



Office for Divine Worship Newsletter

Volume III, Issue 9

August 2026

Website for the
Office for Divine Worship:
[www.eriercd.org/bishop/
worship.html](http://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

Inside this issue:

Deeper Look - OCIA	2
USCCB Webinar on Catechetical Sunday	2
Mass - Opening for the Academic Year	2
Catechetical Sunday 2026	2
Proper Place for the Eucharist	3
August Liturgical Calendar	3-4
Prayer for a New Bishop	5
Eucharistic Congress 2029	5
Colds and Flu	5
Workshops for Liturgical Ministers	5
Copyrights	5

Pope Leo XIV Continues Catechesis on Sacrosanctum Concilium

In his Wednesday General Audience, Pope Leo XIV has begun a series of reflections on *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy of the Second Vatican Council. These catecheses offer an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the Church's vision for the liturgy and to renew our appreciation for the sacred mysteries we celebrate. Because the Eucharistic Liturgy is the source and summit of the Church's life, ongoing formation is essential for all who serve in its celebration. Clergy, liturgical ministers, and all who participate in the Church's worship are encouraged to read and prayerfully reflect upon these important teachings. Pope Leo's insights invite us to rediscover the transformative power of the liturgy and to carry out our ministries with renewed faith, reverence, and understanding.

The General Audience of May 20, 2026 can be found at: [CSL 5.20.26](#).

The General Audience of May 27, 2026 can be found at: [CSL 5.27.26](#).

The General Audience of June 3, 2026 can be found at: [CSL 6.3.26](#).

June 10, 2026: Apostolic Journey to Spain - no audience.

June 17, 2026: Reflection on the Journey to Spain.

The General Audience of June 24, 2026 can be found at: [CSL 6.24.26](#).

Liturgical Advisories for 2026

- August 15, 2026, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary** occurs on Saturday. Because it is a Saturday, the obligation to attend Mass on this date is abrogated this year. Evening Prayer I and the "Vigil Mass" of the Assumption are celebrated on Friday evening. The "Mass during the Day" may be celebrated at any time on Saturday; however, Saturday evening Masses that regularly anticipate the Sunday should be for the Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, which is a day of precept.

Evening Prayer II on Saturday evening is of the Assumption (I, 3), as it is higher in rank in the Table of Liturgical Days than the Sunday in Ordinary Time (II, 6) (Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the General Roman Calendar, no. 61).

Funeral Masses are allowed on Saturday because of the abrogation of the obligation to attend Mass (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, no. 380), but other Masses for the Dead and ritual Masses are not permitted.

Weddings celebrated within Mass must use the prayers for Assumption, and the selection of readings should follow the guidance given in the Order of Celebrating Matrimony, no. 34.
- November 1, 2026, the Solemnity of All Saints** occurs on Sunday. It replaces the Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time. On Saturday and Sunday, Evening Prayer I and II is for All Saints. Saturday evening Masses that regularly anticipate the Sunday Mass should observe the Mass of All Saints.

A Deeper Look at the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

The Center for Continuing Formation of St. Mary's Seminary and University invites priests to attend a six-part continuing formation workshop Tuesday – Friday, Sept. 15–18, 2026. This workshop will introduce parish priests to the stages of initiating inquirers into the Catholic faith, including those who are unbaptized and those previously baptized in other Christian communities. The priest's unique role in this process will be highlighted and a deeper look at the recently revised English translation of the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults will be undertaken. For cost, registration information and more details, please see the attachment at the end of the newsletter.

USCCB Offers Free Webinar on Catechetical Sunday

Catechetical Sunday Beyond the Celebration—A Year-Round Tool for Evangelizing Catechesis

August 12, 2026 1:00-2:30 pm (eastern)

Courtesy of the USCCB

Join Bishop Erik T. Pohlmeier, member of the USCCB Committee on Evangelization & Catechesis, Chairman of the Subcommittee on the Catechism, as he explores how Catechetical Sunday can become far more than a single day of recognition. Together, we will reimagine Catechetical Sunday as a year-round opportunity to strengthen evangelization, foster lifelong faith formation, and renew the Church's catechetical mission.

This webinar will challenge participants to move beyond viewing catechesis as something that happens only in classrooms with children.

Instead, we will reflect on the many people who hand on the faith every day—parents, grandparents, sponsors, OCIA teams, youth ministers, Catholic school educators, parish staff, and countless others who accompany people on their journey of discipleship. Through inspiring parish examples and practical best practices from across the country, participants will discover creative ways to use the annual Catechetical Sunday theme throughout the year, engaging the entire parish in the work of evangelizing catechesis and forming missionary disciples.

Whether you are a parish leader, catechetical leader, pastor, volunteer, or anyone involved in the Church's mission of handing on the faith, this webinar will provide practical ideas and renewed vision to help your parish make Catechetical Sunday a catalyst for evangelization all year long.

As we prepare for this gathering, we would value your input. Please take a few moments to complete the following survey: [Survey](#).

Register for the webinar here: [Registration](#).

Mass for the Opening of the Academic Year

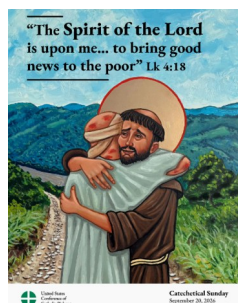
A Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit may be scheduled for the opening of the academic year on weekdays when there is no liturgical impediment. The Roman Missal provides three options for this Votive Mass. One of the prefaces of the Holy Spirit is used and red vestments are worn. The Lectionary texts for the day are preferable. Also, see the options in the Book of Blessings, Chapter 5: Order for the Blessing of Students and Teachers, for another way to celebrate liturgically the opening of the academic year.

Catechetical Sunday Resources

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."

Catechetical Sunday 2026 Official Image

The Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis has selected the image below to accompany the 2026 theme, in recognition of the Jubilee Year of Saint Francis.



Poster, prayer cards, and certificates will be available for free download at: [Catechetical Sunday 2026 | USCCB](#)

Reminder on the Proper Place for the Celebration of the Eucharist

Canon 932: §1 The Eucharistic celebration is to be carried out in a sacred place unless in a particular case necessity requires otherwise; in such a case the celebration must be done in a decent place.

In a sacred place:

The proper location for the celebration of the Mass term is a sacred place, which is a technical term in the law (cf. c. 1205). Sacred places include:

- Churches (both parish and secondary, with or without mission status)
- Oratories (e.g., seminary, university, and convent chapels)
- Catholic cemeteries

When necessity requires:

In responding to the spiritual needs of the faithful, the priests of the parish may also be requested to celebrate Masses in other places, such as nursing homes, correctional facilities, the location for the parish picnic, or other appropriate places. The location should be decent and there must always be at least an altar cloth (always white) and a corporal (cf. c. 932 §2).

The canon requires necessity, not just pastoral advantage, to celebrate outside of a sacred place. Barring possible exceptions, celebrating Mass on the parish property outside (such as in the parking lot or on the church lawn), when a church building is available and ready at hand, would lack any sense of necessity. Mass in that case should be celebrated in the church.

August 2026 Liturgical Calendar

Month Dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

August 1: Saint Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop and Doctor - Memorial

August 2: Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 3: Monday - Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time

August 4: Saint John Mary Vianney, Priest - Memorial - white

August 5: Wednesday - Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time

August 6: Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord - white

- Mass proper is found in the Proper of Saints.
- The *Gloria* is sung or said.
- The Creed is not said.

August 7: Friday - Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time

August 8: Saint Dominic, Priest - Memorial - white

August 9: Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 10: Saint Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr - red

- Common of One Martyr
- Preface of Holy Martyrs I or II
- The *Gloria* is sung or said.

August 11: Saint Clare, Virgin - Memorial - white

August 12: Wednesday - Nineteenth Week in Ordinary Time

August 13: Thursday - Nineteenth Week in Ordinary Time

August 2026 Liturgical Calendar, cont'd.August 14: (Friday Morning Mass)

Saint Maximilian Mary Kolbe, Priest and Martyr - Memorial - red
Founder of the Militia of Mary Immaculate

August 14: (Friday Evening Mass)

Vigil for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary - white
(*not a day of precept this year*)

- Mass propers are found in the Proper of Saints "At the Vigil Mass".
- Sprinkling Rite may be used.
- The *Gloria* is sung or said.
- The Creed is said.
- Solemn Blessing no. 15 may be used.

August 15: (Saturday Morning Mass)

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary - white
(*not a day of precept this year*)

- Mass propers are found in the Proper of Saints "At the Mass during the Day".
- Funeral Mass is permitted.
- Ritual Mass (eg. Weddings) is **not** permitted.
- Sprinkling Rite may be used.
- The *Gloria* is sung or said.
- The Creed is said.
- Solemn Blessing no. 15 may be used.

August 16: Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary TimeAugust 17-19: Weekdays - Twentieth Week in Ordinary TimeAugust 20: Saint Bernard Abbot and Doctor - Memorial - whiteAugust 21: Saint Pope Pius X, Pope - Memorial - whiteAugust 22: Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Memorial - whiteAugust 23: Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary TimeAugust 24: Saint Bartholomew, Apostle - Feast - redAugust 25-26: Weekdays - Twenty-first Week in Ordinary TimeAugust 27: Saint Monica - Memorial - whiteAugust 28: Saint Augustine, Bishop and Doctor - Memorial - whiteAugust 29: The Passion of Saint John the Baptist - Memorial - red

- Mass proper is found in the Proper of Saints.
- The *Gloria* is not sung or said.

August 30: Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary TimeAugust 31: Weekday - Twenty-second Week in Ordinary Time

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 directed 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.

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.

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.

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@uscce.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.

A Deeper Look at the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults for Priests

Join this six-part workshop introducing parish priests to the stages of initiating inquirers into the Catholic faith, including those who are unbaptized and those previously baptized in other Christian communities.

The workshop will highlight the priest's unique role in this process and provide a deeper look at the recently-revised English translation of the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults.



PRESENTER

Father Dennis Gill

Father Dennis Gill, ordained in 1983 for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, is Rector and Pastor of the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul and the Director of the Office for Divine Worship. Father Gill completed his graduate studies in the Sacred Liturgy at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, and the Pontifical Liturgical Institute of Saint Anselmo in Rome. He served a five-year term as the Director of Liturgy at the Pontifical North American College in Vatican City State. A professor of Sacred Liturgy at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, he lectures on the Sacred Liturgy throughout the country. He has published two books: "Music in Catholic Liturgy: A Pastoral and Theological Companion to Sing to the Lord" and "Ars Celebrandi: An Artful and Careful Celebration of the Eucharist."

REGISTRATION DETAILS



Date **Tuesday – Friday, Sept. 15–18, 2026**
Arrive **Tuesday, 10 a.m. EDT**
Depart **Friday, 4 p.m. EDT**
Cost **\$750.00**

LOCATION

Center for Continuing Formation
St. Mary's Seminary & University
5400 Roland Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21210

Registration Deadline: Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2026

For more information: email us at center@stmarys.edu

Center for Continuing Formation | 5400 Roland Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21210
St. Mary's Seminary & University | 410-864-4102 | center@stmarys.edu