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Saints in July—Saint Mary Magdalene

While it may not be a holy day of obligation (Solemnities of precept), there is one Feast in July that deserves some special attention:

July 22—Feast of Saint Mary Magdalene

In 2016, the Memorial of Saint Mary Magdalene was raised to a proper Feast. As with any Feast, the *Gloria* is sung at Mass, and the readings for the feast day take the place of the Ordinary Time readings. A proper Preface was approved for use in 2019, and it will be made available on the “Worship” area of the diocesan website.

In the Office of Readings of the Liturgy of the Hours, the psalmody, verse, and First Reading with its Responsory are taken from the Common of Holy Women instead of the usual day; the *Te Deum* is also sung or said after the Second Reading with its Responsory. Funerals may be celebrated this day if needed.

Assumption of the BVM—Holy Day of Obligation or Not?

Q. Is the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary a holy day of obligation this year?

A. August 15 lands on a Saturday in 2020. This means that the Assumption would not be a holy day of obligation. However, with the lifting of the obligation to attend Mass still in effect, it would not be a day of obligation anyway.

Christmas and the Immaculate Conception are the only days that retain their obligation if they land on Saturday or Monday.

Other Assumption notes—Assumption is one of the few days that does have proper prayers and readings for a vigil Mass the evening of August 14. Masses celebrated after 4 PM on August 14 would use the vigil Mass prayers and readings. Since it is not a holy day of obligation, funeral Masses may be celebrated this day. However, other ritual Masses (such as wedding Masses) would need to use the readings and prayers for the Assumption.

For the Liturgy of the Hours, Evening Prayer I of the Assumption is prayed on Friday evening, and Evening Prayer II would be prayed Saturday evening (rather than EP I of Sunday).

Even though it is not a day of obligation and we still remain limited in how we celebrate public Masses, this still remains an important day for us to turn to our Blessed Mother in prayer and ask for her maternal care for her children. Queen assumed into heaven—pray for us!

Faculty for Sacrament of Confirmation

With the Sacraments of Initiation delayed from the Easter Vigil this year, and the fact that Confirmation is celebrated many times throughout the year, it seems appropriate to review when a priest does or does not have the faculty to Confirm.

Priests by virtue of office (such as pastor or parochial vicar) or by mandate of the bishop have the faculty to Confirm those entering or re-entering full Communion:

- ✘ Catechumens/Elect over seven years of age whom they have just Baptized (this would normally occur at the Easter Vigil, but the bishop granted a dispensation for this year due to the pandemic)
- ✘ Baptized non-Catholics over seven years of age coming into full Communion
- ✘ Catholics who apostatized or left as infants without fault to adhere to another religion and are now returning

Priests do not have the faculty to Confirm those already in full Communion:

- ✘ Uncatechized Catholic adults
- ✘ Returning non-practicing Catholics
- ✘ Catechized Catholic adults (such as those who may have “missed” their parish’s celebration of Confirmation as a young person)

In addition:

- ✘ Those priests who have the faculty to Confirm are obliged to use it
- ✘ All priests have the faculty to Confirm in danger of death
- ✘ Priests who do not have an office (such as retired priests) do not have the faculty to Confirm and must request it (outside danger of death)
- ✘ Before Confirmation is celebrated, any irregular marriage situations should be resolved
- ✘ Celebration of the sacrament should be recorded in the parish’s Confirmation register, and notification of the celebration should be sent to the person’s parish of Baptism

If there ever is a question as to whether or not there is a need to request the faculty to Confirm from the bishop, do not hesitate to ask. Since the faculty affects the valid celebration, it is better to ask and be told one already has the faculty than to assume a faculty that is not there.

Back to School

BEGINNING THE SCHOOL YEAR IN PRAYER

Perhaps more than any other time, as the beginning of this school year approaches, it is right to look at starting with 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.

Continuing to Remember the Sick in Prayer

Even as the state continues to progress in its response plan, there are still many impacted by the pandemic and other maladies both here and abroad. Here are repeated a few suggestions on keeping all those impacted in prayer.

Celebrate a Mass for the sick on an appropriate weekday

- ✘ *Roman Missal*, Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions, III. For Various Occasions, 45. For the Sick
- ✘ *Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary*, no. 44, The Blessed Virgin Mary, Health of the Sick
- ✘ Newly issued Mass “In Time of Pandemic,” available on the [diocesan Office of Worship website](#)

[Prayer of Archbishop José Gomez of Los Angeles asking intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe](#)

Sample Intercessions for Mass, Liturgy of the Hours, Personal Prayer

- ✘ For scientists, health professionals, public officials, and all who are serving the common good in this difficult and uncertain time, that they will be filled with wisdom and understanding.
- ✘ That in times of illness our merciful and loving Father will strengthen our faith and trust in his goodness and divine providence.
- ✘ That our compassionate Father would touch all affected by the current outbreak with healing and peace.

Additions to the Litany of Loreto

In a letter dated June 20, the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments announced that Pope Francis has added three new invocations to the litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary known as the “Litany of Loreto.” The new additions are:

- ✘ Mother of mercy (after “Mother of the Church”)
- ✘ Mother of hope (after “Mother of Divine Grace”)
- ✘ Solace of migrants (after “Refuge of sinners”)

In making the announcement, it was noted the Holy Father wished to add the titles in response to “the realities of the times we are living,” not only due to the pandemic but also those who have been forced from their homes due to poverty and conflict.

According to Vatican News, the Litany of Loreto takes its name from the Marian shrine of Loreto in Italy, where it is believed to have been used as far back as 1531. It was officially approved in 1587 by Pope Sixtus V. The Litany of Loreto is the only approved Marian litany. However, many more Marian litanies were and are in use, but are designated for private devotion.

Through the centuries at least 7 new invocations to Mary were added. Most recently, Pope Saint John Paul II added “Mother of the Church” in 1980 and “Queen of families” in 1995.

For your convenience, the entire litany with the new additions has been reproduced for you in this newsletter.

Who Uses the Ambo

Q. What parts of the Mass are done at the ambo, and who should use it?

A. As the place where the Word of God is proclaimed, the ambo should be seen as more than just a podium or book stand. The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* tells us that “only the readings, the Responsorial Psalm, and the Easter Proclamation are to be proclaimed” from the ambo, and it may also be used for the homily and for the Prayer of the Faithful (no. 309). While the ambo is often used like a cantor stand for other parts like the Acclamation before the Gospel or to make announcements (since it is often the only microphone available), the GIRM reminds us that “the dignity of the ambo requires that only a minister of the word should stand at it.” (no. 309) Much like we would not use the altar as a common table to set random items, the ambo’s use should be reserved as much as possible to the specific place where God’s word is set out before his people.

Litany of Loreto

Taken from the Vatican website, with new additions underlined.

Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**
Christ have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**
Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**
Christ hear us. **Christ hear us.**
Christ graciously hear us. **Christ graciously**
 hear us.

God, the Father of heaven, **have mercy on us.**

God the Son, Redeemer
of the world, **have mercy on us.**

God the Holy Spirit, **have mercy on us.**

Holy Trinity, one God, **have mercy on us.**

Holy Mary, **pray for us.**

Holy Mother of God,
Holy Virgin of virgins,
Mother of Christ,
Mother of the Church,
Mother of mercy,
Mother of divine grace,
Mother of hope,
Mother most pure,
Mother most chaste,
Mother inviolate,
Mother undefiled,
Mother most amiable,
Mother admirable,
Mother of good counsel,
Mother of our Creator,
Mother of our Saviour,
Mother of mercy,
Virgin most prudent,
Virgin most venerable,
Virgin most renowned,
Virgin most powerful,
Virgin most merciful,
Virgin most faithful,
Mirror of justice,
Seat of wisdom,
Cause of our joy,
Spiritual vessel,
Vessel of honour,
Singular vessel of devotion, →

Mystical rose,
Tower of David,
Tower of ivory,
House of gold,
Ark of the covenant,
Gate of heaven,
Morning star,
Health of the sick,
Refuge of sinners,
Solace of migrants,
Comfort of the afflicted,
Help of Christians,
Queen of Angels,
Queen of Patriarchs,
Queen of Prophets,
Queen of Apostles,
Queen of Martyrs,
Queen of Confessors,
Queen of Virgins,
Queen of all Saints,
Queen conceived without original sin,
Queen assumed into heaven,
Queen of the most holy Rosary,
Queen of families,
Queen of peace.

Lamb of God, who takest
away the sins of the world, **spare us, O Lord.**

Lamb of God, who takest
away the sins of the world, **graciously hear us,**
 O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takest
away the sins of the world, **have mercy on us.**

Pray for us,
O holy Mother of God. **That we may be**
 made worthy of the
 promises of Christ.

Let us pray.
Grant, we beseech thee,
O Lord God,
that we, your servants,
may enjoy perpetual health of mind and body;
and by the intercession of the Blessed Mary,
ever Virgin,
may be delivered from present sorrow,
and obtain eternal joy.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.