



# 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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## Lenten Practices 2025

The season of Lent begins this year on Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025, and concludes when the Paschal Triduum of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of the Lord begins at the start of the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, April 17, 2025.

The following practices and regulations are promulgated and binding for all Latin Rite Catholics in the Diocese of Erie for Lent and the Paschal Triduum, 2025. Eastern Rite Catholics who may be attending Latin Rite parishes have their own proper regulations and should consult their own eparchy or parish.

1. Traditional Lenten practices of PRAYER, FASTING, and ALMSGIVING, and other forms of self-denial, are recommended most warmly by the Church. Daily Mass is particularly encouraged.
2. ASH WEDNESDAY, ALL FRIDAYS IN LENT, and GOOD FRIDAY are days of abstinence from eating meat for those 14 years of age and older.
3. ASH WEDNESDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY are also days of fasting for those ages 18 to 58 inclusive. (On these days, 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.)
4. 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.
5. Although it does not include the Liturgy of the Eucharist, by its very nature the GOOD FRIDAY service is celebrated by a priest only.
6. 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.

## 2025 Rite of Election of Catechumens and The Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates

Sunday, March 9, 2025, St. Peter Cathedral, Erie 3:00 pm

Sunday, March 16, 2025, St. Catherine of Sienna Church of Holy Spirit Parish, DuBois 3:00 pm

Registration of catechumens and candidates is due to the Office of Parish Support by February 14, 2025. For questions or more information, please contact Mary Hickin at [mhickin@eriercd.org](mailto:mhickin@eriercd.org).

Parishes are encouraged to observe the *Rite of Sending Catechumens for Election* (cf. OCIA, nos.106-117) or the *Rite of Sending the Candidates for the Calling to Continuing Conversion* (cf. OCIA, nos. 434-445) or the *Rite of Sending Catechumens for Election and Candidates for Calling to Continuing Conversion* (cf. OCIA, nos. 530-546), depending on the local circumstances, the week or so before the Celebration of the Rite of Election of Catechumens and of the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates.

## Jubilee of the Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel

The Jubilee of the Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel will be held from Saturday, February 8 to Sunday, February 9, 2025. Recently, Pope Francis addressed participants in the 64th International Military Pilgrimage at the French Marian Shrine of Lourdes. Entrusting to God's mercy all of their comrades-in-arms who died serving their countries and defending peace, Pope Francis urged Catholic members of the military to let their faith inform their service: "The world needs you, especially at this dark moment in our history. We need men and women of faith who are capable of putting weapons at the service of peace and brotherhood."

The Pope also emphasized the need for quiet time for spiritual discernment that will allow military personnel to reaffirm with hope their vocation in prayer: "This spiritual pause at Lourdes is a time to rethink your military vocation from the perspective of faith, and of the love that every Christian must cultivate towards his brother, even his enemy." For more information visit: [https://www.usccb.org/resources/Jubilee2025\\_Armed%20Forces%20Police%20Security.pdf](https://www.usccb.org/resources/Jubilee2025_Armed%20Forces%20Police%20Security.pdf)

## Jubilee of Artists

The Jubilee of Artists will be held from Sunday, February 16 to Tuesday, February 18, 2025. Individual artists and groups of artists are invited to journey on the "way of beauty," the *via pulchritudinis*, to encounter Jesus Christ, "the image (icon) of the invisible God" (Col 1:15). Jesus is the sure foundation of Christian hope, the one who reveals God's love to all people.

The following resource is offered to artists as well as those who support and inspire artists. It is also offered to anyone who finds in the arts a place where personal inspiration, joy, and hope abound. Anyone who is led to encounter God through beauty, expressed in the arts and crafts across cultures, is welcome to explore this resource in preparation for the Jubilee of Artists found at: [Jubilee of Artists USCCB Resource Packet \(English\)](#)

## Jubilee of Deacons

The Jubilee of Deacons will be held from Friday, February 21, to Sunday, February 23, 2025; however, these resources can be used for engaging and celebrating deacons at any time throughout the Jubilee Year. For more information visit: [Jubilee2025 Deacons.pdf](#)

## Jubilee of Volunteers

The Jubilee of the World of Volunteering will be held from Saturday, March 8, to Sunday, March 9, 2025. Volunteering has allowed the lay faithful to step forward into the universal call to holiness in service to the Church and society. The heartbeat of many parish and civic communities across the United States are the dedicated and selfless volunteers who respond to great needs and contribute their stewardship of time, talent, and treasure to the benefit of others. There are also countless Catholic volunteers who engage in domestic and international mission work in service to the poor, vulnerable, and marginalized communities.

The following resource packet 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 the World of Volunteering. It might also serve as a catalyst or inspiration for the creation and development of local or year-round resources for volunteers in the community or globally. For more information please see the following:

[Jubilee2025 Volunteers.pdf](#)

## Update on the Liturgical Texts (from the FDLC December Newsletter)

### Order of the Anointing of the Sick and of Their Pastoral Care (ASPC)

- This text will replace Pastoral Care of the Sick: Rites of Anointing and Viaticum.
- While some rites of Pastoral Care may be used by the laity, the Order of the Anointing of the Sick and of their Pastoral Care only contains rites for the clergy.
- The Holy See has indicated that the USCCB will receive confirmation of this text this year.
- The USCCB also approved a collection of extracts in English and Spanish for the Church's ministry to the sick carried out by laypersons; these texts are still awaiting confirmation.

### Liturgy of the Hours

- The approval of texts of the LOH by the USCCB is complete.
- The assembly of the four volumes is taking place, and it is anticipated that these texts will be transmitted to the Holy See in early 2025.
- Publication is estimated in late 2026 or 2027.

## Update on the Liturgical Texts, cont'd.

### Bendicional and Book of Blessings

- Spanish Bendicional sent to Rome and awaiting approval.
- Rome has proposed a new English version first.
- USCCB remains in dialogue with Rome about this new English edition.

### Instituted Lay Ministries

- The USCCB has established a Task Force for a National Directory for the Instituted Ministries.
- Ritual texts for the Institution of Lector, Acolyte, and Catechist will not be approved by the USCCB and transmitted to the Holy See until the National Directory is complete.

### Bible Translation(s)

- The New American Bible (NAB) revised New Testament was approved by the Administrative Committee of the USCCB this September. In November 2024, the body of bishops approved this translation for liturgical use, as well as the revised NAB Old Testament and the Abbey Psalms and Canticles.
- These texts are in the process of being sent to the Holy See for approval as the liturgical Bible for the United States.

### Lectionary for Mass

- Work has begun on a new edition of the Lectionary.
- ICEL transmitted the Green Book of the Order of Readings for Mass to its member Conferences in August 2024. This text includes the front matter and Introduction of the Lectionary, the non-biblical Gospel acclamations, the assorted rubrics, and the sequences.
- The BCDW approved the psalm responses of Volume I at its November meeting and will continue to review Lectionary translations at upcoming meetings.
- The Lectionary may go before the USCCB in June or November 2026.
- Following approval by the Holy See, it will likely be 18 to 24 months before publication and use in parishes.

## Rededication of Organ at Saint Peter Cathedral

On February 2 at 4:00 PM, Saint Peter Cathedral will host a dedicatory organ recital for the new Casavant sanctuary organ and the rededicated Casavant gallery organ. These projects mark a significant milestone in the Cathedral's restoration.

The original sanctuary organ, built by Erie's Tellers Organ Company in 1952, was removed before the gallery organ's installation in 1977. The new sanctuary organ fulfills the long-held desire for an "orgue de choeur" near the high altar.

Concert organist Nathan Laube, known for his virtuosity and innovative programming, will dedicate both instruments. This recital will be a notable event for Erie, reminiscent of Jean Langlais' dedication of the gallery organ in 1978. For more information, please visit: <https://stpetercathedral.com/calendar/organ-dedication-concert-featuring-nathan-laube/>.

## February 2025 Liturgical Calendar

### February 2: Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (white)

- Mass Proper is taken from the Proper of Saints (February 2)
- Mass may begin with the blessing of candles
- Two (2) forms of procession may be used:
  - ◇ First Form: The Procession
    - ◆ Invite the faithful to gather outside the regular worship space
    - ◆ Candles should be lit before the procession.
    - ◆ Opening Hymn is played while the candles are being lit, followed by the Sign of the Cross, Greeting, and special introduction
    - ◆ Candles are blessed and procession into the church takes place
  - ◇ Second Form: The Solemn Entrance
    - ◆ People gather in the church and candles are blessed
    - ◆ No procession takes place
- Penitential Act is NOT used today
- Gloria is sung
- Creed is recited

## February 2025 Liturgical Calendar, cont'd.

### February 3: Saint Blaise, Bishop and Martyr

#### *Optional Memorial (red)*

- It is customary to celebrate Saint Blaise Feast with a blessing of throats. The blessing may be found in the Book of Blessings, "Order for the Blessing of Throats on the Feast of Saint Blaise", Chapter 51.
- The blessing of throats may be given today by a priest, deacon, or lay minister who follows the rites and prayers designated for a lay minister.
- The blessing usually follows the homily and general intercessions, or it may take the place of the final blessing of the Mass.
- The candles to be used for the blessing of throats are blessed during Mass at the Presentation of the Lord, February 2.

### February 5: Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr, Memorial (red)

### February 6: Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs, Memorial (red)

### February 9: Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### February 10: Saint Scholastica, Virgin, Memorial (white)

### February 11: *Optional Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes*

### February 14: Saint Cyril, Monk, and Saint Methodius, Bishop, Memorial (white)

### February 16: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### February 22: Feast of the Chair of Peter the Apostle (white)

- Prayers are proper and found in the Proper of Saints
- Gloria is sung or said
- Creed is not said
- Use Preface I of the Apostles
- Solemn Blessing #16 may be used.

## 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 <https://www.eriercd.org/images/pdf/decree-indulgences-related-to-jubilee-year-2025.pdf>

### **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.

## Jubilee 2025 Information cont'd.

### 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: <https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/the-mass/votive-masses-and-various-needs/mass-for-the-holy-year>

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: <https://drive.cloud.va/index.php/s/4Bl5PEuIciBeRGt#/pdfviewer>

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 Website:

<https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html> The Jubilee Masses can also be found at the end of this newsletter.

### 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: <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025/inno-giubileo-2025.html>.

## 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: <https://liturgy.teachable.com/p/instructions-for-liturgical-ministers>.

## Time of the Easter Vigil

The Easter Vigil is the first Mass of Easter Sunday and 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 8:06 pm on April 19, 2025. This information is provided at this time to assist with calendar planning for 2024-2025. 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 [mosperry@uscceb.org](mailto:mosperry@uscceb.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.





*Concert Dedication*  
*of the restored*  
**Casavant Opus 3353**  
**Gallery Organ**  
*and newly installed*  
**Casavant Opus 3953**  
**Sanctuary Organ**

**FEBRUARY 2, 2025**

**4:00PM**

**SAINT PETER CATHEDRAL**

**230 W 10TH ST | ERIE, PA 16501**

*Join us for an afternoon  
musical celebration on  
Sunday, February 2,  
the Feast of the  
Presentation of the Lord*

*Organ concert at 4:00pm  
featuring  
concert organist*



**NATHAN  
LAUBE**

*Free and open to the public*