OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP
NOVEMBER 2026

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LITURGICAL CALENDAR ITEMS

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS
Sunday, November 1, 2026
The Anticipated Mass on Saturday, October 31, 2026, is the Mass of the Solemnity of All Saints. First Vespers of the Solemnity of All Saints are prayed on Saturday evening.

THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (All Souls' Day)
Monday, November 2, 2026
—Priests are permitted to celebrate three Masses on All Souls Day—

The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* in chapter IV, section II, on the concelebrated Mass, states:

204. *For a particular reason, having to do either with the significance of the rite or of the festivity, the faculty is given to celebrate or concelebrate more than once on the same day in the following cases: [...]*

d) On the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day) all priests may celebrate or concelebrate three Masses, provided that the celebrations take place at different times, and that the norms established regarding the application of second and third Masses are observed.

The norms established and referenced in the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, are those of Pope Benedict XV, in his Apostolic Constitution *Incruentum altaris sacrificium*, August 10, 1915. The norms state:

> *All priests are permitted to celebrate three Masses on All Souls Day, provided these take place at different times and on condition, moreover, that while they may at their preference apply one of the Masses in favor of any person and accept for that Mass a stipend, they may not accept a stipend for the second or for the third Mass, the second of which they are bound to apply respectively for all the faithful departed and the third for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff.*

WORLD DAY OF THE POOR
THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Sunday, November 15, 2026
For the message of Pope Leo XIV for the World Day of the Poor 2026, please see: https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/messages/poor/documents/20260613-messaggio-giornata-poveri.html

SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE
Sunday, November 22, 2026
The Committee for Religious Liberty of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has identified the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, as a fitting moment in the liturgical year to promote the Church's teaching on religious freedom. Therefore, the Committee has prepared materials to help educate the faithful about this Solemnity. These materials are available at: https://www.usccb.org/christtheking.

THANKSGIVING DAY
Thursday, November 26, 2026
The US Proper for Thanksgiving Day found in the *Roman Missal* may be used. If the proper Mass is used, the *Lectionary* texts may come from the readings of the day or from the *Masses for Various Needs and Occasions, In Thanksgiving to God*. If food is brought to Mass for a blessing in preparation for the Thanksgiving Day meal, the Order for the

Blessing of Food for Thanksgiving Day may be used as found in the *Book of Blessings*, Chapter 58.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Sunday, November 29, 2026
As we approach the beginning of another year of the Liturgical Calendar, please note the Lectionary cycles for 2026 are:

- *Sunday Cycle – Year B*
- *Weekday Cycle – I*

The Blessing of an Advent Wreath may take place at the conclusion of the Universal Prayer this Sunday. See *Book of Blessings*, Chapter 47, Order for the Blessing of an Advent Wreath. The Advent Wreath needs only to be blessed once, perhaps at the Anticipated Mass for the First Sunday of Advent.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
Saturday, December 12, 2026
The Anticipated Mass on Saturday, December 12, 2026, is the Mass of the Third Sunday of Advent. First Vespers of the Third Sunday of Advent are prayed on Saturday evening.

TIME OF THE EASTER VIGIL 2027

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 7:20 PM on March 27, 2027. This information is provided at this time to assist with calendar planning for 2027. In general, given the variable date for Easter, it seems best to schedule the Easter Vigil each year for 8:00 PM or later.

COLDS AND FLU
AND THE CELEBRATION OF THE SACRED LITURGY

- ❖ Ministers of Holy Communion should wash their hands before Mass begins, or even use an alcohol based anti-bacterial solution in the pew before distributing, and after purifying their fingers after the distributing Holy Communion;
- ❖ People feeling ill should avoid receiving Communion from the chalice.

Priests are encouraged to use good pastoral common sense to allay the fears of the faithful during cold and flu season. An example of this might include refraining from the use of

the Sign of Peace during the celebration of Mass and reminding the faithful not to receive the Precious Blood if they are ill.

CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

The Office for Divine Worship has the responsibility for direction, guidance and support of pastors and those who collaborate with them in the formation of adults for Christian Initiation. Additional information on Christian Initiation for adults can be found on the website for the Office for Divine Worship, under the heading *Christian Initiation.*

PLEASE NOTE

Full Sacramental Initiation—Baptism, Confirmation and the first Reception of Holy Communion—apart from the Easter Vigil, outside of the immediate danger of death, requires the permission of the Archbishop (see OCIA, no. 331). Archbishop Perez delegates the Office for Divine Worship to give this permission. Please contact the Office for Divine Worship for such circumstances.

If there are any questions about the celebration of Baptism in unusual or irregular circumstances, please contact the Office for Divine Worship.

WORKSHOPS FOR LITURGICAL MINISTERS

If any parish or institution would like a workshop for liturgical ministers, especially Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, please contact the Office for Divine Worship. If a parish or institution conducts its own workshop for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, please contact the Office for Divine Worship to obtain the mandate letters from the Archbishop of Philadelphia for the new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

WORKSHOPS

The full schedule of liturgical ministry workshops for 2027are listed below.

To Register for these workshops, email: worship@archphila.org

When emailing your registration, please include THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION: Your name, home parish/institution and DATE of the workshop you would like to attend.

LECTOR WORKSHOP

WORKSHOP FOR NEW AND EXPERIENCED LECTORS
Saturday, April 17, 2027
9:00 AM to 11:00 AM
Holy Mass is available at 11:30 AM following the workshop.
Chapel at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa
654 Ferry Road, Doylestown, PA 18901

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION WORKSHOPS

Tuesday, February 16, 2027
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Blessed Virgin Mary Church
1101 Main Street, Darby, PA 19023

Tuesday, March 2, 2027
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Saint Joseph's University, **Chapel of Saint Joseph**
2525 Cardinal Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19131

Tuesday, March 9, 2027
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Epiphany of Our Lord Church
3050 Walton Road, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

Tuesday, April 13, 2027
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Saint Katherine of Siena Church
9700 Frankford Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19114

GENERAL NORMS

- **All Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, without exception, are to have a current appointment letter from the Archbishop.**
- **Extraordinary Ministers who serve in institutions and schools throughout the Archdiocese are typically commissioned for service in their parishes and likewise commissioned for service in the institution and/or school.**
- Candidates are to be fully initiated practicing Catholics, high school graduates, not in an invalid marriage, recognized for faith and devotion to the Holy Eucharist as

well as for service in the parish/institution/school. Pastors/chaplains are reminded to be discerning in the invitation to members of the lay faithful to carry out this ministry.

- Pastors and chaplains are encouraged to send new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to the archdiocesan formation and training sessions. Letters of Appointment from the Archbishop will then follow. *Veteran Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are also welcome to attend.*
- Pastors and chaplains are reminded to inform the Office for Divine Worship if they conduct their own formation and training as well as to send to this office their request for new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Request forms can be found on the Office for Divine Worship website. Letters of Appointment from the Archbishop will then follow.
- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are appointed for a three-year term and for the place where they are commissioned. Terms may be renewed if agreeable to both the pastor/chaplain and the Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. All records of active Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are maintained by the parish/institution/school.
- **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are commissioned after participation in a formation and training session, according to the form found in the *Book of Blessings*, Chapter 63, "Order for the Commissioning of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion."**
- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion **only** serve in the parishes/institutions/schools for which they are commissioned.

GUIDELINES FOR THE BUILDING AND RENOVATING OF CHURCHES AND CHAPELS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia, in addition to what is described in the liturgical ritual books, follows the guidelines of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for the building and renovating of churches and chapels. These guidelines are found in the USCCB document, *Built of Living Stones: Art, Architecture and Worship*, 2007, Fifth Printing, revised.

GUIDELINES FOR CHAPELS IN RECTORIES

The Office for Divine Worship, according to the Archdiocesan Policy Manual, has oversight for Chapels in Rectories. Pastors are asked to review these guidelines for compliance. Please direct any questions or concerns about chapels in rectories to the Office for Divine Worship.

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Mandatory use for the revised translation of the *Liturgy of the Hours* is the First Sunday of Advent 2028.

PUBLISHERS
Ascension Press,
https://ascensionpress.com/pages/content-hub/liturgy-of-the-hours
Word on Fire,
https://www.liturgyofthehours.com/?_gl=1*gohq1k*_gcl_au*ODg2NDMyODc3LjE3NzcxOTkxNjQ.

PRESENTATIONS ON THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS
https://adoremus.org/2026/01/the-liturgy-of-the-hours-online-lecture-series-presented-by-the-society-for-catholic-liturgy/

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RECURRING INFORMATION

THE PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL, THE ARCHANGEL
Many parishes and institutions within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia pray the prayer to Saint Michael in conjunction with the celebration of Mass. You are reminded that this devotional prayer is to take place outside of Mass. It is not to be prayed as the concluding prayer of the Universal Prayer nor as part of the Communion Rite.

TIME FOR VIGIL MASSES AND ANTICIPATED MASSES

The time for Vigil Masses and Anticipated Masses in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia is no earlier than 4:00 PM. This applies to Holy Days of Obligation as well, including Christmas.

THE MASS SCHEDULE FOR HOLY DAYS WHEN THE OBLIGATION IS SUSPENDED

In the United States, there are three Holy Days, Solemnities, when the obligation to participate in Mass is suspended when the observance falls on a Monday or a Saturday—the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (January 1), the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15), and the Solemnity of All Saints (November 1). In these instances, the Mass schedule certainly can be modified. However, there should be the celebration of one Mass at least for the benefit of the faithful who desire to attend Mass.

LINKS TO HELPFUL INFORMATION

THE LITURGICAL EXCHANGE

For information about the new Liturgical Exchange in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, please see: https://www.liturgicalexchange.com/.

FOR THE MOST RECENT NEWSLETTER FROM THE USCCB

Individual issues of the Newsletter are posted online around the fifteenth of the month approximately three months after they have been released to subscribers.
For information on subscribing to the newsletter, visit:
https://www.usccb.org/committees/divine-worship/newsletter.

FOR PAST MONTHLY MAILINGS OF THE OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP

Visit: *http://www.odwphiladelphia.org/sacred-liturgy/monthly-mailings/.*