



FROM THE OFFICE OF WORSHIP

NOTES FOR JULY-AUGUST 2019

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Back to School and Labor Day

BEGINNING THE SCHOOL YEAR IN PRAYER

As the beginning of the school year approaches, it is right to look at starting the year in prayer. Here are a few suggestions from the resources of the Church:

- ✘ *Book of Blessings*—Chapter 5 provides an “Order for the Blessing of Students and Teachers,” which may be done both in and out of Mass. This could be done for the entire school or even by individual classes.
- ✘ *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*—Part V: Prayers for Catholic Living provides some simple prayers to start and end the school year, as well as a “Prayer for Students” and a “Prayer for Teachers.” There is also a simple “Blessing Before an Athletic Event” that may be helpful for coaches or parent volunteers.
- ✘ Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit—In many places it is customary to invoke the intercession of the Holy Spirit on the start of the academic year by celebrating a Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit, or “Red Mass,” on a weekday that allows for a Votive Mass to be celebrated (check your *ordo*). Proper prayers for the Mass can be found in the *Roman Missal* under Votive Masses, #9, The Holy Spirit; and readings can be found in the *Lectionary* at #1001.

LITURGIES FOR LABOR DAY

We give thanks to God for the gift of work, and we ask that he “give success to the work of our hands” (Psalm 90:17). Since there is no other feast day on September 2 that would take precedent, parishes may wish to consider celebrating Masses on Labor Day using the following texts:

- ✘ *Roman Missal*: Masses and Prayer for Various Needs and Occasions, II. For Civil Needs, #26 A or B, For the Sanctification of Human Labor
- ✘ *Lectionary*: #907-911, For the Blessing of Human Labor

Make No “Assumptions” about August 15

Please remember—the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a holy day of obligation this year.



Catechetical Sunday 2019

This year, the Church will celebrate Catechetical Sunday on September 15, 2019. The 2019 theme will be “Stay With Us.” Those who the Community has designated to serve as catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry. Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith.

As in past years, a variety of materials, free of charge on-line, have been prepared to assist clergy, parish catechists, Catholic school teachers, and the faithful to celebrate Catechetical Sunday, not only in September but throughout 2019-2020. These can be found at the USCCB Catechetical Sunday 2019 website: <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/catechetical-sunday/index.cfm>

In addition, chapter four of the *Book of Blessings* provides an “Order for the Blessing of Those Appointed as Catechists” that may be used in or outside of Mass. This could be used at the Masses Catechetical Sunday weekend to publicly recognize those who have made the commitment to serve as catechists, as well as giving the faithful of the community the opportunity to publicly pray for and support those entrusted with this great work.

Lastly, please do not forget to recognize parents as the first teachers of children. The role which they play is essential, and our prayerful support of them is greatly needed and appreciated.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception in 2019—Obligation or Not?

In 2019, December 8—normally the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary—falls on the Second Sunday of Advent. In accordance with no. 5 of the *Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the Calendar*, the observance of the Solemnity is therefore transferred to Monday, December 9 (replacing the Memorial of Saint Juan Diego). The move allows for this feast, the patronal feast day of the United States, to be celebrated but respects the place that the Sundays of Advent have on our liturgical calendar.

However, the obligation of the faithful to attend Mass remains attached to the day itself (December 8), and so it does not transfer with the liturgical observance. All are still welcome to attend Mass on December 9 to celebrate our Blessed Mother, but it is not a holy day of obligation.

Masses celebrated the evening of December 8 would be for the Sunday and not in anticipation of the Solemnity. And in the Liturgy of the Hours, evening prayer on December 8 would be Evening Prayer II for the Second Sunday of Advent rather than Evening Prayer I of the Solemnity.

Ritual and Funeral Masses on Immaculate Conception—According to the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (GIRM), no. 372, Ritual Masses are not permitted on Sundays of Advent or Solemnities. Therefore, Ritual Masses, including the celebration of Matrimony within Mass, are not permitted on December 9, although a wedding outside of Mass would be allowed.

GIRM no. 380 prohibits Funeral Masses on the Sundays of Advent and Solemnities that are holy days of obligation. Since it is not a day of obligation, Funeral Masses may be held on December 9.

Looking ahead to 2020, the Solemnity naturally falls on a Tuesday, and it will be a holy day of obligation. If December 8 were a Monday, however, it would not be impacted by the concession given to some of our holy days to remove the obligation when they land on a Saturday or a Monday. Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, pray for us!

World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation September 1

In 2015, inspired by his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis requested the celebration of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on September 1, in union with our Orthodox brothers and sisters. In his letter establishing the celebration, the Holy Father laid out his reasoning for the establishment: “The annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation will offer individual believers and communities a fitting opportunity to reaffirm their personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork which he has entrusted to our care, and to implore his help for the protection of creation...”

To help celebrate and honor God’s gift of creation and the Church’s teaching on the environment, the USCCB provides several resources in their Environment/Environmental Justice section of the website:

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/environment/index.cfm>

The USCCB project *We are Salt and Light* also provides resources on how to respond to *Laudato Si'* at the local level: <https://www.wearesaltandlight.org/>

We are Salt and Light offers five simple ways to respond to the Holy Father’s call:

- ✘ Pray with Pope Francis.
- ✘ Learn. Read (or re-read) *Laudato Si'*.
- ✘ Spread the word to others.
- ✘ Take action with Catholics Confront Global Poverty to ask our elected officials to support policies that protect the planet, including persons in poverty.
- ✘ Make changes to your lifestyle to better care for creation.

At the very least, it would be helpful to include an intercession at Mass and/or Liturgy of the Hours this weekend for the grace to be good stewards of creation, asking for God’s help in our efforts to care for our common home. May our prayer be joined to “simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness” and “makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world” (*Laudato Si'*, 230-31).

All Saints/All Souls Reminder

This year, All Saints (November 1) lands on a Friday. This means that it will be a holy day of obligation. Masses from 4 PM October 31 through November 1 should be for the Solemnity and would fulfill the obligation to participate in Mass. There are no specific prayers for an All Saints vigil Mass, so any anticipatory Masses the evening of October 31 would use the proper prayers and readings for November 1.

The *ordo* also recommends the exposing of relics this day for veneration by the faithful, placing them in some location of honor this day (but not on the altar itself).

As usual, November 2 brings us the Commemoration of All Souls. Since it holds the special title of “commemoration,” it has its own set of rules:

- ✘ Priests are granted the privilege of celebrating three Masses—one for a particular intention, one for all the faithful departed, and one for the intentions of the Holy Father.
- ✘ Funeral Masses may be celebrated this day, but other ritual Masses may not.
- ✘ Masses the evening of November 1 would still be for All Saints and not anticipating All Souls.
- ✘ Masses the evening of November 2 would be the anticipatory Mass for Sunday.

Chapter 57 of the *Book of Blessings* provides an “Order for Visiting a Cemetery on All Souls Day” that can be used right after Mass or apart from the Mass. Remember to pray for the dead!

The Church and Cremation

Q.: What is the Church's stance on cremation?

A.: The Church has actually allowed for cremation since the Instruction *Piam et constantem* in 1963. As long as cremation was not chosen due to a denial of the resurrection of the body or other anti-Christian motives, the Church saw it wise to relax the restrictions while still upholding the preference for burial of the body. This was especially directed towards those areas of the world where cremation was being requested due to economic hardship or just out of necessity.

In 1997, an indult was granted to the dioceses of the United States to allow for the presence of cremated remains at the funeral liturgies, and a special appendix to the funeral rite was prepared that addressed how the remains were to be treated. In short, cremated remains were to be respected in the same way as the body, from the use of a worthy vessel to the need to bury or entomb the ashes. "The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air, or on the ground, or keeping cremated remains in the home of a relative or friend of the deceased are not the reverent disposition that the Church requires" (*Order of Christian Funerals*, no. 412).

In October of 2016 the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith released an Instruction entitled *Ad resurgendum cum Christo* ("To rise with Christ"), regarding the burial of the deceased and the conservation of the ashes in the case of cremation. It was noted that there had been a continual increase worldwide in the number of requests for cremation, and it was likely that in the near future cremation would be considered a commonplace practice. This development had been accompanied by the growing phenomenon of the conservation of ashes in homes, as commemorative items, or their dispersal in nature. Therefore, the Congregation saw a need "to reiterate the doctrinal and pastoral reasons for the preference for the burial of the dead, and secondly, to issue rules for guidance on the conservation of ashes in the case of cremation." This was not a statement of something new, but rather a reminder of what the Church holds up with some clarification on how that can and should be done.

That instruction, therefore, did not change the practice of the Church in the United States. Rather, it only reaffirms and restates what we believe and what we do:

- ✘ "By burying the bodies of the faithful, the Church confirms her faith in the resurrection of the body, and intends to show the great dignity of the human body as an integral part of the human person whose body forms part of their identity. She cannot, therefore, condone attitudes or permit rites that involve erroneous ideas about death..." (no. 3)
- ✘ "Furthermore, burial in a cemetery or another sacred place adequately corresponds to the piety and respect owed to the bodies of the faithful departed who through Baptism have become temples of the Holy Spirit and in which "as instruments and vessels the Spirit has carried out so many good works"." (ibid)
- ✘ "In circumstances when cremation is chosen because of sanitary, economic or social considerations...the Church raises no doctrinal objections to this practice..." (no. 4)
- ✘ "The conservation of the ashes of the departed in a domestic residence is not permitted... the ashes may not be divided among various family members...it is not permitted to scatter the ashes of the faithful departed in the air, on land, at sea or in some other way, nor may they be preserved in mementos, pieces of jewelry or other objects..." (nos. 6-7)

So, in summary:

- ✘ While still preferring the burial of the body, the Church does allow for cremation.
- ✘ Cremated remains are to be treated with the same respect and dignity with which the body was treated.
- ✘ It is because of this respect that cremated remains are to be buried or interred and never scattered, divided, kept in private homes, etc.

Let us continue to pray for the dead and to hope in the resurrection that we profess every week in the Creed!

Reminder of Discounts on 2020 Ordos and LTP Workbooks

The Office of Worship is pleased to be able to recommend offer the following resources at a discounted price. **To order, please contact Matt Miller (mmiller@evdio.org) by Friday, September 13 with kind and number. Materials will be ready for pick-up in October.**

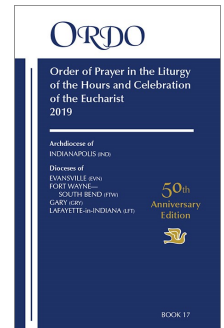
Paulist Press

2020 Ordo from Paulist Press

Print edition. Contains the order of prayer for the Liturgy of the Hours and Mass, clergy necrology, information on saints' lives, and helpful pastoral notes. Spanish edition also available (Spanish version is not diocese-specific and does not contain the necrology).

Office of Worship Price—\$15.15 (20% off)

Please note—This offer is for the print version only. If you would like to order the ebook version or the mobile app, please visit the [Paulist Press website](#). The Office of Worship is unable to provide a discount for the electronic versions.



LTP

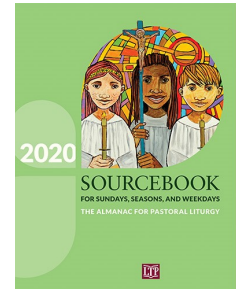
Sourcebook for Sundays, Seasons, and Weekdays 2020

The Almanac for Pastoral Liturgy

This annual resource has been re-envisioned, reorganized, and redesigned to bring you more concise and helpful material to enlighten and inspire those who prepare the liturgy, especially the Sunday Mass, the “source and summit of the Christian life.” New and familiar features include:

- ✘ Seasonal introductions and daily calendar preparation guides
- ✘ Dated entries with liturgical titles, Lectionary citations, and vestment colors
- ✘ Brief biographies of the saints and blessed
- ✘ Guidance for choosing among the options provided in the ritual texts
- ✘ Preaching points and Scripture insights for Sundays and the Proper of Saints
- ✘ Music preparation guidance and song suggestions
- ✘ Ideas for celebrating other rites and customs
- ✘ Online supplement for preparing the sacramental rites

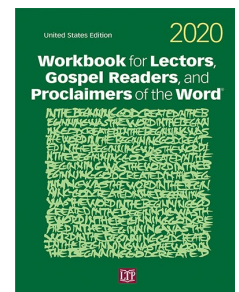
Office of Worship price—10.80 (40% off)



Workbook for Lectors, Gospel Readers, and Proclaimers of the Word® 2020

This resource contains the readings in large print for practice (with suggestions for emphasis in bold) commentaries that give background and explain the meaning of the reading, margin notes with pronunciation helps and tips for proclamation, and the Responsorial Psalms for meditation and context. Workbook's introduction offers an orientation to this ministry of the Word and an overview of proclamation skills.

Office of Worship price—\$8.40 (40% off)



Do not forget your Spanish readers!

Manual para proclamadores de la palabra® 2020

This resource provides the Sunday readings arranged in sense-lines, with the most indispensable biblical and liturgical information to proclaim them with reverence and efficacy before the assembly. This Manual collaborates in the technical, biblical, and spiritual formation of parish lectors, so that each celebration is a source and culmination of the life of the Church.

Office of Worship price—\$8.40 (40% off)

