



Office for Divine Worship Newsletter

Volume II, Issue 5

April 2025

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

Holy Oils and Return of Oil Bottles

Each year, in preparation for the Chrism Mass, the pastor should ensure that all old oils are collected from the ambry or repository, including all vessels containing oil for the sick, and disposed of.

What is to be done with the oils that may be left over from the previous years?

They are to be disposed of either by burning or pouring into the ground. They can be burnt by soaking cotton or paper with them and lighting that – some parishes place the soaked cotton in the Easter fire on Holy Saturday night. They can be buried by digging a hole in the ground near the church and pouring the oils in.

Throughout the year, the Office for Divine Worship receives old Holy Oil bottles, many of which still contain oil, some dating back decades. This often occurs when a new pastor is assigned to a parish. As a reminder, the bottles containing oils given to parishes after the Chrism Mass are not intended for display or liturgical use. These containers are used for transporting the oils or for non-public storage. If the oils are to be displayed, they should be placed in dignified vessels. “Vessels and implements used in the liturgical celebration should be of such quality and design that they speak of the importance of the ritual action...vessels for holy oils...are presented to the assembly in one way or another and speak well or ill of the deed in which the assembly is engaged.” (Environment and Art in Catholic Worship, 97) “The vessels used to hold the holy oils should be worthy of their function and be closed in such a way as to prevent the oils from being spilled and to ensure that they remain fresh.” (Book of Blessings, 1126)

You can also bring your old bottles to the Chrism Mass; however, the empty bottles are to be dropped off in Synod Hall before the Mass, not in the Cathedral basement.

The Replacement and Proper Disposal of the Paschal Candle

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.

Veiling of Statues

In the dioceses of the United States, crosses in the church may be covered from the conclusion of the Mass for the Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent until the end of the Celebration of the Lord’s Passion on Good Friday. Statues in the church may be covered from the conclusion of the Mass for Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent until the beginning of the Easter Vigil. For more information please see *The Circular Letter Concerning the Preparation and Celebration of the Easter Feasts (Paschale Solemnities)*, by the then Congregation for Divine Worship, January 16, 1988.

[Paschale-Solemnitatis.pdf](#)

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Holy Week Reminders

1. On HOLY THURSDAY, no celebration of the Mass is to begin anywhere in the diocese earlier than 4:30 pm without the explicit approval of Bishop Persico.
2. GOOD FRIDAY is a day of abstinence from eating meat for those 14 years of age and older. It is also a day of fasting for those ages 18 to 58 inclusive. (Those bound by the law of fasting may take one full meal. Two smaller meals, sufficient to maintain strength according to one's needs, are also permitted. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids including milk and fruit juices are allowed. When health or work is seriously affected, the law does not oblige.)
3. Although it does not include the Liturgy of the Eucharist, by its very nature the GOOD FRIDAY service is celebrated by a priest only.
4. All celebrations of the EASTER VIGIL are to begin after nightfall (which is defined as approximately one hour after local sunset.) Nightfall is about 9:00 pm this year. To balance pastoral need and liturgical prescriptions, Bishop Persico has decreed that the Easter Vigil in the Diocese of Erie is to begin at 8:30 pm or any later time. Any start time earlier than 8:30 pm must receive explicit approval from the Bishop.

Pastoral Note on the Passion Narratives

From the USCCB Committee on Divine Worship Newsletter, January 2024

The Chairmen of the Committees on Divine Worship and Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs issued a memo to the publishers of worship aids, hymnals, and missals on February 1, 2023. The memo requires the following statement to be printed before the text of the Passion narrative on Good Friday in all future publications beginning in 2024. In the 1990s and again in the 2000s the Committees provided guidance on the preparation of homilies and created a similar statement to be included in worship aids alongside the proclamation of the passion during Holy Week to help ensure that the proclamation of the Lord's Passion is not misused to promote anti-Jewish sentiment.

The passion narratives are proclaimed in full so that all see vividly the love of Christ for each person. In light of this, the crimes during the Passion of Christ cannot be attributed, in either preaching or catechesis, indiscriminately to all Jews of that time, nor to Jews today. The Jewish people should not be referred to as though rejected or cursed, as if this view followed from Scripture. The Church ever keeps in mind that Jesus, his mother Mary, and the apostles all were Jewish. As the Church has always held, Christ freely suffered his passion and death because of the sins of all, that all might be saved.

Order of the Anointing of the Sick and of their Pastoral Care Set for 2026

From the Bishops Committee on Divine Worship January Newsletter

In decrees dated November 30, 2024 (Prot. n. 334/23 and Prot. n. 342/23), the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has confirmed the English translation of the Order of the Anointing of the Sick and of their Pastoral Care and the Spanish translation of the Ritual de la Unción de los enfermos y de su atención pastoral for liturgical use in the United States. The decrees and confirmed texts were received by the USCCB in December. Following a customary editorial review period by the Secretariat of Divine Worship, Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, USCCB President, issued decrees of promulgation on January 23, 2025 establishing the implementation timeline. The new Anointing rites may be used from February 11, 2026 (the memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes and annual World Day of the Sick), and must be used as of Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026. The International Commission on English in the Liturgy translated the Order of the Anointing of the Sick, while the Spanish translation approved for Mexico was used as the base text of the Ritual de la Unción de los enfermos. Both texts will replace the current Anointing rituals in use since the early 1980s, Pastoral Care of the Sick: Rites of Anointing and Viaticum (PCS) and its Spanish counterpart, Cuidado pastoral de los enfermos: Ritos de la Unción y del Viático. Compared with the Latin typical edition, Pastoral Care of the Sick was rearranged in a manner suitable for both clergy and lay ministers, and included a multitude of options for prayers and readings. The Order of the Anointing of the Sick restores the typical edition's arrangement and includes options that are fewer in number. By reorienting the use of this ritual book to only priests and deacons, the new translation will be much easier for clergy to use in pastoral settings. As implementation approaches, however, the USCCB will ensure that lay ministers continue to have access to those texts which they use in ministry to the sick and homebound. Along with the English and Spanish translations, the Holy See also confirmed several ritual and textual adaptations for this country. First, the new edition retains several adaptations present in the current text concerning the qualifications for the reception of the sacrament (for example, PCS no. 53), though simplified and incorporated into no. 8 of the introduction. Additionally, although the typical edition does not include a "short form" of Anointing for use in hospitals and institutions, the USCCB added a rubric at the beginning of the Anointing of the Sick chapter allowing priests to omit some elements from the ordinary rite of Anointing when visiting multiple patients. Also, some material not present in the typical edition but included in Pastoral Care of the Sick has been retained in the new Anointing rites.

Order of the Anointing of the Sick, cont'd.

Model rites for visiting a sick adult and a sick child, Christian Initiation in danger of death (cf. Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, nos. 370-399), prayers after death (cf. Order of Christian Funerals, nos. 101-108), and the emergency rite of Penance, Anointing, and Viaticum will appear as Appendices I-IV in the Order of the Anointing of the Sick, respectively.

Jubilee of the Sick and the World of Health

The Jubilee of the Sick and Health Care Workers being celebrated Saturday, April 5 to Sunday, April 6, 2025, helps us to celebrate the important service of healthcare providers and to recognize that accompanying the sick is an important vocation. Whether due to our own health or the health of a loved one, each of us has interfaced with health care workers at some point in our lives, and experienced first-hand the value of their accompaniment. Not only this, but each of us has likely also cared for a sick loved one in some capacity, and so we know how taxing it can be. As the Catholic Health Association states, "Catholic health care, [is] a ministry of the church continuing Jesus' mission of love and healing today. [This] ministry is an enduring sign of health care rooted in our belief that every person is a treasure, every life a sacred gift, every human being a unity of body, mind, and spirit" (Statement of Shared Identity). While each of us are called to continue Jesus's mission of love and healing in our own way, we recognize that the unique vocation of health care workers during this Jubilee. For more information and resources please see: [Jubilee for Sick](#).

Jubilee of Teenagers

The Jubilee of Teenagers will be held from Friday, April 25, to Sunday, April 27; however, these resources can be used for engaging and celebrating teenagers at any time throughout the Jubilee Year.

This resource packet is for anyone who finds it beneficial. It can be used and/or adapted by dioceses, eparchies, parishes, schools, campuses, apostolates, movements, organizations, or individuals to plan their celebration of the Jubilee of Teenagers. It might also serve as a catalyst or inspiration for the creation and development of local or year-round resources for teenagers in your community. Additional resources for the Jubilee of Teenagers and other celebrations can be found online at: [Jubilee for Teenagers](#).

Jubilee of People with Disabilities

The Jubilee of People with Disabilities will be held from Monday, April 28, to Tuesday, April 29; however, these resources can be used for engaging and celebrating persons with disabilities at any time throughout the Jubilee Year.

This resource packet is for anyone who finds it beneficial. It can be used and/or adapted by dioceses, eparchies, parishes, schools, campuses, apostolates, movements, organizations, or individuals to plan their celebration of the Jubilee of People with Disabilities. It might also serve as a catalyst or inspiration for the creation and development of local or year-round resources for persons with disabilities in your community. For persons with disabilities or ministries with persons with disabilities that are making a Jubilee pilgrimage to Rome or to a particular Jubilee celebration in a diocese or eparchy within the United States during 2025, this packet can also serve as an aid in the preparation or experience of that trip.

Additional resources for the Jubilee of People with Disabilities and other celebrations can be found online at: [Jubilee of Persons with Disabilities](#).

Jubilee of Workers

The Jubilee of Workers will be held from Thursday, May 1, to Sunday, May 4, 2025; however, these resources can be used for engaging and celebrating workers at any time throughout the Jubilee Year. For resources and information please see the following: [Jubilee of Workers](#).

Jubilee of Musical Bands

The Jubilee of Musical Bands will be held on Saturday, May 10, and Sunday, May 11, 2025; however, these resources can be used for engaging and celebrating musical bands at any time throughout the Jubilee Year.

It should be noted that the official language used for this celebration on the Vatican Calendar is the Jubilee of Marching Bands. Marching bands are historically associated with military service, performing in parades or city squares. In the U.S., marching bands are also associated with schools and universities, performing at athletic events and show competitions that take place on a field. This USCCB resource uses the term "musical bands" to be inclusive of a wider variety of musical ensembles.

Jubilee of Musical Bands, cont'd.

This resource packet is for anyone who finds it useful. It can be used and/or adapted by dioceses, eparchies, parishes, schools, campuses, apostolates, movements, organizations, or individuals to plan their celebration of the Jubilee of Musical Bands. It might also serve as a catalyst or inspiration for the creation and development of local or year-round resources for the music community. For more information and resources please see: [Jubilee for Musical Bands](#).

Jubilee of Confraternities

The Jubilee of Confraternities will be held from Friday, May 16, to Sunday, May 18, 2025; however, these resources can be used for engaging and celebrating confraternities at any time throughout the Jubilee Year.

Confraternities are Christian voluntary associations, often coordinated by lay women or lay men to promote charitable works, devotional life, or a particular mission in the Church. Well-known examples include the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Knights of Columbus, National Council of Catholic Women, Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Order of Malta, and Knights of Peter Claver, among many others.

This resource packet is for anyone who finds it useful. It can be used and/or adapted by dioceses, eparchies, parishes, schools, campuses, apostolates, movements, organizations, or individuals to plan their celebration of the Jubilee of Confraternities. It might also serve as a catalyst or inspiration for the creation and development of local or year-round resources for those active in these associations.

For more information and resources please see: [Jubilee for Confraternities](#).

Jubilee of Families, Children, Grandparents and the Elderly

The Jubilee of Families, Children, Grandparents and the Elderly will be held from Friday, May 30, to Sunday, June 1, 2025; however, these resources can be used for engaging and celebrating those groups at any time throughout the Jubilee Year.

This resource packet is for all the faithful. It can be used and/or adapted by dioceses, eparchies, parishes, schools, apostolates, movements, organizations, or families to plan their celebration of the Jubilee of Families, Children, Grandparents and the Elderly. It may also serve as a catalyst or inspiration for the creation and development of local or year-round resources.

For more information and resources please see: [Jubilee of Families, Children, Grandparents, Elderly](#).

April 2025 Liturgical Calendar

The month of April is dedicated to the Holy Eucharist

April 6: Fifth Sunday of Lent

- The Third Scrutiny of the Elect may be celebrated.
 - ◊ If the scrutiny IS celebrated, the readings are taken from Year A (34): the Raising of Lazarus.
 - ◊ If the scrutiny is NOT celebrated, then the readings are taken from Year C for the Fifth Sunday of Lent.
- The practice of covering crosses and images throughout the church may be observed. Crosses are covered until Good Friday, but images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil.
- The Fifth Week of Lent is also called "Passiontide." Last two weeks of Lent-Passion Week and Holy Week.

April 7-12: Lenten Weekdays

- For Christian Initiation: The Handing On of the Lord's Prayer may take place this week (OCIA, 178-184).
- Mass proper is taken from the weekdays of the Fifth Week of Lent.
- Preface I of the Passion of the Lord is used this week.

April 13: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

April 14-19

- Ritual Masses are prohibited this week and weddings outside Mass are discouraged.
- On Good Friday and Holy Saturday, the sacraments are not celebrated.
- Funeral Masses are permitted on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week.

April 2025 Liturgical Calendar, cont'd.

April 14: Monday of Holy Week

Chrism Mass: Saint Peter Cathedral, 1:00 pm

April 15: Tuesday of Holy Week

April 16: Wednesday of Holy Week

April 17: Thursday of Holy Week

- Last day of Lent - Lent concludes with the celebration of the Lord's Supper
- Morning Prayer: Pss II Season weekday

April 18: Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)

Day of Fasting and Abstinence

April 19: Holy Saturday (Morning)

Easter Vigil after 8:30 pm

April 20: Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

April 21-27: Octave of Easter

- The first eight days of the Easter Season make up the octave of Easter and are celebrated as solemnities of the Lord (Ceremonial of Bishops, 373).
- The Gloria is to be sung or recited during the octave of Easter.
- The Sequence is optional during the days of the octave (GIRM, 64).
- The double Alleluia is added to the dismissal formulary during the octave of Easter (Easter Vigil, 69).
- Paschal Candle should be lit and remains by the ambo until Pentecost.
- Consider using the Sprinkling Rite instead of the Penitential Act.
- Creed is not said.
- Preface I of Easter is used.
- Solemn Blessing #6 for Easter Time may be used during the Octave.

April 27: Second Sunday of Easter

“Sunday of Divine Mercy”

- The celebration of Divine Mercy flows from the Church's most important day, which is Easter Sunday, thus the faithful should be able to celebrate and recognize it as such.
- Devotional practices to the Divine Mercy may not take place during Mass.
- On this Sunday of Divine Mercy, prayers for the plenary indulgence that are offered today should be led by priests after Masses.
- The Gloria is said or sung.
- Creed is said.
- Since it is the last day of the octave, the sequence may be sung.
- Use Preface I of Easter with Eucharistic Prayer I.
- Solemn Blessing #6 for Easter Time may be used with the double Alleluia.

April 29: Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church (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, Pope Francis has designated the cathedral church as 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](#).

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 mosperry@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.