



# Office for Divine Worship Newsletter

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

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## Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Formation, Delegation, and Ongoing Renewal

Pastors have a particular responsibility to ensure that those who serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are properly formed, prepared, and commissioned for this important ministry. Before being presented for service, candidates should receive formation that includes the Church's teaching on the Eucharist, the reverent handling of the Blessed Sacrament, and the practical norms governing the distribution of Holy Communion. The Office for Divine Worship provides resources, guidance, and assistance to parishes in developing and renewing formation programs for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

Pastors are also reminded that service as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion requires delegation from the Bishop. This delegation is granted for a period of three years and must be renewed at the conclusion of that term if the individual is to continue serving in this ministry.

Regular review of parish rosters and formation programs helps ensure that all ministers are properly delegated and prepared for their responsibilities.

## 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.

## Pope Leo XIV Begins 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 and be found at: [CSL 5.27.26](#).

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

## July 19-25, 2026 Natural Family Planning Awareness Week

In July in the United States, the observance of Natural Family Planning Week takes place beginning on the Sunday before July 25 and ending on the following Saturday.

More information can be found at: [USCCB-NFP](#)

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## 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.

## 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.

## July 2026 Liturgical Calendar

Month of the Precious Blood of Jesus

### July 1: Saint Junipero Serra, Priest - Memorial - white

- Mass proper is found in the Proper of Saints.
- Use Preface of Holy Pastors.

### July 2: Weekday - Thirteenth Week in Ordinary Time

### July 3: Saint Thomas the Apostle - Feast - red

- Mass proper is found in the Proper of Saints.
- The *Gloria* is sung or said.
- The Creed is not said.
- Use Preface I or II of the Apostles.
- Solemn Blessing no. 17 may be used.

## July 2026 Liturgical Calendar, cont'd.

### July 4 Morning Masses

#### Independence Day

- Mass proper is found in the Proper of Saints.
- Vestments: White
- When the Mass for Independence Day is used, the *Gloria* should be sung or said.
- The Creed is not said.
- The readings may be taken from Lectionary Vol. IV #882-886, #887-891.
- Pastoral Note: For the general intercessions, one may use the adaptation of the prayer composed by Archbishop John Carroll for the inauguration of George Washington, as found in the *Book of Blessings*, no. 1965. See also *Handbook of Blessings*, 176.
- Music: The following hymns such as *America the Beautiful*, *My County 'Tis of Thee*, *God Bless America*, *Faith of Our Fathers*, *Battle Hymn of the Republic*, as well as those found in various hymnals may be reserved for use during the Recessional or Postlude.
- Independence Day may also be appropriately acknowledged in the Homily, Universal Prayer, and closing hymn during the Liturgy.
- Solemn Blessing is found in the Mass proper for Independence Day.

### July 4 Evening Masses

- The Anticipatory Mass celebrated after 4 pm will be the Mass for the Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.
- Pastoral Note: For the general intercessions, one may use the adaptation of the prayer composed by Archbishop John Carroll for the inauguration of George Washington, as found in the *Book of Blessings*, 1965. See also *Handbook of Blessings*, 176.
- Music: The following hymns such as *America the Beautiful*, *My County 'Tis of Thee*, *God Bless America*, *Faith of Our Fathers*, *Battle Hymn of the Republic*, as well as those found in various hymnals may be reserved for use during the Recessional or Postlude.

### July 5: Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### July 6-10: Weekdays - Fourteenth Week in Ordinary Time

### July 11: Saint Benedict, Abbot - Memorial - White

### July 12: Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### July 13: Weekday - Fifteenth Week in Ordinary Time

### July 14: Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin - Memorial - white

### July 15: Saint Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church - white

### July 16-18: Weekdays - Fifteenth Week in Ordinary Time

### July 19: Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### July 20-21: Weekdays - Sixteenth Week in Ordinary Time

### July 22: Saint Mary Magdalene - Feast - white

- Mass proper is found in the Proper of Saints.
- The *Gloria* is sung or said.
- The Creed is not said.
- On June 3, 2016, the Holy See raised the liturgical rank of the Memorial of Saint Mary Magdalene to a Feast, with the date on July 22.
- A new Preface before the Eucharistic Prayer for the Feast was also promulgated in Latin.
- The proper liturgical text in English of the Preface may be found at: [USCCB-Saint Mary Magdalene](#).

## July 2026 Liturgical Calendar, cont'd.

### July 23-24: Weekdays - Sixteenth Week in Ordinary Time

#### July 25: Saint James, Apostle - Feast - red

- Mass proper is found in the Proper of Saints.
- The *Gloria* should be sung or said.
- The Creed is not said.
- Preface I or II of the Apostles is used.
- Solemn Blessing # 17 may be used.

### July 26: Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### July 27-28: Weekdays - Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time

#### July 29: Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus - Memorial - white

- The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments expanded the Memorial of Martha to become the Memorial of Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus.
- The Gospel for this memorial is proper (Lectionary no. 607). The first reading may be taken from the weekday, or from the Common of Holy Men and Women, nos. 737-742.
- The interim formularies in English and Spanish are found at: [USCCB-Martha, Mary, Lazarus](#).

### July 29-30: Weekdays - Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time

#### July 31: Saint Ignatius of Loyola - Memorial - white

## 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.

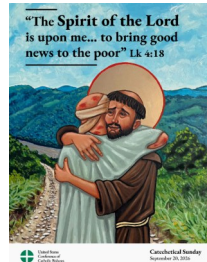
O Almighty God,  
 Pour forth the Holy Spirit upon the Holy Father and those who assist him  
 in the discernment of our new bishop.  
 May the one chosen have the strength to be a compassionate leader,  
 who models humility and joy.  
 Grant him the wisdom of Solomon,  
 the courage of the apostles,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

## 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](#)

## 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 [mbsperry@uscgb.org](mailto:mbsperry@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.

## 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](mailto:center@stmarys.edu)**

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