

LITURGYNOTES – FOR OCTOBER 2020

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

LITURGY AND COVID-19

In this issue...

- Liturgy & COVID-19: new video by the Iowa bishops
- Liturgy News: Pope Francis to release new encyclical; ongoing catechesis on life after the pandemic
- Upcoming Events
- Liturgical Calendar: 2020-21 Liturgical Calendar; Christmastime
- The Universal Prayer...

CONTACT:

Deacon Frank Agnoli, MD, DMin
Director of Liturgy &
Director of Deacon Formation
E-Mail: agnoli@davenportdiocese.org
Phone: 563-888-4257

Vision 20/20

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

Share the Journey: Love Your Neighbor

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

DIOCESAN WEBPAGES

Pandemic Policies and Resources:

<https://www.davenportdiocese.org/flu>

Prayer and Support:

<https://www.davenportdiocese.org/prayer-and-support>

Q and A:

<https://www.davenportdiocese.org/qa>

Video from the Iowa Bishops:

<https://youtu.be/ejeeBoNdlxY>



LOOKING AHEAD

One day, we will return to celebrating the liturgy without the current limitations in place. But, the question is, will people come back to church? To that

end, the bishops of our province are beginning to discuss what to do regarding catechesis about Sunday Eucharist and what's behind the "Sunday obligation." How might we encourage parishioners who have grown used to celebrating virtually or at home or not at all to see the value of and return to Sunday Eucharist at the parish? What do we need to do to make our worship more attractive? The Diocesan Liturgical Commission is starting to have this conversation as well, and the questions being raised fit right into the focus of Vision 2020. What thoughts do you have? Please e-mail your suggestions to agnoli@davenportdiocese.org.

LITURGY NEWS

POPE FRANCIS TO RELEASE NEW ENCYCLICAL

Pope Francis will visit the Italian town of Assisi on 3 October to sign a new encyclical. The encyclical is entitled *Fratelli tutti* or "All Brothers" on fraternity and social friendship. The title, whose official English-language version has not yet been released, is a reference to the writings of St. Francis: "Let us all,

LiturgyNotes – October 2020

“The liturgy is not ‘the field of do-it-yourself’, but the epiphany of ecclesial communion.” – Pope Francis

brothers, consider the Good Shepherd who to save His sheep bore the suffering of the Cross" (*Admonitions*, 6, 1: FF155).

Closely related to this encyclical is the Pope’s Wednesday catechesis series on life after the pandemic. I am posting these talks on our pandemic prayer and support page (<https://www.davenportdiocese.org/prayer-and-support>).

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

DIOCESAN LITURGIES

None scheduled.

CONTINUING FORMATION FOR LITURGY / LITURGICAL MINISTRY

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

You are invited to take advantage of the Diocese’s Mental Health Awareness Week Project. See <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/miaw> for details.

LITURGY PREPARATION

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

2020-2021 Liturgical Calendar

The 2020-2021 Diocesan Liturgical Calendar is now available at:

<https://www.davenportdiocese.org/documents/2020/9/LiturgicalCalendar2021.pdf>

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 (if permitted) 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). (Again, if permitted.)
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!

LiturgyNotes – October 2020

“The liturgy is not ‘the field of do-it-yourself’, but the epiphany of ecclesial communion.” – Pope Francis

7. Remember that Advent and Christmas are the perfect times to remember Mary, our ultimate model for behavior. See the diocesan liturgical calendar for details of what liturgies may be celebrated (given that we are currently dispensed from the Holy Day obligation).
 - a. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is observed on Tuesday, December 8.
 - b. The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is observed on Saturday, December 12. The evening Mass is for the 3rd Sunday of Advent.
 - c. The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, is observed on Friday, January 1.

8. There are two customary proclamations used during the Christmas Season. The deacon, reader, or cantor may sing (if permitted)/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 4th 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

LiturgyNotes – October 2020

“The liturgy is not ‘the field of do-it-yourself’, but the epiphany of ecclesial communion.” – Pope Francis

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

A Suggestion from Fr. Troy Richmond

Our Liturgy Committees have been brainstorming ideas on how to deal with Christmas during the COVID pandemic. One idea that came up was promoting the 12 Days of Christmas. We would encourage our regular Mass attendees (a much smaller group during the COVID pandemic) to celebrate Christmas by attending Mass during the Christmas season, whether a weekend or weekday Mass, in order to allow those who typically only go to Mass a few times a year to attend our Christmas Eve or Christmas Day Masses. I thought this was worth sharing as it may be an idea other parishes wish to take up in order to allow more participation at Christmas.

Lent/Triduum 2021

Next year, *Ash Wednesday* falls on February 17.

In order to maintain physical distancing, the *Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion* will be celebrated in two larger churches, as follows:

Sunday, February 21 (1st Sunday of Lent): St. Patrick in Iowa City @ 3pm
Tentatively for the Iowa City, Grinnell, and Ottumwa Deaneries (depending on numbers)

Sunday, February 28 (2nd Sunday of Lent): Sacred Heart Cathedral @ 3pm
Tentatively for the Davenport, Clinton, and Keokuk Deaneries (depending on numbers)

Please recall that the Rite of Sending does not need to be done at a Sunday Mass... just at a “suitable time” (RCIA #108). It does not even have to be done in the context of Eucharist.

There are a lot of unknowns right now. Depending on the status of the pandemic, it may be necessary to restrict attendance by guests, and perhaps even limit participation to the catechumens only (while having parishes celebrate the Call to Continuing Conversion with the candidates in their own communities). If it is impossible to meet as a large group, pastors will be given the faculty to celebrate the Rite of Election in their own parishes.

The *Chrism Mass* is tentatively scheduled for March 29, the Monday of Holy Week. Details pending.

The Triduum falls on Thursday, April 1 through Sunday, April 4 – with the *Easter Vigil* falling on the night of Saturday, April 3. On that night, the earliest that the Vigil may begin is 8:15pm.

RESOURCES FOR THE UNIVERSAL PRAYER

(1) Diocese of Davenport Vision 2020: Intercessions for Sundays, Seasons, and Holy Days
<https://www.davenportdiocese.org/vision-2020-liturgy>

(2) The Center for Liturgy website offers general intercessions for each Sunday as well:
<http://liturgy.slu.edu/>

LiturgyNotes – October 2020

“The liturgy is not ‘the field of do-it-yourself’, but the epiphany of ecclesial communion.” – Pope Francis

(3) Intercessions for various life issues may be found on the USCCB website at (in English and Spanish):

<http://usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/prayers/intercessory-prayers-for-life.cfm>

<http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/word-of-life/index.cfm>

Subscribe at: www.bit.ly/word-of-life

(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>



This and similar graphics may be found at: <https://www.chausa.org/masks>

If you have received this newsletter in error, or no longer wish to receive *LiturgyNotes*, please contact Laurie Hoefling at the chancery and request to be removed from our distribution list.

Phone: 563-888-4220

E-Mail: hoefling@davenportdiocese.org