



Office for Divine Worship Newsletter

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Website for the
 Office for Divine Worship:
www.eriercd.org/bishop/worship.html

Contact information:

Phone: 814-824-1270
 Email: worship@eriercd.org

Rev. Matthew Kujawinski,
 Director
mjkujawinski@eriercd.org

Maripat Grant,
 Coordinator
mgrant@eriercd.org

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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.

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* 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 on the following page for the benefit of our readers.

Ritual Editions of Anointing of the Sick, cont'd.

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

2026 Calendar Notes**Sunday of the Word of God**

"He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures." (Lk 24:45)

Sunday of the Word of God is observed on the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Sunday between January 21-27). For resources and information please see: <https://www.usccb.org/committees/divine-worship/sunday-word-god>.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity [DPCU] is pleased to publish the texts for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026. In the northern hemisphere, the Week of Prayer traditionally takes place from 18 to 25 January, while in the southern hemisphere, where January is often a holiday period, churches often celebrate the Week of Prayer around Pentecost.

The theme of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026 is "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling" (Ephesians 4:4). As usual, an international team appointed jointly by the DPCU and the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches worked to prepare the materials.

For resources visit: <https://www.christianunity.va/content/unitacristiani/en/settimana-di-preghiera-per-l-unita/semaine-de-priere-pour-l-unite-des-chretiens-20241/anglais.html>.

Day of Prayer for the Protection of Unborn Children

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM), no. 373, designates January 22 as a particular day of prayer and penance, called the "Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children":

In all the Dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 (or January 23, when January 22 falls on a Sunday) shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion. The liturgical celebrations for this day may be the "Mass For Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life" (no. 48/1 of the Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions), celebrated with white vestments, or the Mass "For the Preservation of Peace and Justice" (no. 30 of the Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions), celebrated with violet vestments.

For more resources and information please see: <https://www.usccb.org/committees/pro-life-activities/january-roe-events/january-22-day-of-prayer>.

Missal Addition for January 23

Saint Marianne Cope

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.

Saint 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 Saint Vincent and Saint 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.

Vatican gives final approval to new Liturgy of the Hours edition coming in 2027

From Our Sunday Visitor

On November 11, 2025 Bishop Lopes, head of the Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter, shared the news that the Vatican's Dicastery for Divine Worship issued a decree approving the new edition of the Liturgy of the Hours. Outgoing USCCB president [Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio](#) of the [U.S. Archdiocese for Military Services](#) signed the decree of publication, moving the process to the publishers.

"It is imagined, because that's a bit of a complicated work to produce a four-volume work like that," Bishop Lopes said, "that the first volume to be released will be Volume Two: Lent and Easter and so that will be able to go into effect for Ash Wednesday of 2027."

US Bishops to Consecrate Country to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

The United States celebrates the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence next year. To mark the American Semiquincentennial, the U.S. bishops voted to [consecrate the United States](#) to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in June 2026.

Catechetical Sunday 2026 Theme Announced

At its November meeting, the Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis chose the theme as: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me... to bring good news to the poor"

(Lk 4:18). In his homily for the Jubilee of Migrants on October 5, Pope Leo XIV reminded us that our salvation provided by God "is fulfilled when we take responsibility and, with the compassion of the Gospel, care for the suffering of others."

The website contains a variety of resources and suggested activities to help support your diocese, parishes, schools, and other local Catholic organizations.

Historic First-ever Digital Encounter between Pope Leo XIV and over 15,000 Young Catholics

On November 21, 2025, at the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC), this ground breaking event featured a live, real-time dialogue where teens asked Pope Leo questions about faith, technology and life. It was a unique moment to bridge digital and spiritual life, allowing young people to directly engage with the Pope on contemporary issues.

It can be watched here: [Full Pope Leo XIV's LIVE Digital Encounter with U.S. Youth | NCYC | November 21, 2025.](#)

In this homily the Holy Father speaks on Liturgical Music: [Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe - Holy Mass \(23 November 2025\)](#)

January 2026 Liturgical Calendar

January 1: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord

- Although today is New Year's Day, the solemnity may not be replaced with the Mass for Civil Need: At the Beginning of the Civil Year.
- Vestments: white
- Gloria is sung or said
- Creed is said
- Preface I of the Blessed Virgin Mary is used
- Solemn Blessing #1, #3, or #15

World Day of Prayer for Peace

- Every year on January 1, the Holy Father marks the World Day of Peace with a special message inviting all people to reflect on the important work of building peace.
- World Day of Peace, celebrated January 1 every year is primarily a Catholic feast day.
- World Day of Peace began in 1967 when Pope Paul VI announced that the world needs to be sensitized and oriented for peace and understanding.

January 2: Saint Basil the Great and Saint Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church—Memorial (white)

January 3: Christmas Weekday

Optional memorial of the Most Holy Name of Jesus (white)

January 4: Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

- If an anticipated Mass is celebrated, the Mass prayers "At the Vigil Mass" is used. A Vigil Mass is celebrated before or after the First Vespers of the Epiphany.
- The readings for the Epiphany will be the same as the Mass During the Day.
- Vestments: white
- Gloria is sung or said
- Creed is said
- Preface of the Epiphany is used
- Solemn Blessing #4 may be used
- The Christmas decorations in the church remain until after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.
- On Epiphany Sunday, there is an ancient custom of announcing the dates of the moveable feasts for the coming year. The Epiphany Proclamation may take place after the Gospel, or within or after the homily.
◊ See the *Roman Missal*, Appendix I: The Announcement of Easter and the Moveable Feasts.

January 5-10: Weekdays of Christmas Time

January 5: Saint John Henry Neumann, Bishop—Memorial (white)

January 11: Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

- The Christmas Season concludes after this feast.
- The Christmas decorations in the church are removed after this celebration.
- Gloria is sung or said
- Creed is said
- Sprinkling Rite may be used
- Christmas Solemn Blessing #4 or #9 may be used

January 12: Ordinary Time Begins

January 17: Saint Anthony, Abbot—Memorial (white)

January 2026 Liturgical Calendar, cont'd.

January 18-25: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

- This year's theme: "There is one body and one spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling" (Ephesians 4:4)
- Resources can be found here:
<https://www.christianunity.va/content/unitacristiani/en/settimana-di-preghiera-per-l-unita.html>

January 18: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 21: Saint Agnes, Virgin and Martyr—Memorial (red)

January 22:

Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

- On this day, all dioceses of the United States shall observe a "day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion." (GIRM, 373)
- Refer to the Lectionary for Mass: Supplement (LS) #516A: readings for the Day of Prayer may be taken from Masses for Various Needs, III (In Public Circumstances, #26A), or For Public Needs: 14. For Peace and Justice (887-891, Lectionary for Mass).
- If using the Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions: For Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life, wear white vestments.
- If using the Mass for the Preservation of Peace and Justice, wear violet vestments.
- Prayer over the People #23 may be used.

January 24: Saint Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church-Memorial (white)

January 25: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Word of God Sunday in Ordinary Time 2026

Resources from the USCCB can be found here:

<https://www.usccb.org/committees/divine-worship/sunday-word-god>

- The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is devoted to the celebration, study, and dissemination of the Word of God.
- Invite all the lectors/readers at a specific Mass for a special blessing and after Mass appreciation of their ministry.
- Blessing of Readers may take place after the homily. Please see *Book of Blessings*, Ch. 61. This is a good opportunity for readers/lectors to renew their commitment to the ministry.
- Pastoral Application: Other lectors, not assigned to be a lector during that Mass may bring up gifts of bread and wine during the offertory.
- The parish may have a workshop or talk on the Bible or *Dei Verbum*.

January 25: Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

January 28: Saint Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church—Memorial (white)

January 31: Saint John Bosco, Priest—Memorial (white)

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.