

## LITURGYNOTES – FOR OCTOBER 2018

“Good celebrations foster and nourish faith. Poor celebrations weaken and destroy it.”

### LITURGY NEWS FROM THE USCCB

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#### **Vision 20/20**

<https://www.davenportdiocese.org/vision-2020-liturgy>

#### **Misal Romano**

<https://www.davenportdiocese.org/misal-romano>

#### **Share the Journey: Love Your Neighbor**

<https://www.sharejourney.org/>

The Committee on Divine Worship is in the early stages of preparing a new English edition of the RCIA, to be titled the *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*.

Although the Latin *editio typica* has not changed, the International Commission on English in the Liturgy has completed a new translation of the Latin text. The publication of a new book will provide an opportunity to review and evaluate the various distinctive features of the current English edition. These include its rearrangement of the Latin *editio typica*, the adaptations approved for the United States, and additional material composed and confirmed for use in this country.

The Committee and its consultants have had preliminary discussions on the current ritual book and the RCIA process, and has also received the results from two surveys on the *National Statutes for the Catechuminate*, both conducted in 2014: one by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate that looked specifically at how the statutes were being implemented, and the other a consultation conducted by the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions that suggested ways that the statutes could be improved. As a complement to these discussions and expert consultations, the Secretariat of Divine Worship would also like to hear from our readers about their experiences with the RCIA, both the process in general and, in particular, the ritual book and the *National Statutes*:

- What have you found helpful and effective?
- What difficulties have you encountered?
- What changes would you recommend?
- Do you have other feedback concerning the RCIA (book and/or process)?

In your reply, please tell us a little bit about yourself:

- How have you been involved in RCIA ministry? In what capacity and for how long?
- Have you gone through the RCIA process yourself? What was your experience like?

Through December 31, 2018, responses can be e-mailed to [RCIA@usccb.org](mailto:RCIA@usccb.org) or sent by regular mail to: USCCB – Divine Worship, 3211 Fourth Street, NE, Washington, DC 20017, ATTN: RCIA Consultation.

**RELIGIOUS SUPPLY: ANNUAL RESOURCES FROM LTP**

LTP has announced that its annual resources are once again available. You may order your materials directly from LTP, 800-533-1900 or from Religious Supply Center in Davenport. For details, questions, information about discounts, or to place your order, call Mark, 563-324-0669 or 800-292-0052, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., M-F and 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Saturday. **Resources will NO LONGER be delivered to the Clergy Overnighter in November (they weren't being picked up); instead, you will need to either have the materials shipped to you or picked up at the store.**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

See the Liturgy Events webpage at: <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/liturgy-events>.

DIOCESAN LITURGIES

CONTINUING FORMATION FOR LITURGY / LITURGICAL MINISTRY

See the Liturgy Events webpage at: <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/liturgy-events>.

On-Line Courses from LTP in October: *Sing to the Lord*

**Oct 9 – *Sing to the Lord, Part 1: A Theology of Parish Music Ministry:*** The human voice is the oldest and most accessible musical instrument. We sing for civic events, family gatherings, and for the most sacred of moments. This workshop will unpack the theology of *Sing to the Lord* in order to help you develop a vision for your parish music ministry. It is important to know “why” so you can develop the “how.”  
Link: <https://www.ltp.org/products/details/VWSTL1/sing-to-the-lord-part-1>

**Oct 23 – *Sing to the Lord, Part 2: Practical Approaches for Implementation:*** As we reflect on the last 10 years of *Sing to the Lord*, we will unearth its “buried treasures” to guide your music ministry. This workshop will give you practical ideas for planning music that enlivens the faith of the people of God as they sing and pray the Sunday Eucharist, the sacraments, and other parish celebrations.  
Link: <https://www.ltp.org/products/details/VWSTL2/sing-to-the-lord-part-2>

**LITURGY PREPARATION**

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

*The 2019 Liturgical Calendar is also being sent with this edition of LiturgyNotes.*

*Please note that Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 am on November 4 – set your clocks back an hour!*

November 18: World Day of the Poor

USCCB prepares a bilingual homily help and pastoral aid for the World Day of the Poor/CCHD Collection Sunday. Look for it in a few weeks in the CCHD Newsletter, and on the CCHD homepage at [www.usccb.org/cchd](http://www.usccb.org/cchd).

The Pope’s message for this observance may be found here:

[http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/poveri/documents/papa-francesco\\_20180613\\_messaggio-ii-giornatamondiale-poveri-2018.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/poveri/documents/papa-francesco_20180613_messaggio-ii-giornatamondiale-poveri-2018.html)

December 8: Immaculate Conception

Remains a Holy Day of Obligation, even though it falls on a Saturday. Only the Mass of the Day is permitted. Ritual Masses (i.e., marriage, confirmation) and funeral Masses are prohibited. Marriages celebrated during Mass on that day must use the readings and orations of the holy day. A marriage or funeral may be celebrated outside of Mass using the texts from the Rite of Marriage or the Order of Christian Funerals.

*Please note:* both the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and the Advent Sunday are days of obligation. One should fulfill both obligations by assisting at two Masses, one for each of the two days (that is, one Mass between 4pm Friday evening and midnight Saturday night/Sunday morning and one Mass between 4pm Saturday evening and midnight Sunday night/Monday morning; see the accompanying 2019 Diocesan Liturgical Calendar for details).

	<b>Morning Prayer</b>	<b>Mass before 4pm</b>	<b>Mass after 4pm</b>	<b>Evening Prayer</b>
<b>Friday, December 7</b>	St. Ambrose	St. Ambrose	Immaculate Conception	EPI of the Immaculate Conception
<b>Saturday, December 8</b>	Immaculate Conception	Immaculate Conception	Second Sunday of Advent	EP I 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent
<b>Sunday, December 9</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Advent	Second Sunday of Advent		EP II 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Christmas and Christmastime

(see: <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/liturgical-seasons#AdventChristmas>)

1. God reveals God’s self to us as the One who loves us. The feast days during Christmas remind us of this revelation and seek our response to it.
2. The color is white or gold; it is ideal if vestments and fabrics used are different from those used at Easter.
3. A good Penitential Rite is the third form, #II (now found in Appendix VI of the Missal).
4. Sing the *Gloria* the entire season. The carol “Angels We Have Heard on High” may not replace the Gloria.
5. Christ is present here and now. TODAY is born our Savior. Avoid historicizing. For example, use Christmas music with good theology for the whole season (Hark the Herald Angels Sing) and avoid historical settings (O Little Town of Bethlehem).
6. Make sure your decorating reflects all that is important: the Word, the people.... Enhance the whole building, not just the sanctuary. Remember: less is more!

7. Remember that Advent and Christmas are the perfect times to remember Mary, our ultimate model for behavior.

a. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is observed on December 8 (see above).

b. The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is observed on December 12.

a. The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, observed on January 1, falls on a Tuesday this year and so IS a Holy Day of Obligation. Ritual Masses (i.e., marriage, confirmation) and Funeral Masses are prohibited. A marriage may be celebrated outside Mass using texts from the Rite of Marriage; likewise, a funeral may take place outside of Mass.

8. There are two customary proclamations used during the Christmas Season. The deacon, reader, or cantor may sing/proclaim these texts, which will now be found in Appendix I of the Missal. See the diocesan website (use link above).

a. At Christmas Midnight Mass, after the greeting and introduction, the “Proclamation of the Birth of Christ” is sung or proclaimed. The Gloria immediately follows.

b. On Epiphany, the “Proclamation of the Date of Easter” is sung or proclaimed after the homily or after the prayer after communion.

9. During most of the year, we make a profound bow during the Proclamation of Faith while speaking the words: “by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.” During the Vigil of Christmas and all the Masses of Christmas, we genuflect at this time—highlighting the awesome mystery of the Incarnation.

10. Regarding the various Christmas Masses:

a. For prayers, the *Missal* has five different Masses for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The Mass for December 24 is the proper text for Masses in the morning of December 24 (except this year – we use the Mass for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent). The proper text for Masses in the evening (= after 4 p.m.) of December 24 is the Christmas – Vigil Mass. The text for Christmas – Mass at Midnight is to be used for Masses beginning “at night,” preferably on or around midnight between December 24 and 25. The proper text for the first Mass in the morning of December 25 is the Christmas – Mass at Dawn. Later Masses on December 25 should use the text for Christmas – Mass during the Day.

b. The Mass at Midnight may be preceded by a more prolonged vigil, taken from the Office of Readings (see the *General Instruction of the Liturgy of the Hours* #71-73, 98, 215). This extended vigil is the preferred time for the blessing of the crèche (*Book of Blessings*, ch. 48, §1542-44).

c. According to the *Lectionary for Mass*, for the three Masses of Christmas (Midnight, Dawn, Day), the proper readings for the Mass may be used or the readings may be chosen from among any of the readings for Christmas or the Vigil—based on pastoral need. Pastors should carefully discern those needs before selecting readings other than those proper to each Mass. Only the Vigil readings may be used at the Vigil Mass.

11. The crèche does not go under the altar or even in the sanctuary. It is preferable to put out a crèche that represents the whole story; there is no need to have “traveling kings.” Please see the *Book of Blessings*, chapter 48, §1544. Additional information can be found in the GIRM §299 and in *Built of Living Stones* §§124, 125, and 128.

12. There is a tradition of blessing chalk on the Epiphany, which is then used by the faithful to bless their homes. In addition, this would be a proper time to celebrate the “Order for the Blessing of Homes during the Christmas and Easter Seasons” found in the *Book of Blessings* §§ 1597-1621. The Epiphany

blessing is also available on our website: <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/liturgical-seasons> OR <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/documents/2016/6/litEpiphanyChalkBlessing.pdf>.

Music of the Season: Christmas (by Colleen Darland)

*Colleen Darland works at the chancery in the Vocations and Finance offices. She received a B.A. in Church Music from Wartburg College, emphasis in organ. She has held numerous parish music positions and serves as one of the diocesan organists. In July, she attended the Liturgical Music Ministers conference at Notre Dame University as part of the Notre Dame Vision Summer Program. The topic was: "Music in the Liturgical Year". This series will summarize her insights from various talks on each liturgical season.*

During Christmastime, we are in a constant struggle against the secular perspective to maintain the liturgical meaning behind the season. The secular season of Christmas is often characterized by over-the-top gift giving and gaudy decorations that disappear as soon as Christmas Day is over. While we are still keeping Christmas, it seems that many are already preparing for Valentine's Day! With our music, we must clearly mark the change in the season between Advent, Christmas, and the following Ordinary Time. If Advent is in part about preparation for the incarnation of heaven on earth, Christmas brings this preparation to fruition by focusing on our identification with Christ, rooted in our baptism. The music of Christmas should sensitize us for peacemaking, even as Christ is the Prince of Peace, bringing fulfillment and wholeness to a broken world.

Though there are few Christmas songs that highlight the humanity of Christ by itself, it is something, nevertheless, to contemplate. Most Christmas songs focus on the beauty of Christ made incarnate at his birth, but we also need to realize that Baby Jesus was just that: a baby. Yes, a baby who cried – and did everything else that babies do! He had taken on humanity to its fullest extent. As musicians, we need to remember the importance of a cry. The word itself is referenced over 200 times in the Bible. Singing is, at its core, a nuanced cry. A true release in singing, giving freedom of tone, letting go, takes time and trust. Choirs and cantors should work to enter the freedom of the music, releasing all tension, and singing from the heart.

Especially in the chaos of the holiday season, we can often get hung up on the details, making every liturgy perfect. We need to be reminded of Thomas Aquinas' criteria for beauty, that is: wholeness (integrity), radiance (clarity), and harmony (consonance). Beauty must be authentic: be your best, no more, no less. The congregation will likely not notice if the organ registration wasn't your planned one, or that that one measure in the tenor part of the Christmas prelude didn't go exactly as you rehearsed in the warmup. But they will notice that you and your ensembles played and sang with heart, conveying the joy of the season, drawing them into the internal and external peace of the season.

I'd like to offer you a suggestion for reading: *The Musician's Soul*, by James Jordan. This book explores the spirituality of music ministers. So often, we struggle with balancing our own spiritual participation in the liturgies we lead, even as we find fulfillment in them. This book explores how we can use our ministry as a way to enter into self-exploration and spiritual growth. Our constant exposure to beauty, creates a beautiful person. Bitterness in our ministry is fed by spiritual barrenness. I encourage all of us to find the beauty in every rehearsal, every note, even if it isn't perfect. Allow your baptismal identity, deepened by the peace and joy of the Christmas season, to penetrate and resonate with the rest of your life.

RESOURCES FOR VISION 20/20

Please go to: <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/vision-2020-liturgy>

OTHER INTERCESSIONS

Here are other resources for the Universal Prayer:

- (1) Intercessions for various life issues may be found on the USCCB website at:  
<http://usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/prayers/intercessory-prayers-for-life.cfm>
- (2) Intercession for vocations (in English and Spanish) keyed to the lectionary cycle may be found at the Diocese of Arlington website:  
[http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/vocations/voc\\_intercessions.aspx](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/vocations/voc_intercessions.aspx)
- (3) The Center for Liturgy website offers general intercessions for each Sunday as well:  
<http://liturgy.slu.edu/>
- (4) The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops offers intercessions and homily ideas as part of their Pastoral Initiative for Life and Family:  
<http://www.cccb.ca/site/eng/church-in-canada-and-world/catholic-church-in-canada/life-and-family/3296-documents-and-activities-proposed-by-the-ccb>

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