

OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP

DECEMBER 2024

Website for the Office for Divine Worship

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EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL INFORMATION
FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

<https://www.phillyeucharisticrevival.org/>

Please see the link below for sheet music for the hymn of the Eucharistic Revival, Let the Earth Acclaim (in English and Spanish):

https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/post/sheet-music-available-for-new-eucharistic-hymns?_hsmi=283496485&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-8yfd0ViHAkXN5FZT2DCEnq-P0agJI9G0394neBfJHvvMS-XjEdilKOITMkYbLjbajvfP0hHylbgj_MMSXFRXxQ1IcCIA

JUBILEE YEAR 2025

The Jubilee Year was announced by Pope Francis on May 9, 2024,
with the Bull of Indiction,
Spes non confundit (Hope does not disappoint).

<https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/it.html>

<https://www.usccb.org/committees/jubilee-2025>

PRINCIPAL ARCHDIOCESAN CELEBRATIONS

**Archdiocesan Opening of the Jubilee Year is December 29, 2024,
Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul,
at the 11:00 AM Solemn Mass**

Archbishop Nelson J. Perez, Celebrant and Homilist

Representatives of every parish, institution and religious community are invited to come as pilgrims of hope and then return with the message of the Jubilee year to spread throughout the Archdiocese.

**Archdiocesan Closing of the Jubilee Year is December 28, 2025,
Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul,
at the 11:00 AM Solemn Mass**

Archbishop Nelson J. Perez, Celebrant and Homilist

Please see our own website for the Jubilee Year, <https://archphila.org/holyyear/>. This is the site for local information on the Jubilee Year — archdiocesan observances and resources

WAYS TO OBSERVE THE JUBILEE YEAR

- **Pilgrimages**
 - To the Shrines within the Archdiocese, especially as places to obtain the Jubilee Indulgence. A list of Shrines will be published separately.
 - To the places of our Baptism
 - To the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC (Date for this Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to be announced before the Jubilee Year begins)

- **Renewed Devotion to the Most Holy Eucharist, especially with the Annual Forty Hours Devotion (Forty Hours) in each parish, institution and religious community**
 - With themes identified by Pope Francis in the Bull of Indiction:
 - *Peace*
 - *Value of Human Life*
 - *Care for Prisoners*
 - *Care for the Sick, Young People, Migrants, the Elderly (Grandparents)*
 - *The Poor and the Forgiveness of Debts*

- **Emphasis on the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation**
 - Promotion and reception of the Jubilee Indulgence
 - Promotion of communal Penance Services for Advent and Lent
 - Promotion of the ministry of the Archdiocesan Missionaries of Mercy

- **An Ecumenical Observance on the 1700th Anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council at Nicea, celebrated at the Cathedral Basilica in May/June 2025**

LITURGICAL AND CIVIC CALENDAR ITEMS

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 1, 2024

As we approach the beginning of another year of the Liturgical Calendar, please note the Lectionary cycles for 2025 are:

- *Sunday Cycle – Year C*
- *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.

**SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

Monday, December 9, 2024 (Transferred from December 8 in 2024)

The Obligation is dispensed for 2024.

Official Statement of the Archbishop

**THE 2024 OBSERVANCE OF THE SOLEMNITY
OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA
November 4, 2024**

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, celebrated on December 8th, is always a Holy Day of Obligation in the United States. When December 8th falls on a Sunday, the Second Sunday of Advent, its observance is transferred to Monday, December 9th, which is the case this year. This past October 2024, the Holy See clarified that *both* the observance of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and the obligation to assist at Holy Mass are transferred to Monday, December 9th.

Archbishop Nelson Perez, upon consultation on the matter and in accord with Canon 87 §1, dispenses from the obligation to assist at Holy Mass on Monday, December 9th, 2024.

This dispensation is not to minimize the importance of this Solemnity in the life of the clergy and faithful. In fact, Mary, under this title, is the Patroness of the country. Rather, the Archbishop grants this dispensation due to the shortness of time to instruct on this change in observance, with the recognition that most calendars are in place without the possibility to properly observe the obligation and, most of all, to ease the consciences of the faithful.

The Archbishop encourages parishes, institutions and religious communities to observe the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception as fully as possible—scheduling the additional celebration of Holy Mass for the benefit and convenience of the faithful, as well as, encouraging those who will not be assisting at Holy Mass to pray the Holy Rosary or some other devotion in honor of the Blessed Mother. Schools in session on December 9th are encouraged to arrange for the celebration of Holy Mass. Pastors, especially, are asked to publish this notice about the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception in print and on social media.

Since this dispensation is not universal throughout the United States, it is important to note for the faithful that this is the pastoral decision of the Archbishop for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, CHRISTMAS

Wednesday, December 25, 2024

The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord is *always* a Holy Day of Obligation, even if it falls on a Monday or Saturday.

The time for Vigil Masses for Christmas in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia is no earlier than 4:00 PM, without exception (see *Christus Dominus*, January 6, 1953).

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God is observed as a Holy Day of Obligation.

BLESSINGS RELATED TO ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

- The rite for the blessing of an Advent Wreath, a Manger or a Nativity Scene, a Christmas tree, and of homes during the Christmas season, are found in the *Book of Blessings*. The introductions to these various blessings offer helpful pastoral and liturgical information. The provided blessings for an Advent Wreath and a Manger

or Nativity Scene maintain an important balance and perspective regarding these elements of devotion and the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy.

- Priests and deacons may consider, in conjunction with Advent, using the *Rite for the Blessing of a Child in the Womb*, published by the United States Conferences of Catholic Bishops in 2012. For more information on this Rite and to order in English or Spanish, see: <http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/prayers/pro-life-blessings.cfm>

TIME OF THE EASTER VIGIL 2025

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 7:44 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 8:00 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.

WEBINAR RECORDINGS FOR THE USE OF RECENTLY REVISED ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS OF RITUAL BOOKS

Use of the Revised English Translation of the *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*

Date: November 13, 2024

Presenter: Fr. Dennis Gill

To watch the recording, [CLICK HERE](#).

Use of the Revised English Translation of

Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharistic Mystery Outside Mass

Date: October 23, 2024

Presenter: Fr. Dennis Gill

To watch the recording, [CLICK HERE](#).

VARIOUS PUBLISHERS FOR THE REVISED RITUAL BOOKS

- Liturgy Training Publications (Chicago, IL)

<https://www.ltp.org/#::~:~:text=Steeped%20in%20the%20spirit%20of%20liturgical%20renewal%20and%20founded%20upon>

- Liturgical Press (Collegeville, MN) <https://litpress.org/>

- Catholic Book (Totowa, NJ) •

<https://catholicbookpublishing.com/collections/liturgical-editions>

- Magnificat (Yonkers, NY) <https://bookstore.magnificat.net/«>

- Midwest Theological Forum (Downers Grove, IL)

<https://www.theologicalforum.org/>

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 of Philadelphia (see RCIA, no. 331). Archbishop Perez delegates the Office for Divine Worship to give this permission. Please contact the Office for Divine Worship for such circumstances.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOPS FOR LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Fall 2024 / Spring 2025

Register for these workshops at worship@archphila.org

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.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Workshops

Saturday, December 7, 2024

9:30 AM to 11:30 AM

Saint Katherine of Siena, Frankford Avenue

PLEASE REGISTER AT: worship@archphila.org

Saturday, January 25, 2025

9:30 AM to 11:30 PM

Chapel of the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul (Philadelphia South)

PLEASE REGISTER AT: worship@archphila.org

Saturday, February 15, 2025

9:30 AM to 11:30 AM

Saint Richard Church (South Philadelphia)

PLEASE REGISTER AT: worship@archphila.org

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

- **All Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, without exception, are to have a current appointment letter from the Archbishop of Philadelphia.**
- **Extraordinary Ministers who serve in institutions and schools throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia 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 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 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 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.

PUBLICATION OF SUNDAY AND WEEKDAY READINGS FOR THE PARISH WEBSITE AND THE PARISH BULLETIN

Pastors are encouraged to publish resources for the Sunday and Weekday readings for Mass on the parish website and/or in the parish bulletin to foster a reading of the Word of God outside of Mass and also as a preparation for Mass. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops provides the following website which could be published: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings>.

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/>.

Please consider spring cleaning your sacristies and storage areas for liturgical items no longer needed or in use. The *Liturgical Exchange* provides a great service within and outside the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for those looking to repurpose liturgical items for churches and chapels.

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/>.