THE NEW ROMAN MISSAL

HERE WE GO...

We are now less than 4 weeks away from beginning to pray with the third edition of the Roman Missal. Are we ready? Some thoughts to consider....

Am I personally ready? The People of God deserve the very best from us. If necessary, have I worked through any negative feelings regarding this change, so I can minister most effectively? Am I studying the new texts, so I can pray them—proclaim or chant them—well?

Are our communities ready? Do we have the materials that we need? Have we kept everyone informed...through workshops, small faith-sharing groups, written information, and announcements when the community is gathered? Are we taking time to practice the new texts, and sing the new Mass setting, together? Are parish leaders and ministers ready to model full and active participation?

Are we not only preparing for some changes in the words we use, but are we preparing to be hospitable communities? Will the people have what they need to enter fully and actively into the liturgy? Will hospitality ministers help to make resources available?

Just as a reminder ... if you have parishioners who need large print or Braille pew cards, they are available from the Xavier Society for the Blind (e-mail your request to kathleen@xaviersocietyfortheblind.org ).

Will those who want to know more about the changes have their questions answered? Are we ready to refer them to helpful resources?

Will we respond to any mistakes and confusion with good humor and patient understanding?

Will we be ready to welcome those at Christmas who might be visiting, or not regularly celebrating the liturgy, and may be unaware of the changes?
UPCOMING EVENTS

DIOCESAN LITURGIES

Rite of Election
The Rite of Election will be celebrated at Sacred Heart Cathedral on February 26 (First Sunday of Lent) and again at St. Mary in Ottumwa on March 4 (Second Sunday of Lent). Both liturgies begin at 3:00 p.m.

Chriism Mass
The Chrism Mass will be celebrated on Monday, March 26, at 5:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Davenport.

CONTINUING FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

North American Forum on the Catechumenate **SAVE THE DATE**

The Forum will be returning to the Diocese of Davenport next year on July 6-7 to present a workshop on Evangelization. For more than the immediate RCIA Team, this event will deepen participant’s passion for evangelization and present practical approaches to this essential ministry.

We Preach Christ Crucified: A Conference on Catholic Preaching (June 25-27, 2012)

Hosted at Notre Dame, this conference aims to celebrate the renewal of Catholic preaching since Vatican II, and especially since the promulgation of Fulfilled in Your Hearing 30 years ago; to lift up and engage the formidable ongoing challenges of the ministry of preaching given in Vatican II, Evangelii Nuntiandi, Fulfilled in Your Hearing and Verbum Domini; and to reflect on the changed circumstances and new challenges for preaching arising in our increasingly plural context.


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

FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

Don’t forget…
Set your clocks back an hour this weekend!

Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 a.m. on November 6.
THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

The Precatechumenate and Catechumenate

As the name implies, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is marked by the liturgical celebration of the journey towards full initiation through the Easter Sacraments. Most RCIA teams are well aware that the transition from the Precatechumenate to the Catechumenate is celebrated through the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens (RCIA §§ 41-74), and that the transition from Catechumen to one of the Elect is celebrated in the Rite of Election, preceded by the Rite of Sending (§§ 106-117). There are analogous celebrations for those baptized in other Christian communities who are journeying to full communion (§§ 411-458).

During the Catechumenate (see §§ 75-80 for introduction), a number of other rites are available for those not baptized that you may want to use. A number of these may be celebrated by the catechist rather than requiring an ordained minister; please see the texts in question for details.

- Celebrations of the Word of God (§§81-89)
- Minor Exorcisms (§§ 90-94)
- Blessing of Catechumens (§§ 95-97)
- Anointing of Catechumens (§§ 98-103).

In addition, the Presentation of the Creed and Lord’s Prayer may be celebrated during this time if necessary (§§ 104-5).

LITURGY PREPARATION

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: January 18-25

During this week, the whole Christian community throughout the world is invited to pray in communion with the prayer of Jesus “that they all may be one” (John 17:21). The theme for this year’s Week of Prayer is “We Will All Be Changed by the Victory of Our Lord Jesus Christ” (cf. 1Corinthians 15:51-58). For more information and for resources, please go to http://www.geii.org/wpcu_index.htm.

Day of Penance: Monday, January 23

January 22 has been designated by the U.S. Bishops as a — particular day of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion, and of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life. Because January 22 falls on a Sunday this year, the observance has been moved to Monday, January 23.

In the third edition of the Roman Missal, two options are given from the Masses for Various Needs and Occasions: (1) For Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life (#48/1; white vestments) or (2) For the Preservation of Peace and Justice (#30; with violet vestments).

Resources for observing this day can be found on the USCCB website: http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/.
Please consider using the following (from Archbishop Thomas Collins of Toronto) as part of your Prayer of the Faithful, as appropriate:

“That the scourge of abortion be lifted from our land, that those who promote it may be brought to a change of heart, that all who are tempted to abortion may be lovingly helped to protect the precious gift of life, and that all who have experienced an abortion may be comforted with the healing gift of love.”

INTERCESSIONS

(1) “Intercessions for Life” (in English and Spanish) may be found on the USCCB website at:
   http://www.usccb.org/prolife/liturgy/wolarchive.shtml

(2) Intercession for vocations (in English and Spanish) linked to the Lectionary cycle may be found at the For Your Vocation website:
   http://www.foryourvocation.org/vocation-directors/liturgical-resources.cfm

(3) Lectionary-based intercessions focused on social justice can be found at the Center of Concern website:
   http://www.coc.org/ef

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