Ascension – Thursday or Sunday?

Q. When is Ascension celebrated this year – Thursday or Sunday?

A. The dioceses that make up the province of Indiana (and the vast majority of the dioceses in the United States) have elected to transfer (using a 1999 indult from the Holy See) the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord from the Thursday of the sixth week of Easter to the following Sunday. This transfer was done in the hopes that, by moving the celebration to the nearest Sunday, it would allow for more of the faithful to participate in such an important feast for the Church. Therefore, Ascension in 2016 will be on Sunday, May 8. It will continue to be celebrated on the seventh Sunday of Easter for the foreseeable future.

Also, the Roman Missal contains proper prayers for the Vigil of the Ascension, which should be used for those Masses celebrated on the evening of May 7. The readings, however, remain the same for both the vigil and the Sunday.

As a reminder, the Easter candle remains in its place near the ambo through Pentecost and is lit for all celebrations during this time. After Pentecost it is placed near the baptismal font.

Join the Diocesan Choir for the 2016 Chrism Mass

This is your invitation—we are looking for singers of all ages to join the Diocesan Choir for the annual Chrism Mass held on Tuesday, March 22 at 5:30pm (Evansville time) at Saint Benedict Cathedral. The Choir is open to singers of all levels—reading music is helpful but NOT required. This is a great opportunity to offer prayer through the gift of music. Practices will be held at Saint Benedict on the following dates:

* Sunday, March 13, 2016: 2pm - 4pm (Evansville Time)
* Sunday, March 20, 2016: 2pm - 4pm (Evansville Time)

If you would like the music ahead of time or have questions, please contact Jeremy Korba via email at jkorba@evdio.org or call (812) 589-3886. Please encourage others in your music programs to join us.

The Chrism Mass is one of the largest diocesan celebrations of the year, and is an amazing opportunity to give praise and thanks to God with people from across the diocese. We hope to see you there!
2016 Symposium: Liturgy and the New Evangelization
June 20-23, 2016
Notre Dame Center for Liturgy, Notre Dame, IN

Among Catholics, there has been a decline in participation in the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church. But why? And what should those involved in catechesis, sacramental formation, and liturgical ministry do about it? The 2016 Symposium seeks to answer these questions, inviting pastoral ministers to develop strategies for liturgical and sacramental formation in today’s world.

Presentations
- From Generation to Generation: How American Catholic Parents Today Approach Passing on the Faith to their Children (Christian Smith, PhD with Justin Bartkus)
- Digital Media and the Liturgical Capacity of the Christian (Daniella Zsupan-Jerome, PhD)
- Popular Culture and the New Evangelization (Dora Tobor, PhD)
- Liturgy, Sociology, and the New Evangelization (Michael McCallion, PhD)
- Ritual Formation and Evangelization (Kimberly Belcher, PhD)
- Liturgical Music and Evangelization (Anthony Ruff, OSB)
- Liturgical Preaching and Evangelization (Karla Bellinger, DMin)
- Liturgical Catechesis: An Apprenticeship in Mystery and Mission (James Pauley, STD)
- How Do We 'Go Deeper' in Preaching the Good News (panel discussion)

The Symposium is an excellent occasion for campus ministers, diocesan leaders in liturgy, evangelization, and catechesis, and parish staffs to think through and develop strategies for liturgical evangelization and sacramental catechesis.

Registration
Cost for attending the 2016 Symposium is $260 prior to April 15 and $300 after. Registration fee includes entry into all sessions, access to pre-Symposium readings, and all meals for the duration of the program. Liturgy Network members pay a reduced fee of $240 prior to April 15, $280 after.

Special Rate-if we have at least five people register together, we receive a $20 discount per person. Registrations must be submitted together. If you are interested in taking advantage of this discount, please contact Matt Miller (mmiller@evdio.org) by Friday, April 1.

Accommodations are not included in the registration. Housing options range from one of Notre Dame’s residence halls (single room is $55 per night, double room is $45) to reservations in the newly renovated Morris Inn ($169 per night), located on campus adjacent to the Symposium venue (http://morrisinn.nd.edu/).

For more information on the symposium, housing options, or to register individually, please visit the Notre Dame Center for Liturgy website: liturgy.nd.edu.
Upcoming Conferences (cont.)

Notre Dame Vision: Liturgical Music Ministers
July 18-22, 2016
University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame IN

The 2016 Notre Dame Vision for Liturgical Music Ministers (Vision LMM) focuses on providing an opportunity for liturgical musicians to consider how God is calling, and how you are uniquely responding to that call through the gift of music.

* Benefit from the wisdom and witness from renowned liturgical musicians and scholars.
* Experience opportunities for prayer and reflection that will refresh and energize you for your ministry.
* Become part of a community of disciples and fellow liturgical music ministers from across the country

Who?
Notre Dame Vision LMM is for directors of music, choir directors, accompanists, cantors, choir members, instrumentalists—anyone involved in liturgical music ministry at the parish or diocesan level, or within a grade school, high school, or university setting. If you are interested in strengthening and expanding your ministry as a liturgical musician; if you want to build on the Notre Dame Vision experience in your parish, diocese, or school; if you want to learn with and from a community of fellow liturgical music ministers; if you need continuing education and ongoing formation; if you are looking for an experience of personal renewal and refreshment, then Notre Dame Vision LMM is for you!

What?
Vision LMM provides an opportunity for the spiritual and human formation of the liturgical musician. For five days, Notre Dame Vision LMM participants will explore the meaning and significance of vocation for their own lives, for their fellow Christians, and for their ministry as musicians. The experience will include theological exploration and personal renewal with a community of liturgical music ministers from across the nation. Engaging and enriching keynotes, stimulating facilitated discussions, and experiences of reflection and prayer will address various aspects of God’s call for each of us and our response of faith.

2016 Session Topics:
* Singing God’s Mercy
* Defining Mercy
* The Liturgy of the Hours as a Work of Mercy
* The Eucharist: Source and Summit of God’s Mercy
* The Spiritual Works of Mercy in the Life of the Liturgical Musician
* Moments of Misericordia in Liturgical Music Ministry: Weddings and Funerals
* Becoming God’s Mercy

2016 Speakers:
* Katherine E. Harmon, Ph.D., Lecturer in Theology & private organ instructor, Marian University
* David Fagerberg, Ph.D. Professor of Theology, University of Notre Dame
* Timothy P. O’Malley, Ph.D., Director of Notre Dame Center for Liturgy
* Caleb Wenzel, M.M., Doctor of Music Arts candidate in Sacred Music, University of Notre Dame
* Carolyn Pirtle, M.S.M., Assistant Director of Notre Dame Center for Liturgy
* Laura Taylor, M.T.S., House Director, House of Brigid (Teach Bhride)

Cost is $450 per person on or before April 2 ($475 after April 2), which covers all program activities, meals, conference notebook, t-shirt, housing, and more! For information on the conference, speakers, registration materials, or to apply online, please visit: http://vision.nd.edu/Welcome_to_Notre_Dame_Vision/LMM_Page.html.
Upcoming Conferences (cont.)

The Church Sings / La Iglesia Canta
39th Annual Convention
National Association of Pastoral Musicians
July 11-16, 2016
Houston, TX

Come to Texas for practical hands-on learning, stimulating ideas, vibrant sung prayer, spiritual reflection, exhibits of music and ministry resources, and much more. Come to gather with colleagues and friends, new and old. Musicians, clergy, and liturgists won’t want to miss this exciting event!

Discounts for advanced registrations are still available, as well as daily rates for those who cannot make the whole week. For more information on the registration costs, the numerous options for master classes and other breakouts, information on speakers and other events, and housing options, please visit: http://www.npm.org/EducationEvents/convention/national/index.htm

Upcoming Conferences (cont.)

Colloquium 2016
Church Music Association of America
June 20-25, 2016
St. Louis, MO

The CMAA Colloquium is primarily focused on instruction and experience in chant and the Catholic sacred music tradition, participation in chant choirs, lectures and performances and daily liturgies. As a participant, you are an integral part of the beautiful music from the Roman Catholic tradition.

Experience not only the traditional Gregorian chant and Renaissance polyphony of the church’s musical treasure, but also new compositions of English propers and ordinaries by various composers, as well as modern motets.

Colloquium Highlights

* Extensive training in Gregorian chant under a world-class faculty.
* Breakout sessions during the week on a variety of topics, from directing, organist master classes, vocal pedagogy, semiology, children’s programs, among others.
* Plenary lectures on topics of interest to all who love sacred music.
* Optional choral experience with one of four choirs singing sacred music of the masters.
* Daily liturgies with careful attention to musical settings in English and Latin.
* A gala welcome reception and dinner at the beautiful St. Louis City Center Hotel.
* Pro-Arte St. Louis Concert – Professional Early Music Ensemble.
* Wednesday Evening Dinner at the St. Louis City Center Hotel.
* Individual training in vocal production and technique.
* All music, including prepared books of chant and polyphony, as part of registration.

Registration is $625 for members ($675 for non-members). For more information on registration, housing, and other fees, please visit their website: http://musicasacra.com/events/colloquium-2016/

Bringing to Life the Word of God in Song
July 25-29, 2016 (beginners)
Archabbbey Guest House and Retreat Center, St. Meinrad IN

Learn how the practice of Gregorian chant brings to life the Word of God in song, and study the intimate relationship between the proclaimed Word of God and its melodic setting. Learn a new way to enhance your spiritual reading. The workshop includes study of the original chant notations as the key to unlocking the spiritual and artistic qualities that have influenced later Western music. Practice singing both Latin and English settings in chant style will be included. Retreat director is renowned chant expert Fr. Columba Kelly, OSB.

The fee for lodging, meals and conferences is $465 for single occupancy, and $735 double occupancy.

For more information, please contact the Archabbey Guesthouse at (800) 581-6905 or visit: http://www.saintmeinrad.org/retreats/.
Solemnities of Saints John the Baptist, Peter and Paul

While they may not be holy days of obligation (Solemnities of precept), there are two major feasts that fall on weekdays in June that deserve some special attention:

June 24—Nativity of John the Baptist
This Solemnity has its own vigil Mass with proper readings and prayers distinct from those for the Mass of the feast day. Therefore, Masses celebrated the evening of June 23 (before or after Evening Prayer) may be for the vigil of the feast of the forerunner of Christ. Also, since it is not a holy day of obligation, funerals may be celebrated this day if needed.

June 29—Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul
Like John the Baptist above, this Solemnity also has its own vigil Mass with proper readings and prayers distinct from those for the Mass of the feast day. Like John the Baptist above, since this is not a holy day of obligation, funerals may be celebrated this day if needed. It would also be a good idea to include a petition for Bishop Thompson this day, the anniversary of his ordination and installation here in the diocese.

Keeping God’s Mercy Before Us

- Places of Mercy—Using the diocesan Jubilee of Mercy logo to designate those “places of mercy” present in our parishes, schools, and other institutions.

- Prayer—Including intentions that speak to the Jubilee of Mercy in the Prayer of the Faithful.

- Using the Jubilee of Mercy prayer before Mass, parish activities, in the home, etc.

- Pilgrimages—Plan a parish pilgrimage to one of the diocesan Holy Doors. The doors of Saint Benedict and Saint Francis Xavier await you!

- Awareness of Mercy—Highlight those events/activities focused on mercy that already take place. No need to reinvent the wheel!

Prayers for the Springtime: Masses and the Book of Blessings

With signs of new life all around us and the planting season for our farmers drawing near, it is right to look at ways to frame this work in prayer and ask for God’s blessings. Here are a few suggestions from the resources of the Church:

- Book of Blessings—Chapters 24 (“Order for the Blessing of Tools or Other Equipment for Work”), 25 (“Order for the Blessing of Animals”), 26 (“Order for the Blessing of Fields and Flocks”), and 27 (“Order for the Blessing of Seeds at Planting Time”) would be appropriate to celebrate especially if you are in an area with a lot of farming. Perhaps a gathering could be planned at a convenient farm for a blessing of seeds, tractors and other farm equipment.

- Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers—Part III: Days and Seasons provides a “Blessing of Fields and Gardens” that could be used for a family or neighborhood garden. In addition, any of the above prayers from the Book of Blessings could be used to celebrate blessings in the home or neighborhood.

- Roman Missal—Under Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions, II. For Civil Needs, there are proper prayers for seedtime (#27), rain (#35), fine weather (#36), and even an end to storms (#37) which could be used on days when another celebration on the calendar did not take precedent.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with His anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy; you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.

Amen.—Prayer of Pope Francis for the Jubilee (excerpt)