New Contact Information

The Office for Worship has changed our email and fax numbers, effective December 26, 2019. Please make these changes in your Contact Lists.

PHONE 508-798-0417 (unchanged)

E-MAIL ofworship@worcesterdiocese.org (new)

FAX 508-342-7302 (new)
Pope Francis on the Importance of Liturgical Formation

In order for the liturgy to fulfill its formative and transforming function, it is necessary that the pastors and the laity be introduced to their meaning and symbolic language, including art, song and music in the service of the mystery celebrated, even silence. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* itself adopts the mystagogical way to illustrate the liturgy, valuing its prayers and signs. Mystagogy: this is a suitable way to enter the mystery of the liturgy, in the living encounter with the crucified and risen Lord. Mystagogy means discovering the new life we have received in the People of God through the Sacraments, and continually rediscovering the beauty of renewing it.

Regarding the stages of formation, we know from experience that, in addition to the initial phase, it is necessary to cultivate the ongoing formation of the clergy and laity, especially those who are involved in the ministries serving the liturgy. Formation not once, but continuing. As for the ordained ministers, also in view of a healthy *ars celebrandi*, the Council’s appeal is valid: “A prime need, therefore, is that attention be directed, first of all, to the liturgical instruction of the clergy.”

Dear brothers and sisters, we are all called to deepen and revive our liturgical formation. The liturgy is in fact the main road through which Christian life passes through every phase of its growth. You therefore have before you a great and beautiful task: to work so that the People of God may rediscover the beauty of meeting the Lord in the celebration of His mysteries and, by meeting Him, have life in His name. I thank you for your efforts and I bless you, asking you to always reserve for me a place – a large one! – in your prayer.

Pope Francis, Address to a Plenary Assembly of the Congregation for Divine worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, 14 February 2019

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1 *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, no. 14.
Clergy Workshops on the New 
Order of Baptism of Children

The new *Order of Baptism of Children* has been approved by the Bishops of our country and confirmed by the Holy See. It will be available on January 6, 2020. Its first-use date is February 2, 2020 and is the only edition which may be used after of April 12, 2020.

Workshops for Priests and Deacons will be presented at three times in three parts of the Diocese in order to assist in the effective implementation on this new liturgical book. Each workshop will explain what’s new in the ritual, as well as revisit its stational, musical and communitarian possibilities. Resources for Baptismal preparation and mystagogy will also be explored.

**REGISTRATION FORM**

NAME___________________________________________

PARISH__________________________________________

PLEASE REGISTER ME FOR THE FOLLOWING WORKSHOP:

☐ Friday, January 10, 2020 from 10-11:30am
   Saint Leo’s Convent, 99 Church Street, Leominster

☐ Monday, January 13, 2020 from 2-3:30pm
   Saint Paul’s Cathedral Cenacle, 38 High Street, Worcester

☐ Thursday, January 16, 2020 from 7-8:30pm
   Saint Joseph Basilica Center, 58 Whitcomb Street, Webster

Please mail a copy of this form with your Registration Fee of $25 to:

Office for Worship
38 High Street
Worcester, MA 01608
An Introduction to the Liturgy

This ten session course is designed for candidates for the permanent diaconate, but is open to anyone interested in a brief introduction to the study of Roman Catholic Liturgical practice. The current liturgical books will be studied in the light of a theological, historical and canonical analysis of the *Constitution on the Liturgy* (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*).

Monsignor James P. Moroney will teach the course on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 – 9:00 PM in the Cenacle at Saint Paul’s Cathedral, 38 High Street in Worcester.

The topics to be covered include:
- What is the Liturgy? (11 March)
- Liturgical History (18 and 25 March)
- Liturgical Books and Liturgical Law (1 April)
- Liturgical Renewal (8 April)
- Language, Culture and the Roman Rite (16 April)
- Liturgy, Time and Place (22 April)
- The Mass (29 April and 6 May)
- Current topics (13 May)

A fee of $20 is requested to cover the cost of materials. Interested students may register by clicking here.

“But in order that the Liturgy may be able to produce its full effects, it is necessary that the faithful come to it with proper dispositions, that their minds should be attuned to their words, they must do their part in the working of the grace that comes from above lest they receive it in vain.”

*Sacrosanctum concilium*, no. 11
An Introduction to Lent and Holy Week

Saturday, February 22, 2019, 9:00am to noon in the Cenacle at Saint Paul’s Cathedral, 38 High Street in Worcester.

Based on our Diocesan Guidelines for Lent and Holy Week, this morning with the staff of the Office for Worship is designed as a review for and extended discussion with those responsible for preparing the liturgies of Lent and the Sacred Paschal Triduum. Topics will include ritual, musical and environmental aspects as well as celebration in multi lingual and multi cultural communities. Presentations by Monsignor Moroney, Elizabeth Marcil, Deacon Novick and Richard Monroe.

Registration fee of $10. TO REGISTER CLICK HERE.

Mornings of Prayer for Liturgical Ministers

Each of these mornings begin at 9:00am at Saint Paul’s Cathedral with a celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours and a talk on the spirituality and theology of a particular ministry. This continues with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and concludes with a final presentation during Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The morning concludes by noon.

A Morning of Prayer for Lectors
Saturday, March 14, 9:00am-noon
With Fr Joseph Briody

A Morning of Prayer for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
Saturday, March 21, 9:00am-noon
With Monsignor Marc Caron

A Morning of Prayer for Deacons
Saturday, March 28, 9:00am-noon
With Monsignor Moroney

TO REGISTER, CLICK HERE
On Participation in the Mass

Some of our readers have suggested that they would find “bulletin inserts” which might be reproduced in parish bulletins to be a helpful resource. This month’s insert is on Participation in the Mass. It may be downloaded as a one page PDF by clicking here.

We participate in the Liturgy by virtue of our baptismal dignity, as members of a common Priesthood. We are made for the worship of God and to offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice to him. Participation in the Sacred Liturgy starts deep within the heart of each one of the baptized as faith makes us ever more one with Christ. In the Liturgy, joining our hearts and minds to the rites, words, and songs of the gathered assembly, we are drawn ever more deeply into Christ’s perfect sacrifice of praise.

Participation in the Mass also involves actions, gestures, postures, prayers, acclamations, and song. Such external participation in the Liturgy both expresses and reinforces our internal unity with Christ and with his Church.

Still we participate in the Mass “in different ways, according to [our] different orders, offices, and actual participation.” There are lectors who read the word of God and altar servers (acolytes) who carry candles and crosses and incense and help with other practicalities in the sanctuary. There are cantors and choirs and other music ministers and ushers, collectors, and ministers of hospitality. Sometimes there are extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion who help with the distribution of the Body and Blood of the Lord. All of these ministries, however, serve the gathered liturgical assembly, the holy people whom God has made his own—including you.

This community of the baptized forms one body at Mass. They “shun any appearance of individualism or division,” focusing only on giving thanks to God and offering the spotless Victim “not only through the hands of the priest but also together with him, and so that they may learn to offer themselves.”

This unity is most clearly seen in the common posture they observe. They stand when all are gathered for the Introductory Rites. They sit to hear the word of God, and stand again to hear the Holy Gospel proclaimed. They sit for the Homily, and stand again for the Creed and

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3 SC, no. 36; cf. SC, no. 26, GIRM, no. 91.

4 Cf. GIRM, no. 95.

5 Cf. GIRM, no. 95, SC no. 48, and Eucharisticum mysterium, no. 12.
the Prayer of the Faithful. Having been seated for the Preparation of the Gifts, they stand as one body to pray that “the Lord accept this sacrifice at your hands” (the *Suscipiat*) and then, kneel throughout the Eucharistic Prayer, the holiest part of the Mass. Standing to pray the Lord’s Prayer and to exchange a Sign of Peace, they then prepare to receive Communion. In the Diocese of Worcester the people kneel when the Priest holds up the Blessed Sacrament and says “Behold the Lamb of God” (*Ecce Agnus Dei*). Likewise, for the reception of Holy Communion they stand, return to their places to pray, and then stand again for the final rites of the Mass.

Why is it important that all who are present at Mass assume the same posture? Because we are called to be “one body, whether by hearing the word of God, or by joining in the prayers and the singing, or above all by the common offering of Sacrifice and by a common partaking at the Lord’s table.” So we outwardly manifest a deep internal unity of that body by our common posture. And by this external sign of our unity, we strengthen the internal will to die to ourselves and be one in this place.  

When I see the old man in front of me painfully struggling to stand for the Gospel with me, I feel one with him in a common joy that the Lord Jesus is about to speak to us. And when the little kid beside me struggles to stay on the kneeler, his head barely clearing the pew, I know that he is learning to be a part of something much larger than himself. What matters to them and what should matter to me at Mass is not so much my personal dispositions or likes or dislikes. What matters is that I have been called to be part of God’s people and to be one with them in perfect praise.

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**Free Subscriptions to *Orantes***

*Orantes* is distributed free of charge by email to priests, seminarians and catechists of the Diocese of Worcester and to anyone interested in receiving a subscription. If you know of someone who would like to be included on our monthly distributions list (liturgical ministers, liturgy committee or others) just send their email addresses to: ofworship@worcesterdiocese.org.

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6 GIRM, no. 96

7 Cf. GIRM, no. 42.

Some Final Thoughts…

The Liturgy is, the Council Fathers remind us “the primary and indispensable source from which the faithful are to derive the true Christian Spirit.”9 This is why the liturgical books were revised: in order that they might express more clearly the things they signify.10 It is why the full, conscious and actual participation of the people of God is the goal to be considered before all else and why pastors of souls are exhorted to provide quality liturgical formation in all their pastoral work.11

For this reason, one of the major goals of the Office for Worship is to provide opportunities for formation of liturgical ministers and the whole people of God. In this issue of Orantes we are announcing workshops on the new Order of Baptism of Children for priests and deacons, a ten session Introduction to the Liturgy, Mornings of Prayer for Liturgical Ministers and a workshop on planning for Lent and Holy Week.

We embark on this work because we believe that there is no more important work than liturgical formation. For, as our beloved Pope emeritus has reminded us, “the deepest cause of the crisis that has upset the Church lies in the obscuring of the priority of God in the liturgy…the liturgy is a fundamental condition for the renewal of the Church.”12

May God bless our efforts, that we might grow together in love of those holy mysteries which are our hope and our salvation.

In the Lord,

Monsignor James P. Moroney
Director

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10 Cf. SC, no. 21.
