

# OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP

## FEBRUARY 2025

**Website for the Office for Divine Worship**

Website: [www.odwphiladelphia.org](http://www.odwphiladelphia.org)

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### JUBILEE YEAR 2025

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

Additional websites with information on the Jubilee Year:

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

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

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](https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/post/sheet-music-available-for-new-eucharistic-hymns?_hsmi=283496485&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-8yfd0ViHAKXN5FZT2DCEnq-P0agJI9G0394neBfJHvvMS-XjEdilKOITMkYbLjbajvfP0hHylbgj_MMSXFRXxQ1IcCIA)

## LITURGICAL AND CIVIC CALENDAR ITEMS

### **FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE**

**Sunday, February 2, 2025**

The Blessing of Candles using one of the two forms in the *Roman Missal* should be scheduled to take place at Mass on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

World Day for Consecrated Life is a day of prayer for men and women who make public vows to “imitate Christ more closely, striving for the perfection of charity in the service of the Kingdom of God.” (*Code of Canon Law, canon 573*).

### **MEMORIAL OF SAINT BLAISE, BISHOP AND MARTYR, AND BLESSING OF THROATS**

**Monday, February 3, 2025**

The blessing of throats should be observed according to the directives and with the prayer found in the *Book of Blessings*, Chapter 51. It is also possible for the blessing of throats to follow the celebration of Mass.

### **MEMORIAL OF SAINT JOSEPHINE BAKHITA NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR SURVIVORS AND VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

**Saturday, February 8, 2025**

The United States Bishops encourage the clergy and faithful to pray on this day for all those affected by human trafficking. Additional information on the observance of this day of prayer in the parish can be found here: <http://www.usccb.org/about/anti-trafficking-program/day-of-prayer.cfm>.

### **MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES WORLD DAY OF THE SICK**

**Tuesday, February 11, 2025**

Blessed Pope John Paul II in 1992 established *World Day of the Sick* in conjunction with the Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes. Although the Memorial is not observed liturgically this year, a remembrance of the sick in the announcements and in the Universal Prayer is especially fitting on this day.

## **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 currently 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 distribution of 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*.

**2025 Rite of Election of Catechumens  
and of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion  
Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 2025, AT 3:00 PM**

BUCKS COUNTY  
DELAWARE COUNTY  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY

**SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2025, AT 3:00 PM**

CHESTER COUNTY

PHILADELPHIA NORTH  
PHILADELPHIA SOUTH

All correspondence and registration are conducted electronically. See 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 RCIA, no. 331) for someone 14 years of age or older. 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**

**2025**

Register for these workshops at [worship@archphila.org](mailto: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, February 15, 2025**

9:30 AM to 11:30 AM

Saint Richard Church, South Philadelphia

PLEASE REGISTER AT: [worship@archphila.org](mailto:worship@archphila.org)

**Saturday, March 1, 2025**

9:30 AM to 11:30 AM

Chapel at the Cathedral Basilica, Philadelphia

PLEASE REGISTER AT: [worship@archphila.org](mailto:worship@archphila.org)

**Monday, March 11, 2025**

7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Saint Helena Church, Blue Bell

PLEASE REGISTER AT: [worship@archphila.org](mailto: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.

## 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.

## 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/>.