DIOCESE of
FORT WAYNE - SOUTH BEND

Liturgical Notes: Fall 2026 through Early 2027

Fall Calendar Notes

➢ Upcoming Holy Days of Obligation

- **Tuesday, December 8 — Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**
- **Friday, December 25 — Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord**
- **Friday, January 1, 2027 — Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

Funeral Masses and ritual Masses are not permitted on any Holy Day of Obligation. In addition, ritual Masses are not permitted on solemnities, whether or not they are holy days of obligation. The "Funeral Liturgy Outside of Mass" found in the *Order of Christian Funerals*, nos. 177-203, may be used on holy days.

➢ New English-Language Prayers for St. John Henry Newman on October 9

The proper texts in English for the Optional Memorial of St. John Henry Newman on October 9 have been approved and now **are available here via the USCCB**. These include a proper Collect, suggested Lectionary readings, and *Liturgy of the Hours* texts.

➢ New Spanish-Language Liturgical Texts Approved

The USCCB Committee on Divine Worship announced that the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments confirmed the Spanish-language proper texts for numerous celebrations added to the General Roman Calendar from 2014 to 2024. *Misal Romano* Collect prayers and *Liturgia de las Horas* Second Readings and other texts for the following celebrations can be found **on this USCCB webpage**.

- 27 de febrero – Memoria libre de san Gregorio de Narek
- 10 de mayo – Memoria libre de san Juan De Ávila
- 29 de mayo – Memoria libre de san Pablo VI
- Lunes después de Pentecostés – Memoria de la Bienaventurada Virgen María, Madre de la Iglesia
- 29 de julio – Memoria de santos Marta, María y Lázaro
- 5 de septiembre – Memoria libre de santa Teresa de Calcuta
- 17 de septiembre – Memoria libre de santa Hildegarda de Bingen
- 5 de octubre – Memoria libre de santa Faustina Kowalska
- 11 de octubre – Memoria libre de san Juan XXIII
- 22 de octubre – Memoria libre de san Juan Pablo II
- 10 de diciembre – Memoria libre de la Bienaventurada Virgen María de Loreto

Spanish texts for St. John Henry Newman (San Juan Enrique Newman; 9 de octubre) are in progress. Meanwhile, he can be celebrated in Spanish with texts from the Common of Pastors or the Common of Doctors.

➢ Reminder: *Order of the Anointing of the Sick & of their Pastoral Care*

Both a new English translation of the *Order of the Anointing of the Sick and of their Pastoral Care* and Spanish translation of the *Ritual de la Unción de los enfermos y de su atención pastoral* have mandatorily replaced the old *Pastoral Care of the Sick* book. Whereas the former ritual included rites for both clergy and laity, the new book is intended for clergy.

➢ Administration of Communion to the Sick by an Extraordinary Minister:

With the aforementioned changes, the only approved English rites for extraordinary ministers administering Communion to the sick are those included in Chapter II of *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharistic Mystery Outside Mass* (HCWEMOM), implemented in 2024.

Those HCWEMOM Chapter II rites for laity are also available in an updated *Communion of the Sick* booklet published by Liturgical Press. All English-speaking EMHCs to the sick should obtain this resource so they have the correct version of the rites approved for their use.

In Spanish, since there is not a U.S. Spanish edition of *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharistic Mystery outside Mass*, any Spanish-language translation that has been approved by Rome for a conference of bishops may be used by Spanish-speaking extraordinary ministers for administration of Communion to the sick.

➢ Reminder: Diocesan Norms on the Use of Screens and Projectors in Church

Please keep in mind our comprehensive diocesan norms (promulgated in 2021 and **found here in English and Spanish**) that restrict the use of screens, projectors, and related digital devices in the context of liturgical or paraliturgical events in our churches. Their use is generally prohibited in the context of Mass or Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Our norms complement the stance of the USCCB Committee on Divine Worship:

> "The current policy of the Committee on Divine Worship is that permission is not granted to project readings and liturgical texts on screens during the liturgy. The bishops have the perspective that since so many people spend much of their time looking at screens, the Sacred Liturgy ought to be a prayerful break from that experience. The bishops also think that screens are a distraction from what is actually taking place in the liturgy."

➢ When Baptized Non-Catholics Can Read at Mass

Per the *Directory for the Application of Principles and Norms on Ecumenism*, no. 133:

> "The reading of Scripture during a Eucharistic celebration in the Catholic Church is to be done by members of that Church. On exceptional occasions and for a just cause, the
>
> bishop of the diocese may permit a member of another Church or ecclesial Community to take on the task of reader."

So having a baptized non-Catholic do one of the readings (at a wedding or funeral Mass, for example) would require the permission of the bishop by special request, on a case-by-case basis. However, if it is a wedding or funeral liturgy outside Mass, then there is nothing prohibiting any member of the baptized from reading.

➢ Swinging of the Thurible as Prescribed in GIRM 277

While the manner of incensing with the thurible allows for some legitimate variation in practice (e.g., whether to have the thurible strike the chain while swinging it), a deeper look at the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* provides clarity regarding the number of swings that ought to be used.

GIRM no. 277 prescribes triple, double, or single swings of the thurible when incensing different persons and things.

However, the English translation does not adequately convey the fact that in the original Latin of the *Institutio Generalis Missalis Romani*, each individual swing should itself often actually be a double swing (in Latin, *ductus*).

The only exception to this double-swings principle at Mass is incensation of the altar, which involves repeated single (*ictus*) swings while walking.

As Bishop Peter Elliott articulates in his *Ceremonies of the Modern Roman Rite* (no. 217), "to make a double swing, the thurible is swung twice at the person or object to be incensed and then lowered."

Here then is GIRM 277, taking all this into account:

> *Three swings* **(tribus ductibus – *three double swings*)** *of the thurible are used to incense: the Most Blessed Sacrament, a relic of the Holy Cross and images of the Lord exposed for public veneration, the offerings for the Sacrifice of the Mass, the altar cross, the Book of the Gospels, the paschal candle, the Priest, and the people.*
>
> *Two swings* **(duobus ductibus – *two double swings*)** *of the thurible are used to incense relics and images of the Saints exposed for public veneration; this should be done, however, only at the beginning of the celebration, following the incensation of the altar.*

The altar is incensed with single swings **(singulis ictibus – *one swing at a time*)** *of the thurible in this way:*

a) if the altar is freestanding with respect to the wall, the Priest incenses walking around it;

b) if the altar is not freestanding, the Priest incenses it while walking first to the right hand side, then to the left.

The cross, if situated on the altar or near it, is incensed by the Priest before he incenses the altar; otherwise, he incenses it when he passes in front of it.

The Priest incenses the offerings with three swings **(tribus ductibus – *three double swings*)** *of the thurible or by making the Sign of the Cross over the offerings with the thurible before going on to incense the cross and the altar.*

➢ Christmas Notes and Reminders

- Genuflection at Christmas Masses – At all Masses for the Nativity of the Lord, the assembly should be reminded beforehand to **genuflect during the Creed** at the mention of the Incarnation: **"and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man."** Particularly on this day (and also on the Solemnity of the Annunciation), we pay homage to the great mystery of the Incarnation by symbolically touching ourselves to the ground, just as the Son of God came down among us as man.

- If a manger or crèche scene is set up in church, it should be not be placed in the main part of the sanctuary, but should be somewhere easily accessible for the prayer and devotion of the faithful (*Book of Blessings* #1544). The Nativity scene should only be blessed once each season (typically at the first Mass on Christmas Eve, or prior to it), though it could be reverenced with incense at subsequent Christmas liturgies.

- **The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ from the Roman Martyrology** – Located in Appendix I of the Roman Missal, it "may be chanted or recited, most appropriately during the celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours. It may also be chanted or recited before the beginning of Christmas Mass during the Night." This proclamation "may not replace any part of the [Christmas] Mass."

- **The Announcement of Easter and the Moveable Feasts** – Found in Appendix I, this may be proclaimed after the Gospel at "Mass during the Day" for the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord (Jan. 3, 2027).

- **Blessing of Homes** – The Christmas season–and especially Epiphany–is a traditional time when homes are blessed. Parishes could promote the pious Epiphany custom of families using chalk (which can be blessed and distributed by the parish ahead of time) to mark both the year and the initials of the Magi (which also form a Latin abbreviation for "May Christ bless this house") above the doors of their homes: **20+C+B+M+27**. This could be done in conjunction with a home blessing provided online by the USCCB: https://www.usccb.org/prayers/blessing-home-and-household-epiphany

DIOCESE of
FORT WAYNE - SOUTH BEND

Looking Ahead to 2027

Liturgy of the Hours, Second Edition Volume II – First-Use Date

Ash Wednesday – February 10, 2027 – is the optional first-use date for the Volume II of the new English translation of the *Liturgy of the Hours*. It begins shipping on January 1, and **ordering information is available here**. Full information on the new translation can be found here.

Rite of Election / Calling to Continuing Conversion:

- **Fort Wayne: Sunday, February 7, 2:30 PM** — St. Charles Borromeo Church
- **South Bend: Sunday, February 14, 2:30 PM** — St. Pius X Church, Granger

Chrism Masses:

- **South Bend: Monday, March 22, 7:00 PM** — St. Matthew Cathedral
- **Fort Wayne: Tuesday, March 23, 7:00 PM** — Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Easter Vigil Start Time, 2027

On Saturday, March 27, 2027, the end of civil twilight is at 8:27 PM EDT on the Fort Wayne side, and 8:32 PM EDT on the South Bend side. Therefore, about 8:30 PM would be the earliest possible time to begin the Easter Vigil in the diocese.

Since the USCCB encourages waiting an extra 15-30 minutes (because total darkness occurs after civil twilight ends), 8:45 PM or later would be the most appropriate start time.

The Roman Missal states that the Vigil must begin "after nightfall."

Adult Confirmation Dates, 2027

(Sign-ups will be sent after Easter)

- **Fort Wayne: Sunday, May 23, 11:30 AM** — Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
- **South Bend: Sunday, June 6, 11:00 AM** — St. Matthew Cathedral