

LITURGYNOTES – FOR MARCH 2010

FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

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- The final installment in our series on *Sing to the Lord...*
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- Continuing formation opportunities... and more!

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LENTEN FAST AND ABSTINENCE

FAST—Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast. On days of fast, one full meal and two lesser meals are allowed. Eating between meals is not permitted. Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are bound to fast.

ABSTINENCE—Ash Wednesday and all of the Fridays of Lent are also days of abstinence. On days of abstinence, meat may not be taken. The law of abstinence binds all Catholics fourteen years of age or older. If members of the Faithful are unable to observe the fast and abstinence regulations because of ill health or other reasons, they are urged to practice other forms of penance and self-denial suitable to their condition.

SPRING AHEAD....

Daylight Saving Time begins this Sunday at 2am... so remember to set your clocks ahead 1 hour!



RESOURCES

EIGHTEEN QUESTIONS ON THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM

The USCCB has published this helpful guide to common questions that arise regarding the celebration of the Triduum; the full text is available at: <http://www.usccb.org/liturgy/triduumquestions.shtml>.

RITE OF PENANCE

The Rite of Penance was revised in accord with the second edition of the Lectionary for Mass and the emendations required by the 1983 Code of Canon Law. All three forms, beginning with the Rite of Reconciliation of Individual Penitents, are situated in the context of the Liturgy of the Word. Appendices include sample penitential services and a suggested form for an examination of conscience. Copies of the updated Rite may be purchased from the USCCB (ISBN # 978-1-60137-095-2) after March 12.

“SING TO THE LORD” (PART 21)

The US Bishops conclude their document on liturgical music with a discussion of the central place music has in the other rites of the Church. Prominent among these is the Liturgy of the Hours. We have yet to realize the vision of the Second Vatican Council that the Hours would take their proper place in the life of the parish. Public celebration of the Hours is preferred over private recitation (§231) and the psalms and canticles in particular ought to be sung (§232).

Music also plays an important role if the community needs to gather for Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest (§241) as well as in Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration (§§242-3) and in the celebration of devotions (§258).

Music, and especially the psalms, are pivotal in the celebration of the Order of Christian Funerals: Vigil, Funeral (within or outside of Mass), and Committal—as well as in the associated rites. “Funeral music should express the Paschal Mystery and the Christian’s share in it” (§246). The song of farewell is the “climax of the rite of final commendation,” and should therefore “affirm hope and trust in the paschal mystery;” it is not recited if not sung (§254). The Diocesan Liturgical Commission is working on a document, akin to our Wedding Music Guidelines, to assist parish ministers in the appropriate selection of funeral music. Certainly, this is not the place for “personal favorites” of the deceased or bereaved, because neither of them is the focal point of the funeral: Christ is.

This concludes our review of *Sing to the Lord*. If you have not had a chance to review the document itself, I encourage you to do so; it is available at: <http://www.usccb.org/liturgy/SingToTheLord.pdf>.

THE NEW ROMAN MISSAL

No news from Rome yet....

UPCOMING EVENTS

DIOCESAN LITURGIES

The Chrism Mass

The Chrism Mass will be celebrated at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Davenport, on Monday, March 22, at 5:00 p.m. I would ask that we all encourage the members of our parishes—especially those in the RCIA or preparing for Confirmation—to attend this beautiful and important liturgy.

Ordination

Rev. Mr. Joseph Nguyen, a seminarian for our diocese, will be ordained to the priesthood on Saturday, May 22, at 10 a.m. at Sacred Heart Cathedral. Please keep Deacon Nguyen in your prayers as he enters this final phase of preparation for priestly ministry.

CONTINUING FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

Loras Liturgical Music Conference – July 6-8, 2010

Save the date! The keynote speaker will be Rev. Jan Michael Joncas.

“Concerning the Baptized” - July 9-10, 2010

The Archdiocese of Dubuque and the FDLC are sponsoring a two-day institute on the initiation journey for those already baptized but seeking to come into full communion with the Catholic Church. The program will take place in Cedar Rapids. Mark your calendars!

For more opportunities, see the Liturgy Events webpage at: <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litevents.htm>.

LITURGY PREPARATION

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Time for the Start of the Easter Vigil

The *Missale Romanum* states that the Easter Vigil is to take place in darkness, after nightfall. Traditionally in this diocese, and according to the Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy in 2003, that has been calculated as 45 minutes to an hour after sunset. Therefore, for the Diocese of Davenport, the Vigil on April 3, 2010, may not begin before 8:15 PM. (Note the time change; the same is true for the Archdiocese of Dubuque.)

The Month of May

May is traditionally regarded as a Marian month. Please recall, however, that the Easter Season (including Pentecost) should remain the primary focus in both prayer and in the liturgical environment. Popular devotions are to take their life from the liturgy, not overshadow it.

Sunday, May 9, the Sixth Sunday of Easter, is also Mother's Day this year. As a secular holiday, it should in no way overshadow the primary celebration of the paschal mystery and the Easter Season. The Book of Blessings (#1724ff) contains an appropriate rite for parish use. The same applies to Father's Day, June 20 (See BB #1729ff).

Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Amos

The anniversary of the episcopal ordination of Bishop Amos, observed as a Feast in the Diocese, will be celebrated on June 7 this year. The Mass "For the Bishop" (Masses for Various Needs and Occasions I. For the Church 3. For the Bishop) with its appropriate readings should be celebrated. It would also be appropriate to include a particular petition for the Bishop as part of the Prayers of the Faithful on the weekend of June 5-6.

INTERCESSIONS

(1) "Intercessions for Life" may be found on the USCCB website at:

<http://www.usccb.org/prolife/liturgy/wolarchive.shtml>

In addition, in light of the debates surrounding health care reform, consider the following (from the USCCB) for inclusion:

That Congress will act to ensure that needed health care reform will truly protect the life, dignity and health care of all and that we will raise our voices to protect the unborn and the most vulnerable and to preserve our freedom of conscience. We pray to the Lord.

(2) Monthly intercession for vocations (courtesy of Fr. Marty Goetz, Director of Vocations):

For those discerning a religious vocation, may the grace of faith and trust guide them, we pray:

Also, please keep Joseph Nguyen in your parish prayers as he prepares to be ordained to the priesthood for our diocese; for example:

For Joseph Nguyen, and for all our seminarians; that they would be filled with the Holy Spirit and serve our diocese with zeal and compassion; we pray to the Lord.

For Joseph Nguyen, who will be ordained to the presbyterate in May, that he would be blessed and supported in his call to serve the Lord and the Church; we pray to the Lord.

(3) Weekly intercessions:

- April 4 EASTER SUNDAY: SOLEMNITY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD
For those who suffer in the shadow of death; that they would know resurrection joy. We pray....
- April 11 2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER (Divine Mercy Sunday)
That the sick and those troubled by the unclean spirits of oppression and poverty would know the mercy of God through the compassion of the Church; we pray....
- April 18 3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER
For the safeguarding of the earth and the sea; that we would sing God's praises with every creature. We pray....
- April 25 4th SUNDAY OF EASTER
For an end to discrimination in all its forms; for a welcoming of every nation, race, people, and tongue. We pray....

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