



# FROM THE OFFICE OF WORSHIP

## NOTES FOR SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2019

### Contents

Honoring Veterans on November 11_____	1	Feasts of Christmas Season_____	3
Options for Thanksgiving_____	1	Book of Blessings and Christmas Season_____	3
All Saints/Immaculate Conception 2019_____	2	Discounted <i>Order of Baptism of Children</i> _____	4
Advent Wreaths_____	2	<i>Order of Baptism of Children</i> Details_____	4-5
Christmas Readings_____	2	Color of Altar Cloth_____	5

### Honoring Veterans on November 11

**Q.:** What are some ways we could honor our veterans on or near November 11?

**A.:** While there is no “official” blessing or prayer that is used to recognize and thank those who have served in the armed forces, there are a few options for this day or the weekend nearest to it:

- ✘ The simplest method is to include a petition in the Prayer of the Faithful at Mass for our veterans;
- ✘ also at Mass, Solemn Blessings #12 and 13 speak of the blessings of peace, and safety from adversity;
- ✘ Chapters 70-71 in the Book of Blessings could be adapted to give thanks for their service;
- ✘ November 11 is also the Memorial of Saint Martin of Tours, patron of soldiers. Perhaps a prayer card or medal of the saint could be blessed and given to veterans this day or the weekend before.

Many thanks to all who have served our country in this way.

### Liturgical Options for Thanksgiving

**Q.:** What are the liturgical options available for Thanksgiving Day?

**A.:** There are several options available to us. On the liturgical calendar, November 28 is Thursday of the 34th week in Ordinary Time, with no other feast day on the calendar (ferial day). So the Mass of the day could always be celebrated.

For Thanksgiving, the *Roman Missal* also provides proper prayers for Masses on Thanksgiving Day, complete with its own proper Preface. These are found in the Proper of Saints at the end of November. The readings may be from the day or could be taken from the section “In Thanksgiving to God,” nos. 943-947 of the *Lectioary for Mass* (volume IV). These proper prayers and readings may be used at the discretion of the pastor or priest celebrant.

In addition, the *Book of Blessings* provides a blessing of food for Thanksgiving Day, which may be used in or out of Mass. See chapter 58, nos. 1755-1780, for the full order of service.

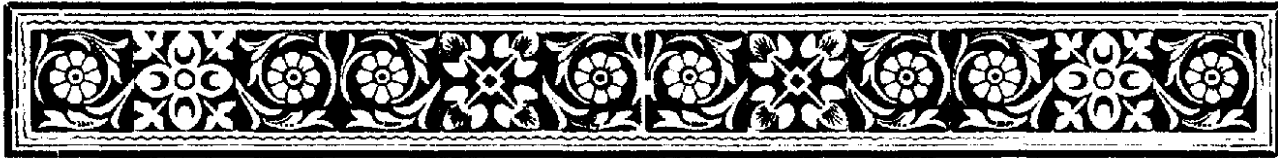
Of course, every Mass is the greatest celebration of thanksgiving we can hope to offer (the word “Eucharist” coming from the Greek word *eucharistia*, meaning “thanksgiving”).



## All Saints, Immaculate Conception Reminders

November 1, the Solemnity of All Saints, IS a holy day of obligation in 2019.

December 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is transferred to Monday, December 9, and IS NOT a holy day of obligation in 2019.



## Advent Wreaths

**Q.:** What is the most appropriate place for the Advent wreath in the church?

**A.:** Advent wreaths, in terms of usage in churches, are a relatively recent development. This Germanic custom has become the customary reminder that the Advent season is upon us and stands as a visual reminder of our anticipation of the celebration of the Nativity at Christmas.

There is actually some leeway as to the placement and usage of the Advent wreath. Traditionally, the wreath consists of three violet candles and one rose candle that correspond to the Sundays of Advent. However, one may use four candles of the same color. A new candle is then lit for every Sunday of Advent.

While there is no hard and fast rule for the placement of the wreath, there are some basic guidelines for its usage:

- ✘ It should be of a suitable size for the space – do not use a small tabletop wreath for your church, but also do not use an oppressively large wreath that overwhelms everything around it, either.
- ✘ It may be placed in the sanctuary, at the entrance of the church, in another visible location or devotional chapel in the church proper, or perhaps even suspended from the ceiling.
- ✘ Wherever it is placed, it should never obscure or interfere with the action of the Mass or other liturgies that are celebrated in the church. It also should not replace the altar candles or the Easter candle.

The blessing of the Advent wreath may take place on the first Sunday of Advent in the context of Mass, Liturgy of the Hours, or a Liturgy of the Word. Ideally, the wreath should only be blessed at one liturgy and not repeatedly blessed over the course of a weekend. For all subsequent uses of the Advent wreath, the appropriate candles may be lit either before Mass or other liturgy, or just before the Collect of Mass.

For more information on blessing, placement, and usage of the Advent wreath, please see Chapter 47 of the *Book of Blessings*, nos. 1509-1540.

## Readings for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Just a reminder—per the *Lectionary for Mass*, the readings for the proper Vigil Mass of the Nativity (#13 in the *Lectionary*) may be used for the Masses of Christmas Day, and, in fact, the readings from any of the Christmas Masses (#s 14-16) may be used at the other Christmas Masses depending on pastoral need. The preference would still seem to be to use the assigned readings at their assigned Masses since there is some continuity in their order (especially Mass at Midnight and Mass at Dawn), but they may be rearranged if it is pastorally helpful.

## Upcoming Holy Days of Obligation and Movable Feasts During the Christmas Season

**December 25—Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)**—It is **always** a holy day of obligation! Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord!

**December 29—The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**—This Feast is typically celebrated on the Sunday within the Octave of Christmas. This would be a great day to bless the families of your community (see the “*Book of Blessings* in the Christmas Season” below).

**January 1—Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord: Mary, the Holy Mother of God**—Since it is a Wednesday, it **is** a holy day of obligation in 2020. This is our diocesan feast day, as well, with the diocese under the patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title “Mother of God.” Come to Mass and pray for the well-being of our diocese as we celebrate our seventy-fifth anniversary!

**January 5—The Epiphany of the Lord**—In the United States Epiphany is moved to the Sunday between January 2 and January 8, which in 2020 is January 5. **Please note**—in the *Roman Missal*, there are proper prayers to be used for Vigil Masses of Epiphany celebrated the evening of Saturday, January 4. The readings, however, remain the same for both days. There is also the tradition of announcing the dates Easter and the movable feasts for the year on Epiphany. The Missal (both English and Spanish) provide the text and music for this proclamation in the appendix. It is done after the Gospel by the deacon or by a cantor.

**January 12—The Baptism of the Lord**—This Feast is typically celebrated the Sunday after Epiphany, which in 2020 is January 12. As with any proper Feast, and since it is a Sunday, the *Gloria* is to be sung at this Mass.



## Book of Blessings and the Christmas Season

While the official liturgical season that is Christmas is relatively short, there are several liturgical blessings particular to the season that are good to recognize and celebrate. The *Book of Blessings* (BB) and *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers* (HB) provide the content.

**Blessing of Nativity: BB, chapter 48; HB, pg. 78**—Probably the most obvious blessing is the blessing the nativity scene or manger, either at the parish or at home. Chapter 48 of BB provides the Order for blessing the nativity either in or out of Mass. It would seem to make sense that the nativity be blessed only once over the course of the Christmas liturgies, ideally at the first Mass of Christmas Eve or prior to it. However, it could also be revered with incense at any subsequent Christmas liturgies, perhaps during the incensing of the altar and cross at the Entrance. The shorter form in BB is the same as what is found in HB for blessing the home nativity.

**Blessing of a Christmas Tree: BB, chapter 49; HB, pg. 78**—Both BB and HB also provide a blessing for the Christmas tree (BB, chapter 49; HB, pg. 78). Trees set up in the church are not blessed in the context of Mass. At home or at church, the blessing may be celebrated during Liturgy of the Hours or a liturgy of the Word.

**Blessing of Family: BB, chapter 1**—The Feast of the Holy Family is an appropriate time to recognize the sacredness of the family and ask for God’s special blessing upon them. BB chapter 1 (nos. 62-67) would be most useful for this.

**Blessing of Homes During the Christmas Season: BB, chapter 50; HB, pg. 88**—The Christmas season, and especially Epiphany, is a traditional time when homes are blessed. One could also easily incorporate the Epiphany custom of marking the doors of the home with the year and the initials of the Magi (which is also an abbreviation for “May Christ bless this house” in Latin): 20+C+B+M+20.

Texts for these blessings are also available online from the [USCCB](#).

## Discount on *Order of Baptism of Children*

Five different publishers are offering eight versions of the *Order of Baptism of Children* (three are bilingual). After reviewing potential offers and handling what samples are available, the Office of Worship is pleased to be able to offer a **45% discount on the LTP versions** of the books (both English and bilingual). To take advantage of this substantial discount, orders must be placed through the Office Of Worship before Thanksgiving—see below.

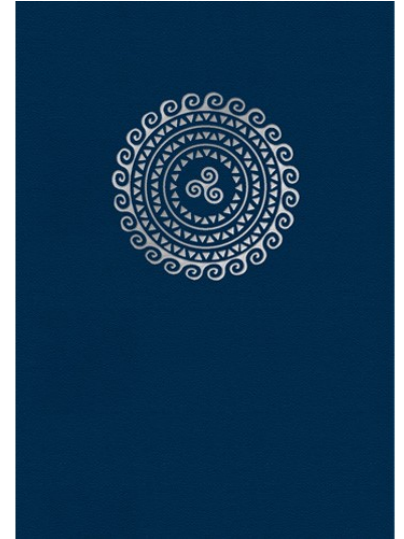
### LTP

#### ***The Order of Baptism of Children, Ritual Edition***

Features include:

- ✘ casebound book with silver foil stamp on front cover and spine
- ✘ two ribbon markers bound into the book
- ✘ pagination designed to aid in use and reduce disruption of page breaks
- ✘ opaque, acid-free paper to allow for maximum readability and glare reduction

**Office of Worship price—\$22.00 (45% off)**



#### ***The Order of Baptism of Children, Ritual Edition / Ritual para el Bautismo de los niños, Libro ritual***

With the same features as the English edition, this bilingual edition includes the new English translation and 2009 Spanish edition (updated with texts from the *Misal Romano*) in facing pages.

**Office of Worship price—\$30.25 (45% off)**

**This is an updated ritual book every parish must have!**

**To order, please contact Matt Miller ([mmiller@evdio.org](mailto:mmiller@evdio.org)) by Tuesday, November 26, with kind and number. Books will be ready for pick-up in mid-January. If you have questions feel free to be in touch.**

## Some Details on the *Order of Baptism of Children*

The *Order of Baptism of Children* was approved for use by the USCCB on November 14, 2017, and was subsequently confirmed by the Apostolic See by decree of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments on April 11, 2019.

This rite may be used in the Liturgy as of February 2, 2020, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, and its use is obligatory as of April 12, 2020, Easter. From that date forward, no other English translation of the rite may be used in the dioceses of the United States of America.

This Second Typical Edition contains the following:

- ✘ Christian Initiation: General Introduction
  - ✘ The Order of Baptism of Children: Introduction
  - ✘ Order of Baptism for Several Children
  - ✘ Order of Baptism for One Child
  - ✘ Order of Baptism for a Large Number of Children
- (continued on next page)*

## Details on the *Order of Baptism of Children* (cont.)

- ✘ Order of Baptism of Children to be Used by Catechists in the Absence of a Priest or Deacon
- ✘ Order of Baptism of Children in Danger of Death, or at the Point of Death, to be Used in the Absence of a Priest or Deacon
- ✘ Order of Bringing a Baptized Child to the Church
- ✘ Various Texts for Use in the Celebration of Baptism of Children (including prayer texts and Scripture readings)
- ✘ Appendix with texts and rubrics for the Order of Baptism for Several Children within Mass and the Order of Baptism for One Child within Mass

All the textual amendments made by the USCCB to the ICEL text were confirmed by the CDWDS as well as five adaptations approved by the USCCB:

- ✘ The text of an optional introduction
- ✘ The addition of a simple acclamation after each baptism
- ✘ Rubrics which incorporate previous adaptations made in previous USCCB editions
- ✘ An option to expand the Litany of the Saints
- ✘ A new appendix with the Baptism of Children within Mass (with a detailed outline).

Most of these appeared in the Spanish-language USA edition (*Ritual para el Bautismo de los Niños*) which was implemented in 2008. The two updates would be the expanded version of the Litany of the Saints and the appendix with the Order within Mass (a most-welcome addition-no longer does one have to try and piece the order within Mass together).

Some prayers have slight variations in translations – the Anointing after Baptism, the Clothing with the White Garment, the Handing on of a Lighted Candle, and the Ephphatha rite. Portions of the new translation may already be found in the Easter Vigil section of the *Roman Missal*.

## Color of Altar Cloth

**Q.:** What color should the altar cloth be? Does it need to match the color of the day?

**A.:** The altar is “the center of the thanksgiving that is accomplished through the Eucharist” (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal* [GIRM], no. 296), so it makes sense to pay attention to how the altar is covered and prepared.

According to the *General Instruction*, there should be “at least one cloth, white in color, whose shape, size, and decoration are in keeping with the altar’s structure” (GIRM, no. 304). It goes on to say that if other cloths are used, they may be of other colors (usually the color of the liturgical season or feast), but the top cloth is always white.

From a sign standpoint, the altar is said to represent Christ (in the words of Saint Ambrose, “the altar is Christ.”). Because of this, the white cloth has long symbolized the burial shroud of Christ. While others cloths may be used to ornament the altar, this uppermost reminder of Christ’s Passion and death is not to be overlooked.

In addition, from a practical standpoint, this cloth can also help to keep stains from reaching the other cloths underneath, especially if nicer colored cloths are used. But this white cloth should be seen as the minimum needed.

Related to this point, the top white cloth is distinct from the corporal that is also placed on the altar for the celebration of Mass. Even if a large corporal is used that may cover most or all of the altar, it is still seen as separate from this white altar cloth.