**Updating Your Parish Liturgical Library**

The Eucharist

*The Roman Missal and GIRM* – the third edition was published in 2011.

*Excerpts from the Roman Missal* – those texts used by the presider from the chair are also available in a separate volume; 2018

*The Lectionary* – 2nd edition; 4 volumes; updated in 1998 and 2000. Also currently being reviewed and revised—a process that is expected to take quite some time.

*The Lectionary for Mass Supplement* – 2017


For EMHCs: *Administration of Communion and Viaticum by an Extraordinary Minister / La Sagrada Comunión y el Viático Administrados por un Ministro Extraordinario* – USCCB 2013

*Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest* – the 2nd edition of this ritual text was released in 2007. An update reflecting the changes brought about by the Third Edition of the Roman Missal was published in 2012. The 2007 text is in both English and Spanish; the 2012 text is English only.

Other Sacraments


*The Order of Confirmation* – A pastor may rarely be the one to celebrate the sacrament, and it would be good for the catechist preparing individuals for confirmation to have access to the ritual text. The most recent edition (a retranslation) was published in 2016 and is available from USCCB Publishing (bilingual edition).

*The Rite of Penance* – 1974-5; note changes made by Pope John Paul II by his apostolic letter, a *motu proprio* called *Misericordia Dei* (2002). A new edition (with readings from the updated Lectionary) was published by the USCCB in 2010.

*Pastoral Care of the Sick* – U.S. edition of all the texts needed for the sacramental care of the sick and the dying, including Anointing of the Sick and Viaticum, and rites used after death. There are two 1983 editions – one published before and the other after the promulgation of the new *Code of Canon Law*. It is the latter edition that you will want to have on hand. (A quick check will reveal which edition you have: if #14 reads “may be conferred” it is the older edition; if it reads “is to be conferred” then you have the right one.)
The Order of Celebrating Matrimony – 2016. The second edition of this ritual book has been published in English. The Spanish edition was published in 2010. There is one bilingual edition of the ritual text available (though it cites but does not reproduce the readings).

Other Rites


Optional Ritual Texts

While not strictly necessary, the following really ought to be part of a parish’s liturgical library:


The Liturgy of the Hours – 1986 edition. The LOH is at the start of a lengthy process of revision, expected to be completed around 2020.

There is 1992 Supplement to the LOH. A 2014 Supplement is currently awaiting approval.

Exorcisms and Related Supplications – The revised rite has now been published (2017), though it is available only to bishops.

Prayers Against the Powers of Darkness (Súplicas contra el poder de las tinieblas) contains the complete text of “Supplications Which May Be Used by the Faithful Privately in Their Struggle Against the Powers of Darkness,” which is Appendix II of Exorcisms and Related Supplications, the ritual book used by exorcists.

The Lectionary for Masses with Children – approved in 1993 for use in Masses where most participants are children, or for Children’s Liturgy of the Word, these texts have also been revised and are awaiting approval in Rome. Therefore, a parish would do well postponing any purchase at this time. However, if a copy is needed, a combined Sunday and weekday edition is again available from Catholic Book Publishing.

The Eucharistic Prayers for Masses with Children – not retranslated (that work is still pending), but with changes to reflect the Third Edition of the Roman Missal; published as a separate booklet by the USCCB in 2011.

Collection of Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary – While these will eventually be retranslated, the 1990 edition may be used as long as the proper changes are made to match the wording of the new Missal. A new edition with changes to match the wording of the new Missal was published in 2012.

Order for the Solemn Exposition of the Holy Eucharist – The Liturgical Press took the norms from Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist outside Mass and prepared a number of Eucharistic services; helpful if you don’t want to do all the preparatory work.
Blessing of a Child in the Womb – The English and Spanish versions were approved and are now available as stand-alone documents. This text will be included in the Book of Blessings and Bendicional when they are revised.

Other Resources

The Code of Canon Law – 1983; later additions by Pope John Paul II are included in the updated translation and commentary from the Canon Law Society of America – 2000. There have been subsequent additions since then.


Liturgical Documents


This reference includes key documents, such as the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, the GIRM, the Introduction to the Lectionary, Built of Living Stones, and Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship among others. The focus of this volume is on parish celebrations of the Sunday liturgy.


Emphasis is on the praenotanda for the various sacraments and other rites. An updated edition is in the works.


This volume will focus on the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, the documents that led up to it, and the instructions that followed.


This volume will focus on contemporary liturgical issues.

Update on Spanish Language Resources

The USCCB has been working on Spanish language texts for use in the United States. If a specific edition for the United States is not yet available, an approved edition from another country (e.g. Mexico) may be used until the US edition is ready.

The following resources are available now:

Roman Missal (Misal Romano, Tercera Edición) – now in effect.
Rite of Baptism of Children (2009; Spanish edition for the US – so this edition must be used) – from USCCB, Liturgical Press, and Liturgy Training Publications; bilingual versions (with the new English OBC) are available.


Pastoral Care of the Sick – Liturgy Training Publications; a bilingual pocket edition is available from Catholic Book Publishing Corp.

Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest (2006; bilingual edition) – USCCB

Quinceañera – also available on USCCB website

GIRM – available in Spanish from LTP


Rite of Marriage (2010; Spanish edition for the US – so this edition must be used) – from USCCB, Liturgical Press (a bilingual version is also available), and Liturgy Training Publications

Administration of Communion and Viaticum by an Extraordinary Minister / La Sagrada Comunión y el Viático Administrados por un Ministro Extraordinario – USCCB 2013

The following are still in the works:

The Sunday Lectionary (volume 1) and Weekday and Ritual Lectionary (volumes 2-4)

The U.S. edition of the Leccionario de la Misa is currently on hold. Once approved and promulgated, no other Spanish versions of the Leccionario will be permitted for liturgical use in the United States, including the Mexican edition currently in widespread use. USCCB Communications will be the sole publisher of the Leccionario for use in the United States. Like its English counterpart, the new Leccionario will be published in four volumes. A Spanish-language Book of the Gospels, the Evangeliario, will follow after the publication of the Leccionario.

Book of Blessings (Bendicional) – Rome declined to give the recognitio; the USCCB is continuing to work on the text

Rite of Ordination – not yet available for the US

Rite of Penance – translation for US in progress

Liturgical Press offers liturgical books from Mexico. For example, the Book of Blessings (Bendicional) and Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist outside Mass (Ritual de la Sagrada Comunión y del Culto Eucharístico fuera de la Misa) can be obtained from here.
Other resources to consider include:

