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 2017 will be on Sunday, May 28. 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 27. 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.
Pentecost, Saint John the Baptist, and Saints Peter and Paul

While they may not all be holy days of obligation (Solemnities of precept), there are three Solemnities in June that deserve some special attention:

June 4—Pentecost
Sitting at the conclusion of the Easter season, Pentecost has its own vigil Mass (with an extended form and a simple form) with proper readings and prayers to be used for Saturday evening Masses. The Pentecost Sequence (Veni, Sancte Spiritus), while obligatory for Sunday, is optional at the vigil Mass.

June 24—Nativity of John the Baptist
Normally, this Solemnity would have its own vigil Mass with proper readings and prayers distinct from those for the Mass of the feast day. However, June 23 is the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, which takes precedent over John the Baptist (Christ > John). Therefore, the vigil Mass for John the Baptist would only be used if absolutely necessary, and Evening Prayer for June 23 would be EPII for the Sacred Heart. Also, since June 24 is not a holy day of obligation, funerals may be celebrated this day if needed.

June 29—Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul
Like Pentecost and 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. With nothing to impede the vigil like we have with John the Baptist, Masses the evening of June 28 would use the vigil texts. And like John the Baptist, since this is not a holy day of obligation, funerals may be celebrated this day if needed.

It may 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.

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 as well as a local resource:

❖ 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.

❖ Prayers for the Soil and Seed, and Those Who Work the Land—This booklet is based on many of the prayers noted above, and is intended for anyone who wishes to set their springtime work in the context of prayer. The booklet can be downloaded from the Office of Worship website: http://www.evdio.org/newsletter.html.

Besides, what is heaven if not the mystery of love that eternally unites us to God, to contemplate him forever? The Church has always professed this by expressing her belief in the communion of saints. We are never alone in living the faith; we do so in the company of all the saints and of our loved ones who practised the faith with joyful simplicity and bore witness to it by their lives. There is a bond, unseen but not for that reason any less real, which makes us, by baptism, “one body” moved by “one Spirit” (cf. Eph 4:4). – Pope Francis, Meditation in the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli in Assisi, 4 August 2016
Q.: Does my parish need to order the new *Lectionary for Mass Supplement*?

A.: While one could try and “get by” without getting this new text, the updates it provides to the current *Lectionary* as well as its reasonable price make it a book that ought to be on the shelf in your sacristy.

As long as the Church has been assigning Biblical texts for use in its liturgical celebrations, she has striven to complement the facet of the Paschal Mystery with the appropriate reading. As new liturgical celebrations were added over the years, both universally and in the Proper Calendar for the Dioceses of the USA, more readings were required. The publication of the current four-volume *Lectionary* (1998-2002) included all the Saints and Blessed of the time.

In December 2001, after the promulgation of the third typical edition of the *Missale Romanum*, the Vatican officially inscribed additional saints, provided Mass formularies, added Lectionary citations, and prescribed new texts for the Liturgy of the Hours. Even more additions quickly followed. In other words, the liturgical calendar continued to evolve and the Church’s official liturgical books strove to keep up with the changes.

By 2015, the USCCB’s Secretariat for Divine Worship began to compile all the updated additions and corrections. The Bishops’ Committee for Divine Worship then formally approved the publication of a Supplement to the Lectionary for Mass.

**So why would a parish want to buy a Supplement to the Lectionary for Mass?**

- Those who prepare liturgies in parishes will always want to have the most recent liturgical texts.
- While in most cases, the readings can be found elsewhere in the four volumes of the *Lectionary for Mass*, some have been slightly altered (twelve out of 1,026). You will want to be reading the proper (and most complete) pericope.
- Citations from the supplement will be appropriately incorporated into ordo and participation aids over the course of the next year. Having a ritual edition of the Supplement for the ambo will assure that the reading being proclaimed will be compatible.
- New readings have been suggested by the Holy See. Those who prepare parish liturgies will want to have the full range of readings which have been assigned or suggested for the day.
- With the addition of many new saints, one will want to have the proper readings for these obligatory and optional memorials.
- Likewise, among the new saints (or their new titles), some dates have been transferred. The Supplement will make preparation more seamless.
- Readings have been consolidated for ease of use, e.g., for the Extended Vigil Mass of Pentecost and the “Mass for Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life” (USA, January 22).

**Where can I purchase this supplement?**

Three publishers have produced the Lectionary for Mass Supplement:

- **Catholic Book Publishing Co.**—[CatholicBookPublishing.com](http://CatholicBookPublishing.com) (877-228-2665)
  Hardcover, 8½” × 11” $21.95
- **Liturgical Press**—[LitPress.org](http://LitPress.org) (800-858-5450)
  Classic edition: hardcover, 8½” × 11”, $39.95; Chapel edition: hardcover, 7” × 9”, $34.95
- **Liturgy Training Publications**—[LTP.org](http://LTP.org) (800-933-1800)
  Softcover, 9¾” × 12”, $29.95

For a complete list of the contents of the Supplement, please see page eight of this newsletter.
Upcoming Conferences

Liturgy and Life: Encountering Jesus Christ in the Bible and the Liturgy
June 19–23, 2017
Notre Dame Center for Liturgy, Notre Dame, IN

Many evangelization movements in Catholicism emphasize an encounter with Jesus through the reading of the Scriptures in small group faith communities. Such encounters with the kerygma in faith-filled communities are essential to nourishing new charisms in the Church.

But Scripture, as Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI notes, becomes a living word when prayed in the liturgy: “To understand the word of God, then, we need to appreciate and experience the essential meaning and value of the liturgical action. A faith-filled understanding of sacred Scripture must always refer back to the liturgy, in which the word of God is celebrated as a timely and living word” (*Verbum Domini* §52).

Liturgical and sacramental formation in parishes and schools should lead each person to meet the person of Jesus Christ in our reading of the Scriptures in our common prayer.

The McGrath Institute for Church Life invites parishes and schools to send catechists, liturgists, and teachers to our 2017 Liturgy and Life Symposium to nourish their own biblical and liturgical imaginations for the New Evangelization. Questions that we will consider include:

- Who is Jesus Christ, and how do we meet him in the liturgy?
- How does liturgical art, grounded in the Scriptures, lead us to encounter Jesus?
- How do we prepare Catholics for participation in the sacramental life of the Church using the Scriptures?
- How does the celebration of the saints, both in the Church and at home, prepare us to meet the person of Jesus?
- What might a priest or deacon do to foster this encounter with Jesus Christ in the way that he prays?

Topics include:
- The Bible and the Liturgy: A Way of Encountering Christ
- Jesus Christ in the Liturgical Year
- Jesus Christ in the Liturgy of the Hours
- Jesus Christ in Iconography
- Jesus Christ in the Communion of Saints
- Jesus Christ in the Domestic Church
- Jesus Christ through Liturgical Music
- Jesus Christ through Sacramental Formation
- Jesus Christ as a Liturgical Presider

Registration
Cost for attending the 2017 Symposium is $265 prior to April 1, $295 from April 2–May 15, and $320 after. Registration fee includes entry into all sessions, and all meals for the duration of the program. Liturgy Network members pay a reduced fee of $245 prior to April 1.

Accommodations are not included in the registration. Housing options range from one of Notre Dame’s residence halls (single room is $62.50 per night, double room is $52.50) to reservations in the newly renovated Morris Inn ($169 per night), located on campus adjacent to the Symposium venue ([http://morrisinn.nd.edu/](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](http://liturgy.nd.edu).
Notre Dame Vision: Liturgical Music Ministers
The Word of God and Liturgical Music
July 17-21, 2017
University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame IN

Notre Dame Vision asks its participants: God is calling. How will you answer?

Liturgical musicians have responded to that call. They have acknowledged that God has blessed them with musical talent. They have cultivated and honed that talent through years of education and practice. They have placed their gifts at the service of God and the Church.

As a partnership between the Notre Dame Center for Liturgy and Notre Dame Vision, Notre Dame Vision for Liturgical Music Ministers (Vision LMM) seeks to provide liturgical musicians an opportunity for spiritual, intellectual, human, and pastoral formation. We take seriously the statement that “liturgical musicians are first of all disciples, and only then are they ministers” (Sing to the Lord, §49), and so we focus on forming the person of the liturgical musician in his or her relationship with God, providing new insight and inspiration that can in turn shape their ministry.

As the McGrath Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame hosts The Saint John’s Bible Heritage Edition in 2017, our theme for Vision LMM will be The Word of God and Liturgical Music, and will invite us to reflect upon the relationship between Scripture and music. Each session will focus on different genres of liturgical music and invite participants to consider how music in particular and the arts in general invite us to enter into Scripture more deeply and there encounter Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Word of God.

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.

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.

2017 Session Topics:
- The Beauty of the Word: Liturgical Music and The Saint John’s Bible
- The Mass Ordinary: Foundation of Sung Prayer
- Singing the Psalms in the Celebration of the Eucharist
- Soaring Beyond Speech: Chanting God’s Praises
- Musical Exegesis: Hymns and the Spiritual Life
- The Music of Taizé and the Contemplation of Scripture
- Praise and Worship and the Affective Word
- “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly”: Singing God’s Word, Living God’s Word

Cost is $450 per person on or before April 1 ($475 after April 1), which covers all program activities, meals, residence hall accommodations, and materials. For information on the conference, speakers, registration materials, or to apply online, please visit: http://icl.nd.edu/notre-dame-vision/apply-now/apply-for-cym-lmm/.
The renewal of catechesis is essential to facilitating the work of the New Evangelization. This catechesis, as St. John Paul II writes, must be permeated with the mystery of Jesus Christ:

“The primary and essential object of catechesis is…‘the mystery of Christ’. Catechizing is a way to lead a person to study this mystery in all its dimensions...It is therefore to reveal in the Person of Christ the whole of God’s eternal design reaching fulfilment in that Person. It is to seek to understand the meaning of Christ’s actions and words and of the signs worked by him, for they simultaneously hide and reveal his mystery. Accordingly, the definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ: only he can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Trinity” (Catechesi Tradendae §5).

Yet, how do we carry out an approach to catechesis that fosters this intimate communion with the mystery of Jesus? How do we teach Christians to read the Bible and the Liturgy as signs inviting the Christian toward a contemplative encounter with the Word made flesh?

The McGrath Institute for Church Life invites catechists and Catholic school teachers to our 2017 Catechesis of the Shepherd Symposium on fostering the sacramental imagination through teaching the senses of the Scriptures. Using the pedagogical and theological method developed by Maria Montessori and Sofia Cavalletti, we nourish the imagination of the Church's educators in faith to develop a sacramental approach to catechesis that meets the deepest needs of the modern person.

Questions that we will consider include:

* What are the senses of the Scriptures, and how does learning to study the Scriptures through these senses lead us toward a sacramental view of the world?
* What methods might we use in catechetical settings, including in Catholic schools, to foster this encounter with the Scriptures?
* What role does prayer play in the study of the biblical narrative?

Every participant will receive a biblical formation grounded in the liturgy, as well as a series of pedagogical techniques to use within various catechetical settings or in the classroom. We will also make use of liturgical and secular art, chapels, liturgical manuscripts, and all that is available on the campus of the University of Notre Dame to facilitate this formation in the sacramental teaching of the Scriptures. Lastly, students will be able to encounter a copy of the Saint John’s Bible, which we will use both in our study and prayer together.

Morning lectures will be followed in the afternoon with development in various pedagogical techniques—working with calligraphers, art historians, manuscripts, and through learning monastic and contemplative methods of prayer. In the evening, we will pray together around various parables that inspired the work of Sofia Cavalletti.

Costs

* Early registration (before April 1st): $265.00
* Regular registration (between April 2nd and May 15th): $295.00
* Late registration (May 16th and after): $320.00

To register for the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, please visit: http://liturgy.nd.edu/events/summerliturgy/cgs/.
Upcoming Conferences (cont.)

Formed As One: Union of Voices, Unity of Heart
40th Annual Convention
National Association of Pastoral Musicians
July 10-14, 2017
Cincinnati, OH

Come to Ohio 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/index.htm.

Bringing to Life the Word of God in Song
July 17-21, 2016 (beginners)
Archabbeby 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. 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/.

Upcoming Conferences (cont.)

2017 National Gathering on Christian Initiation
Liturgy Training Publications
July 5-6, 2017
Chicago, IL

The first National Gathering on Christian Initiation™ (NGCI) invites parish leaders, initiation ministers, and regional or diocesan trainers to come together to explore the theoretical and practical aspects of initiation ministry. Through interactive sessions, meetings, and prayer opportunities, participants will understand more deeply that the vision of the RCIA is the vision of the parish as a community of disciples.

The NGCI will have two tracks. Parish Leaders and Initiation Ministers will deepen and enrich their work as they gain practical skills, discuss common challenges, and share best practices. Regional or Diocesan Trainers will explore and discuss practical strategies for implementing effective training and formation in their local communities.

Goals:

- Participants will understand that the vision of the RCIA is that of the parish as a community of disciples.
- Participants will better understand their own call to discipleship.
- Participants will understand the role of the baptismal catechumenate as the process for forming disciples.
- Participants will hone and develop the skills needed to lead groups in discussion and faith-sharing as they discuss creative ways to relate their own stories and the catechumens’ stories to the Paschal Mystery.

Individual registration by May 12 is $250 and includes breakfast and lunch on July 5th & 6th. A limited number of rooms are available at the Sheraton Grand Chicago hotel at a discounted rate of $149.00 per night.

For more information on the conference, housing, or to register, please visit: www.nationalgatheringonchristianinitiation.org/home/index.
Twenty-six new citations are being added to the Lectionary, of which eighteen were prescribed at one time or another by the Holy See. The remainder reflect updates to the U.S. Proper Calendar.

**Proper of Saints** – Except for the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children, all additions in this section are Optional Memorials.

- 510/1: The Most Holy Name of Jesus (Jan. 3)
- 516A: Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children (Jan. 22)
- 517A: Saint Marianne Cope, Virgin (Jan. 23)
- 529A: Saint Josephine Bakhita, Virgin (Feb. 8)
- 563A: Our Lady of Fatima (May 13)
- 566A: Saint Christopher Magellan, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs (May 21)
- 566B: Saint Rita of Cascia, Religious (May 22)
- 596A: Saint Augustine Zhao Rong, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs (July 9)
- 601A: Saint Apollinaris, Bishop and Martyr (July 20)
- 604A: Saint Sharbel Makhluf, Priest (July 24)
- 617A: Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Virgin and Martyr (Aug. 9)
- 636B: The Most Holy Name of Mary (Sept. 12)
- 643A: Saint Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest (Sept. 23)
- 651A: Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, Priest (Oct. 5)
- 655A: Saint John XXIII, Pope (Oct. 11)
- 663A: Saint John Paul II, Pope (Oct. 22)
- 683C: Saint Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin and Martyr (Nov. 25)

**Ritual Masses** – One New Testament reading is added to the available options for the celebration of Matrimony:

- 802-5A: Ephesians 4:1-6

**Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions** – The readings and psalms for the Mass for Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life are now consolidated in one location:

- 947A-947E: For Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life

**Votive Masses** – Readings for the three Votive Masses added to the Missale Romanum, editio typica tertia:

- 968A: The Mercy of God
- 1002-III: Our Lady, Queen of Apostles
- 1003A: Saint John the Baptist

**Proper of Time** – For the extended form of the Pentecost Vigil Mass, the four Old Testament readings are given in order, with proper psalms between each reading:

- 62: Pentecost Sunday: At the Vigil Mass

**Proper of Saints** – Updated citations account for canonizations since 2002, transfer of liturgical celebrations to new dates in both the General Roman Calendar and U.S. Proper Calendar, and the addition of suggested readings by the Holy See:

- 510C: Saint André Bessette, Religious (Jan. 6) – canonized 2010
- 517: Saint Vincent, Deacon and Martyr (Jan. 23) – former date Jan. 22
- 561A: Saint Damien de Veuster, Priest (May 10) – canonized 2009
- 592A: Saint Junípero Serra, Priest (July 1) – canonized 2015
- 594: Saint Elizabeth of Portugal (July 5) – former date July 4
- 599A: Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin (July 14) – canonized 2012
- 623A: Saint Jane Frances de Chantal, Religious (Aug. 12) – former date Aug. 18
- 636A: Saint Peter Claver, Priest (Sept. 9) – readings added 1995
- 645A: Saint Lawrence Ruiz and Companions, Martyrs (Sept. 28) – readings added 2015
- 683B: Saint Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs (Nov. 24) – readings added 1988
- 689A: Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin (Dec. 9) – canonized 2002, readings added 2015