roman Calendar. St. John is celebrated each year as an Optional Memorial on May 10.

Collect

O God, who gave to your clergy and people Saint John De Avila,
a teacher outstanding for the holiness and zeal of his life,
grant, we pray, that in our own time
the Church may increase in holiness
by the exceptional devotion of your ministers.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Saint Paul VI

May 29

On January 25, 2019, Pope Francis ordered the inscription of Saint Paul VI, Pope, into the General Roman Calendar. St. Paul is celebrated each year as an Optional Memorial on May 29.

Collect

O God, who entrusted the governance of your Church
to Pope Saint Paul the Sixth,
a steadfast apostle of the Gospel of your Son,
grant, we pray, that enlightened by his teachings,
we may work together with you
to spread the culture of love throughout the world.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Mary, Mother of the Church

On February 11, 2018, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments inscribed a new obligatory Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, into the General Roman Calendar. This memorial is celebrated every year on the Monday after Pentecost.

For Mass, the Prayers for the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church may be found in the Roman Missal under Votive Masses: #10. Blessed Virgin Mary, B. Our Lady, Mother of the Church (page 1191 in the Catholic Book publication).

Proper readings with options are assigned for the day as follows:

First Reading: Genesis 3:9-15, 20 (The mother of all the living)

or

Acts 1:12-14 (All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer with Mary, the mother of Jesus)

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 87: 1-2, 3 and 5, 6-7. Glorious things are told of you...

Gospel Acclamation: O happy Virgin, you gave birth to the Lord...

Gospel: John 19:25-34 Behold, your Son. Behold, your mother.

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha

July 14

On May 26, 2023, the Holy See's Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments confirmed English and Spanish texts of an expanded Mass formulary for the Memorial of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin, celebrated yearly on July 14. While the Roman Missal, Third Edition contains a Collect prayer (with other elements drawn from the Common of Virgins), the expanded formulary now includes proper texts for the Entrance Antiphon, Prayer over the Offerings, Communion Antiphon, and Prayer after Communion. The Collect prayer has also been emended.

Entrance Antiphon

How beautiful you are, O virgin of Christ,
who were worthy to receive the Lord's crown,
the crown of perpetual virginity.

Collect

O God, who willed the Virgin Saint Kateri Tekakwitha
to flower in a life of innocence
among the Native peoples of North America,
grant, through her intercession,
that all gathered in your Church
from every nation, tribe and tongue,
may glorify you in a single canticle of praise.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Prayer over the Offerings

Graciously accept, O Lord,
this offering of your holy people,
honoring Saint Kateri,
through whose intercession we ask the grace
to do always what is pleasing to you.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Behold, the Bridegroom is coming;
come out to meet Christ the Lord.
(Cf. Mt 25:6)

Prayer after Communion

Refreshed by the heavenly food
of the Body and Blood of your beloved Son,
we humbly beseech you, O Lord,
that following the example of Saint Kateri
we may live the mystery we celebrate.
Through Christ our Lord.

Saint Mary Magdalene

July 22

On June 3, 2016, the Holy See raised the liturgical rank of the Memorial of Saint Mary Magdalene to a Feast, with the date remaining on July 22. A new Preface before the Eucharistic Prayer for the Feast was also promulgated in Latin.

The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments confirmed the English translation of the Preface for the Feast of St. Mary Magdalene on September 21, 2019. It may be used during Masses in honor of St. Mary Magdalene, especially her Feast on July 22, beginning in 2020.

The proper liturgical text in English of the Preface in honor of Saint Mary Magdalene is found below:

Preface for the Feast of Saint Mary Magdalene

Preface: Apostle to the Apostles

V. The Lord be with you. R. And with your spirit.

V. Lift up your hearts. R. We lift them up to the Lord.

V. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. R. It is right and just.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
to glorify you in all things, almighty Father, whose mercy is not less than your power,
through Christ our Lord.

He appeared in the garden and revealed himself to Mary Magdalene,
who had loved him in life, witnessed him dying on the Cross,
sought him as he lay in the tomb,
and was the first to adore him, newly risen from the dead.

He honored her with the office of being an apostle to the Apostles,
so that the good news of new life might reach the ends of the earth.
And so, Lord, with all the Angels and Saints,
we, too, give you thanks, as in exultation we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts...

Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus

July 29

On January 26, 2021, Pope Francis ordered the inscription of Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus into the General Roman Calendar, to replace the existing celebration of Saint Martha alone. Sts. Martha, Mary and Lazarus are celebrated each year as an Obligatory Memorial on July 29.

The Holy See released the proper liturgical texts in Latin, and on September 30, 2024, the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments confirmed the English translation of those texts. (An approval and confirmation process is still required for a Spanish translation.) Some existing texts have remained the same - the entrance and Communion antiphons at Mass, and indications in the Lectionary—while most have been adjusted slightly or included for the first time.

Entrance Antiphon

Jesus entered a village,
where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home.
(Cf. Lk 10:38)

Collect

O God, whose Son
called Lazarus back to life from the grave
and was pleased to be a guest in the home of Martha,
grant us, we pray,
that, faithfully serving him in our brothers and sisters,
we, with Mary, may be found worthy to be nourished
by the contemplation of his word.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Prayer over the Offerings

As we proclaim your wonders in your Saints, O Lord,
we humbly implore your majesty,
that, as their homage of love was pleasing to you,
so, too, our dutiful service may find favor in your sight.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Martha said to Jesus: You are the Christ, the Son of God,
who is coming into this world.
(Jn 11:27)

Prayer after Communion

May the holy reception of the Body and Blood
of your Only Begotten Son, O Lord,
turn us away from the cares of this fallen world,
so that, following the example of Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus,
we may grow in sincere love for you on earth
and rejoice to behold you for eternity in heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.

Saint Hildegard of Bingen

September 17

The Holy See released the proper liturgical texts in Latin and on September 30, 2024, the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments confirmed the English translation of those texts. (An approval and confirmation process is still required for a Spanish translation.)

Collect

O God, fount of life,
 who imbued the Virgin Saint Hildegard
 with a spirit of prophecy,
 grant us, we pray, by her example and intercession,
 to know your ways,
 and in the darkness of this age
 to perceive the splendor of your light.
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
 who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 God, for ever and ever.

Saint Faustina Kowalska

October 5

On May 18, 2020, Pope Francis ordered the inscription of Saint Faustina Kowalska, Virgin, into the General Roman Calendar. St. Faustina is celebrated each year as an Optional Memorial on October 5.

Collect

O God,
 who entrusted Saint Faustina with spreading the immense riches
 of your infinite mercy,
 grant, at her intercession, that after her example we may fully trust in your goodness
 and generously perform works of charity.
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
 who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 God, for ever and ever.

Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos

October 5

On July 25, 2014, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments confirmed the inscription of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, Priest, into the Proper Calendar for the Dioceses of the United States of America. He is celebrated each year as an Optional Memorial on October 5.

Collect

O God, who made your Priest Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos
 outstanding in love,
 that he might proclaim the mysteries of redemption
 and comfort those in affliction,
 grant, by his intercession,
 that we may work zealously for your glory
 and for the salvation of mankind.
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
 who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 God, for ever and ever.

Saint John XXIII

October 11

On May 29, 2014, Pope Francis ordered the inscription of Saint John XXIII, Pope, into the General Roman Calendar. St. John is celebrated each year as an Optional Memorial on October 11.

Collect

Almighty ever-living God,
 who in Pope Saint John the Twenty-Third
 has given a living example of Christ, the Good Shepherd,
 to shine throughout the whole world,
 grant us, we pray,
 that, through his intercession,
 we may joyfully pour out
 an abundance of Christian charity.
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
 who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 God, for ever and ever.

Saint John Paul II

October 22

On October 12, 2012, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments confirmed the inscription of Saint John Paul II, Pope, into the Proper Calendar for the Dioceses of the United States of America. Two years later, on May 29, 2014, Pope Francis ordered the inscription of Saint John Paul II into the General Roman Calendar. St. John Paul II is celebrated each year as an Optional Memorial on October 22.

Collect

O God, rich in mercy,
 who willed that Pope Saint John Paul the Second
 should preside over your universal Church,
 grant, we pray, that instructed by his teaching,
 we may confidently open our hearts to the saving grace of Christ,
 the sole Redeemer of the human race.
 Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 God, for ever and ever.

Our Lady of Loreto

December 10

On October 7, 2019, Pope Francis ordered the inscription of Our Lady of Loreto into the General Roman Calendar. She is celebrated each year as an Optional Memorial on December 10.

The Collect prayer for the new celebration is identical to one already found in the Roman Missal, in the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary for Advent. If Our Lady of Loreto is celebrated, the rest of the formulary – Prayer over the Offerings, Preface, Prayer after Communion, and Entrance and Communion Antiphons – can be drawn from the same Mass formulary as the Collect. White vestments are worn.

Communal Penance Services in Advent and Lent

Every effort should be made to schedule communal celebrations of the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the seasons of Advent and Lent. *No parish may schedule "general absolution."*

Although individual confessions may be scheduled in parishes according to pastoral need, Lenten communal penance services should not be scheduled during the days of the Triduum or the evening of the Chrism Mass, to allow priests and people to attend.

Advent and Christmas

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, pastors and liturgy planners are reminded that if a Nativity scene is displayed inside the church, it should not be placed in the sanctuary (presbyterium). The Book of Blessings instructs that the manger be set in a location suitable for prayer and devotion and easily accessible to the faithful (nos. 1542–1544). The scene should never obscure the altar, ambo, or presider's chair, but instead invite quiet reflection on the mystery of the Incarnation. Whether inside the church or outdoors, the crèche is meant to inspire prayer and wonder, helping all who see it draw closer to Christ, whose humble birth we joyfully proclaim.

In scheduling Masses, care must be taken not to multiply Masses on Christmas Eve to the detriment of Christmas Day itself. *Anticipated Masses on Sundays and Holy Days (Christmas included) are to take place in the evening.* (See Canon 1248 §1)

In general, the Diocese of Erie does not allow Christmas Eve Masses to be scheduled before 4:00 pm.

Christmas pageants or "Nativity Plays" for adults or children within Mass are to be avoided. According to Vatican II, the assembly of the baptized is to participate fully, actively and consciously (see *Sacrosanctum Concilium* #41) in various roles and functions and should never be reduced to passive spectators or an audience, as would be true for pageants, plays and dramatic presentations.

The Mass is not an historical reenactment of the events of salvation history and care should be taken not to give the impression that the Liturgy of the Word is a play. This is not to say that dramatic elements may not be used. However, in some circumstances, the need to encourage active participation over entertainment or a passive audience mode should be seriously considered.

The Season of Lent

"Lent is ordered to preparing for the celebration of Easter, since the Lenten liturgy prepares for celebration of the Paschal Mystery both catechumens, by the various stages of Christian Initiation, and the faithful, who recall their own Baptism and do penance.

The forty days of Lent run from Ash Wednesday up to but excluding the Mass of the Lord's Supper. From the beginning of Lent until the Paschal Vigil, the *Alleluia* is not said.

On Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, which is observed everywhere as a fasting day, ashes are distributed." (GIRM, nos. 27-29)

Abstinence

All Catholics who have reached their 14th birthday are bound to abstain totally from meat on the following days: Ash Wednesday, all Fridays of Lent, and Good Friday.

Fasting

All Catholics between their 18th and 59th birthdays are also bound to observe the Law of Fast on the following days: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This practice involves limiting oneself to a single full meal and avoiding food between meals. Light sustenance may be taken on two other occasions in the course of the day.

Easter Duty

After they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, all the faithful are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year. This precept must be fulfilled during the Easter season, unless for a good reason it is fulfilled at another time during the year. This obligation may be fulfilled between February 22, 2026 (First Sunday of Lent) and May 31, 2026 (Trinity Sunday.)

Baptism

There is no universal rule that would forbid the practice of Baptism during Lent. However, given that Lent is traditionally focused on the preparation of Baptism, many parishes have policies that discourage it. This is left to the discretion of the pastor/staff.

Holy Matrimony

While weddings may be celebrated during the Season of Lent (except for the Sundays of Lent,) the priest/deacon preparing the couple should make the couple aware of the special nature of the proposed date for celebration and its penitential character. They should be discouraged from too much pomp or display. (See *Order of Celebrating Holy Matrimony* #32)

The Paschal Triduum

Since Christ accomplished his work of human redemption and of the perfect glorification of God, principally through his Paschal Mystery, in which by dying he has destroyed our death and by rising he restored our life, the sacred Paschal Triduum of the Passion and Resurrection of the Lord shines forth as the high point of the entire liturgical year. Therefore, the preeminence that Sunday has in the week, the Solemnity of Easter has in the liturgical year. (*Universal Norms* #18)

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.

Funerals

Funeral Masses are not permitted on Holy Thursday morning or during the days of the Easter Triduum. On these days, the body of the deceased may be brought to the church and the *Funeral Liturgy Outside Mass* may be celebrated.

Holy Matrimony

The celebration of Marriage during the Paschal Triduum is to be avoided altogether.

Holy Thursday

According to the Church's ancient tradition, all Masses without a congregation are prohibited on this day. The Mass of the Lord's Supper is celebrated in the evening. No additional Masses are to be scheduled. Only where a pastoral reason requires it, and with the permission of the local Ordinary, may another Mass be celebrated. (See *Roman Missal* "Thursday of the Lord's Supper: At the Evening Mass")

Good Friday

“The Celebration of the Lord’s Passion is to take place in the afternoon, at about three o’clock. The time will be chosen as shall seem most appropriate for pastoral reasons in order to allow the people to assemble more easily, for example, shortly after midday, or in the late evening, however no later than nine o’clock.” (*Circular Letter Concerning Preparation and Celebration of Easter Feasts #63*)

Holy Communion may only be distributed during the Solemn Celebration of the Passion. No other communal distribution of Holy Communion may take place on Good Friday (for example, during Stations of the Cross or other secondary services.)

In a situation of grave public need, the Diocesan Bishop may permit or order the addition of a special intention to the Solemn Intercessions.

Penance and Anointing of the Sick are the only Sacraments celebrated on Good Friday and the following day. *Viaticum may be administered at any time.*

Holy Saturday

“On Holy Saturday the Church is as it were at the Lord’s tomb, meditating on his passion and death, and on his descent to hell, and awaiting his resurrection with prayer and fasting. It is highly recommended that on this day the Office of Readings and Morning Prayer be celebrated with the participation of the people.” (*Circular Letter Concerning Preparation and Celebration of Easter Feasts #73*)

“On this day the Church abstains strictly from the celebration of the Sacrifice of the Mass. Holy Communion may be given only in the form of Viaticum. The celebration of marriages is forbidden, as also the celebration of other sacraments, except those of Penance and Anointing of the Sick.

The faithful are to be instructed on the special character of Holy Saturday. Festive customs and traditions associated with this day on account of the former practice of anticipating the celebration of Easter on Holy Saturday should be reserved for Easter night and the day that follows.” (*Circular Letter Concerning Preparation and Celebration of Easter Feasts #75*)

The Easter Vigil

According to a most ancient tradition, this night is “one of vigil for the Lord” and the Vigil is celebrated during it, to commemorate that holy night when the Lord rose from the dead, is regarded as the “mother of all holy vigils.” It is not an anticipated Mass, but a true vigil, and as such, may not begin before nightfall.

Sunset will be at approximately 8:06 PM on Saturday, April 4, 2026.
This means that the Easter Vigil should not begin before 8:30 PM.

The Easter Vigil is to be celebrated only once in a given church. (See *Roman Missal* “The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night” no. 2)

Nine readings are provided for the Vigil, seven from the Old Testament and two from the New Testament (the Epistle and Gospel), all of which should be read whenever possible, so that the character of the Vigil may be preserved.

Still, for serious pastoral reasons, the number of readings from the Old Testament may be reduced, bearing in mind that the proclamation of the Word of God is a fundamental part of the Easter Vigil. At least three readings should be read from the Old Testament, with their respective responsorial psalms, including always Exodus 14 and its canticle, which should never be omitted.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

The Rite of Election will occur on the First Sunday of Lent, February 22, 2026 at Saint Peter Cathedral in Erie **and** the Second Sunday of Lent, March 1, 2026 at Saint Tobias Church in Brockway.

Scrutinies seek to remove all obstacles to holistic conversion of the elect (unbaptized) and deepen their resolve to bind themselves to Christ, to carry out their mission to love God above all else. They take place on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent. The *Roman Missal* contains specific orations and prefaces suited to these celebrations. (See *Roman Missal*, “Ritual Masses: 2. For the Celebration of the Scrutinies.”)

Scheduling Notes for 2026

- Sunday, February 22, 2026 - The Rite of Election, Saint Peter Cathedral, Erie, 3:00 pm
- Sunday, March 1, 2026 - The Rite of Election, Saint Tobias Church, Brockway, 3:00 pm
- Monday, March 30, 2026 - Chrism Mass, Saint Peter Cathedral, 1:00 pm
- Sunday, June 7, 2026 - The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) “It is desirable that a procession take place after the Mass in which the Host to be carried in the procession is consecrated. However, nothing prohibits a procession from taking place even after a public and lengthy period of adoration following the Mass.” (See *Roman Missal*)

Scheduling Reminders for Weddings in 2026

- Please note that weddings are not permitted from Thursday, April 2, 2026 through Sunday, April 12, 2026 (the Triduum and Octave of Easter.)

Changes Coming to Liturgical Celebrations

- A revised *Anointing of the Sick* will be available on January 1, 2026 will soon be available to be ordered from several publishers. This new translation is to be implemented on Easter Sunday, May 5, 2026.
- Presiders at Mass, the Liturgy of the Hours, and any liturgical celebration that may include a collect should note that in 2021, the phrase “one God, forever and ever” that concluded many collect prayers was revised to omit the word “one.” Please be attentive to praying simply “God, forever and ever.”

Days of Prayer for 2026

Thursday, January 1, 2026 - World Day of Prayer for Peace

January 18-25, 2026 - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Thursday, January 22, 2026 - Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

Thursday, May 7, 2025 - National Day of Prayer

Sunday, April 26, 2026 - World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Monday, September 1, 2026 - World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

Special Collections for 2026

All collections are mandatory except the following:

Food Bank Collection (for Second Harvest Food Bank or another food bank - excluding Food for the Poor - if you are not serviced by Second Harvest)

Priestly Education and Care Collection

Operation Rice Bowl (technically not a collection but a charitable program)

The collection which is a part of the Missionary Cooperative Plan is a mandated special collection. The missionary is assigned by the Mission Office and the date is determined together by the pastor and missionary.

An appeal for any collection at Mass should never replace the homily.

No pastor or administrator may schedule a new collection without the permission of the Bishop (see canon 1266 and *Diocesan Regulations for the Administration of Temporal Affairs*, no. 10.2).

Flexible Date	Priestly Education and Care Collection (<i>optional</i>)
January 1 - Ash Wednesday	Food Bank Collection (<i>optional</i>)
January 25	Help Spread the Faith Communications Collection
February 15	Catholic Services Appeal (Commitment Sunday)
Lent (February 18)	Operation Rice Bowl (<i>optional</i>)
March 29-April 12	Collection for the Holy Land
May 3	Good Shepherd Collection
May 24	International Needs Collection
June 28	Collection for the Holy Father (Peter's Pence)
July 19	National Needs Collection
August 16	Church in Latin America Collection
September 20	Catholic Education Collection
October 18	Mission Sunday Collection
November 15	Local Needs Collection
December 13	Retirement Fund for Religious
Arranged by Diocesan Mission Office	Missionary Cooperative Plan

Clergy 2026 Event Reminders

Lenten Day of Recollection

Tuesday, March 11

Chrism Mass

Saint Peter Cathedral, Erie

Monday, March 30

1:00 pm

Emmaus

Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, PA

June 22-25

Fall Day of Recollection

Tuesday, October 13

Titular Solemnities of Church Buildings Currently in Use

Thank you to Fr. Justin Pino for providing this information.

Church buildings that bear the name “Saint Mary” will celebrate their Feast Day on August 15,
unless otherwise noted.

If there are any discrepancies, please notify the Office for Divine Worship.

All Saints Church, Waterford	November 1
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Sykesville	August 15
Beloved Disciple Church, Grove City	December 27
Blessed Sacrament Church, Erie	2nd Sunday after Pentecost
Christ the King Church, Houtzdale	Last Sunday in Ordinary Time
Good Shepherd Church, West Middlesex	4th Sunday of Easter
Holy Cross Church, Fairview	September 14
Holy Family Church, Erie	Sunday after Christmas
Holy Redeemer Church, Warren	September 14
Holy Rosary Church, Erie	October 7
Holy Rosary Church, Johnsonburg	October 7
Holy Trinity Church, Erie	Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Trinity Church, Ramey	Sunday after Pentecost
Immaculate Conception Church, Brookville	December 8
Immaculate Conception Church, Clarion	December 8
Immaculate Conception Church, Mageetown	December 8
Immaculate Conception Church, Osceola Mills	December 8
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Mercer	3rd Saturday after Pentecost
Notre Dame Church, Hermitage	January 1
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Cochranon	February 11
Our Lady of Mercy Church, Harborcreek	September 24
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Erie	July 16
Our Lady of Peace Church, Erie	August 22
Our Lady of the Lake Church, Edinboro	January 1
Our Lady, Queen of the Americas Church, Conneaut Lake	December 12
Our Mother of Sorrows Parish, Erie	September 15
Queen of the World Church, St. Marys	August 22
Sacred Heart Church, Genesee	3rd Friday after Pentecost
Sacred Heart Church, St. Marys	3rd Friday after Pentecost
Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Erie	3rd Friday after Pentecost

SS. Cosmas & Damian Church, Punxsutawney	September 26
SS. Peter & Paul Church, Grassflat	June 29
SS. Peter & Paul Church, Hawk Run	June 29
St. Agatha Church, Meadville	February 5
St. Agnes Church, Morrisdale	January 21
St. Andrew Church, Erie	November 30
St. Ann Church, Erie	July 26
St. Ann Church, Marienville	July 26
St. Anne Church, Wilcox	July 26
St. Anthony Church, Tionesta	June 13
St. Anthony of Padua Church, Cambridge Springs	June 13
St. Anthony of Padua Church, Sharon	June 13
St. Anthony of Padua Church, Sheffield	June 13
St. Augustine Church, Austin	August 28
St. Bartholomew Church, Sharpsville	August 24
St. Basil the Great Church, Coalport	January 2
St. Bernadette Church, Saegertown	April 16
St. Bernard of Clairvaux Church, Bradford	August 20
St. Bernard Church, Falls Creek	August 20
St. Bibiana Church, Galetton	December 2
St. Bonaventure Church, Grampian	July 15
St. Boniface Church, Erie	June 5
St. Boniface Church, Kersey	June 5
St. Brigid Church, Meadville	February 1
St. Callistus Church, Kane	October 14
St. Casimir Church, Erie	March 4
St. Catherine of Siena Church, DuBois	April 29
St. Charles Church, New Bethlehem	November 4
St. Columbkille Church, Stoneboro	June 9
St. Dominic Church, Sigel	August 8
St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church, Smethport	November 17
St. Eulalia Church, Coudersport	December 10
St. Eusebius Church, East Brady	August 2
St. Francis of Assisi Church, Bradford	October 4
St. Francis of Assisi Church, Clearfield	October 4

St. Francis Xavier Church, McKean	December 3
St. Gabriel the Archangel Church, Port Allegany	September 29
St. George Church, Erie	April 23
St. Gregory Thaumaturgus Church, North East	November 17
St. Hedwig Church, Erie	October 16
St. Hermenegild Church, Pardoe	April 13
St. Hippolyte Church, Frenchtown	August 13
St. James Church, Driftwood	May 3
St. James Church, Erie	May 3
St. John Church, Tidioute	December 27
St. John the Baptist Church, Erie	June 24
St. John the Evangelist Church, Girard	December 27
St. Joseph Church, Erie	March 19
St. Joseph Church, Force	March 19
St. Joseph Church, Lucinda	March 19
St. Joseph Church, Oil City	March 19
St. Joseph Church, Sharon	March 19
St. Joseph Church, Warren	March 19
St. Jude the Apostle Church, Erie	October 28
St. Julia Church, Erie	May 23
St. Lawrence the Martyr Church, Albion	August 10
St. Leo Magnus Church, Ridgway	November 10
St. Luke Church, Erie	October 18
St. Luke Church, Youngsville	October 18
St. Margaret Church, Jamestown	November 16
St. Mark Church, Emporium	April 25
St. Mark the Evangelist Church, Lawrence Park	April 25
St. Mary Church, Crown	May 24
St. Mary Church, Reynoldsville	January 1
St. Mary Church, St. Marys	December 8
St. Mary Church, Sartwell	August 15
St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Frenchville	August 15
St. Mary of Grace Church, Meadville	February 7
St. Michael Church, Fryburg	September 29
St. Michael Church, Greenville	September 29
St. Michael the Archangel Church, DuBois	September 29
St. Michael the Archangel Church, Emlenton	September 29
St. Nicholas Church, Crates	December 6

St. Patrick Church, Erie	March 17
St. Patrick Church, Franklin	March 17
St. Paul Church, Erie	June 29
St. Peter Cathedral, Erie	June 29
St. Peter Church, Conneautville	June 29
St. Philip Church, Crossingville	August 23
St. Philip Church, Linesville	May 3
St. Raphael Church, Eldred	September 29
St. Richard Church, Rimersburg	February 7
St. Severin Church, Drifting	January 8
St. Stanislaus Church, Erie	April 11
St. Stephen of Hungary Church, Erie	August 16
St. Teresa of Avila Church, Union City	October 15
St. Theresa Church, Shinglehouse	October 1
St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Corry	July 3
St. Timothy Church, Curwensville	January 26
St. Titus Church, Titusville	January 26
St. Tobias Church, Brockway	November 2
St. Venantius Church, Rouseville	May 18
St. Walburga Church, Titusville	February 25