



FROM THE OFFICE OF WORSHIP

NOTES FOR MARCH/APRIL 2021

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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 2021 will be on Sunday, May 16. 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 15. 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.

Calendar Notes: Saint John of Avila; Pope Saint Paul VI; Pentecost; Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church;

Over the past few years, there have been additions to the calendars for the Easter season and May. Below is a brief summary:

May 10—Saint John of Avila

In January of this year Pope Francis ordered the inscription of Saint John of Avila into the General Roman Calendar as an Optional Memorial. Proper prayers and readings for Mass may be taken from the “Common of Pastors” or the “Common of Doctors of the Church” in the *Roman Missal* and *Lectionary for Mass*, respectively. The Liturgy of the Hours uses the psalmody of the day, with other elements from the Psalter of the day or the “Common of Pastors” or “Common of Doctors of the Church.” As a Memorial, funerals may be celebrated this day if needed. May 10 also remains the Optional Memorial of Saint Damien Joseph de Veuster of Molokai.

For more information on Saint John, [click here](#) to read the letter from Pope Benedict XVI declaring him a Doctor of the Church.

(continued on next page)

Calendar Notes (continued)

May 23—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. In addition, the double Alleluia should be used at the dismissal.

May 24—Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church

In 2018 this obligatory Memorial was added to the calendar by Pope Francis. The proper prayers for the Mass are to be taken from the votive Mass “Our Lady, Mother of the Church,” and there are proper readings assigned to this day that take the place of the Ordinary Time readings. For the Liturgy of the Hours, the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary may be used, with the Prayer taken from the votive Mass. As a Memorial, funerals may be celebrated this day if needed.

May 29—Saint Paul VI

In 2019, Pope Francis ordered the inscription of Saint Paul VI into the General Roman Calendar as an Optional Memorial. Proper prayers and readings for Mass may be taken from the “Common of Pastors: For a Pope” in the *Roman Missal* and *Lectionary for Mass*, respectively. The Liturgy of the Hours uses the psalmody of the day, with other elements from the Psalter of the day or the “Common of Pastors: For a Pope.” As a Memorial, funerals may be celebrated this day if needed.

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 upon us, 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 (once the need for social distancing has passed) 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.
- ✘ May 15: Memorial of Saint Isidore—As the patron saint of farmers, it would be most appropriate to celebrate the above blessings this day or to use the proper prayers for this optional Memorial this day, even though planting season will be well under way by this point.
- ✘ *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](#).

Year of Saint Joseph Resources and Plenary Indulgences

In celebration of the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX's declaration of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church, Pope Francis proclaimed a special "Year of St. Joseph," beginning December 8, 2020, and concluding on the same date in 2021.

The USCCB has compiled resources, catechetical material, and prayers/devotions to assist in celebrating this special year. Please visit their "[Saint Joseph](#)" page for more information.

The Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC) has also put together a resource page for the Year, including video reflections and music suggestions. Please visit the [FDLC Saint Joseph](#) page for more.

In addition, special opportunities to receive a plenary indulgence were included in the announcement, subject to the usual conditions: sacramental confession, reception of Holy Communion, prayer for the intentions of the Pope, and total detachment to all sin, including venial sin.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the Holy See made provision in its decree that persons who are currently unable to go to Mass or confession because of public health restrictions may defer reception of those two sacraments until they are able to do so. Those who are sick, suffering, or homebound may also receive the plenary indulgence by fulfilling as much as they are able and by offering their sorrows and sufferings to God through Saint Joseph, consolator of the sick and patron saint for receiving a good death.

The following prayers and activities have been enriched with a plenary indulgence:

- ✠ meditate for at least 30 minutes on the Lord's Prayer ("Our Father") or participate in a spiritual retreat of at least one day that includes a meditation on Saint Joseph;
- ✠ perform a corporal or spiritual work of mercy, inspired by the life and example of Saint Joseph;
- ✠ pray the Rosary together as a family or a couple, modeling the virtues of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph;
- ✠ dedicate with confidence their daily work to the protection of Saint Joseph the Worker, including the efforts of those who are unemployed, underemployed, or seeking more dignified work;
- ✠ devoutly recite the Litany of Saint Joseph, some or all of the *Akathistos* hymn to Saint Joseph (from the Byzantine Churches), or another suitable prayer in each liturgical tradition, especially for the intentions of persecuted Catholics in the Church and around the world, and for the relief of all Christians who suffer persecution; or
- ✠ devoutly recite another approved prayer to Saint Joseph, for example the "To you, O blessed Joseph," especially on various feasts of Saint Joseph: March 19 (his solemnity), May 1 (St. Joseph the Worker), the Sunday after Christmas (Holy Family), St. Joseph's Sunday (Byzantine Catholics), or on the 19th day of each month, or each Wednesday, traditionally dedicated to honor his memory with pious devotions.

Saint Joseph, solace of the afflicted, hope of the sick, patron of the dying, terror of demons, protector of the Holy Church, pray for us this year and always!

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

Upcoming Conferences

Will They Come Back After COVID?: Disaffiliation, Affiliation, and the Liturgy

June 14-July 23, 2021

McGrath Institute for Church Life, University of Notre Dame

Due to ongoing health concerns amid the coronavirus pandemic, the Center for Liturgy's on-campus summer programming has once again been canceled for 2021. Instead, this June and July, they will host the following virtual Summer Liturgy Series.

The onset of the coronavirus pandemic has caused great disruption in the liturgical life of the Church. Public celebrations of the Mass and other sacraments were cancelled or postponed, leaving millions of Catholics to “participate” in the liturgical life via online platforms. Although many churches throughout the world have now resumed in-person liturgies, many of the faithful have yet to return, which begs the question, will they ever come back?

Ultimately, the current climate has exacerbated trends already in existence long before COVID-19. To have any hope of recovering from the ecclesial devastation wrought by the pandemic, leaders in the Church must grapple with questions of disaffiliation and affiliation, asking not only what might prompt someone to leave the Church, but also—and perhaps more importantly—what might encourage them to stay.

Over six weeks this summer, through a combination of synchronous and asynchronous offerings, we will examine these questions and more. Together, we will rediscover the riches of the Church's Tradition in order to propose them in new and beautiful ways to the disaffiliated and the affiliated alike. In this recovery and reproposal, we hope to inspire and to build a deeper culture of affiliation through the Church's liturgical life.

Each week, participants will receive:

- ✘ Two video interviews with experts in theology and pastoral ministry
 - ✘ Invitations to a live webinar with our experts for Q&A and further conversation
 - ✘ Curated reading materials and resources
 - ✘ Forums for online discussion with other program participants
 - ✘ Opportunities for spiritual formation, including communal prayer and enriching experiences of sacred beauty
- All of these materials will be hosted in a user-friendly learning management system.

Weekly Topics

- ✘ June 14–18, 2021: What is disaffiliation? Why do people leave the Church?
- ✘ June 21–25, 2021: What is affiliation? Why do people stay in the Church?
- ✘ June 28—July 2, 2021: The Eucharist—Supreme Image of Affiliation
- ✘ July 5–9, 2021: Popular Piety—Cultivating Affiliation through the Treasures of Tradition
- ✘ July 12–16, 2021: Sacred Beauty—Inviting Affiliation through the Imagination
- ✘ July 19-23, 2021: The Domestic Church—Practicing Affiliation in Everyday Life

Costs

In honor of the 50th anniversary of the Notre Dame Center for Liturgy, we are pleased to offer access to the entire summer series for just \$50 for individual participants, and \$125 for groups of 6 people (registrant plus 5 colleagues). Registration deadline: June 14, 2021

To register or for more information on topics and speakers, please visit the [Notre Dame Liturgy Week website](#).



Upcoming Conference



44th Annual Convention
National Association of Pastoral Musicians
July 27-30, 2021
New Orleans, LA

This year's convention will be a "hybrid event", offering both an in-person and virtual experience for an attendee to register. Feel safer not traveling this year, or does your budget not allow for travel? Sign up for the virtual convention experience. You'll watch the same Plenum addresses, breakout sessions and other events that your in-person attendees are experiencing as well.

Want to join the fun in New Orleans? Register as an in-person attendee. We have some surprises up our sleeve to make the in-person experience full of New Orleans spirit.

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 the [NPM national convention website](#).

Online Courses



Online Study Program
The Liturgical Institute
University of Saint Mary of the Lake
Mundelein, IL

This Liturgical Institute online liturgy program is a resource for clergy, church professionals and the laity. It extends the mission of the Institute to diocesan and parish professionals as well as interested individual Catholics. Composed of five one-hour classroom sessions followed by online quizzes, each course awards one-half Continuing Education Unit and brings a fresh, energized approach to the study of liturgical renewal.

Available as individual courses or as a bundle. View them at your own pace, on your own time.

For a full course listing or to register, please visit the Liturgical Institute's [Online Study Program site](#).

OCP Parish Grants Program

The pandemic has created extensive hardships for many parishes across the country, finding new ways to meet the spiritual needs of their communities while working with increasingly tight budgets. It is for this reason that OCP is honored to partner with communities of faith across the country through their annual OCP Parish Grants Program, aimed at supporting and enhancing parish worship. Since its inception in 2001, the Program has awarded more than \$3.3 million to parishes throughout the United States.

Applications for the 2021 Program are being accepted through May 30. All applicants are required to fill out an online application at ocp.org/parish-grants, providing information about their parish—demographics, pastoral ministries offered and intentions for the grant. Grant recipients will be announced in August.

The Program is open to all Roman Catholic parishes and campus ministry programs in the U.S., so long as they have not received an OCP grant the previous year. Awarded grants must be used for liturgical and/or musical purposes. Applicants do not need to currently use an OCP worship program in order to qualify.

For more information, please visit ocp.parish-grants or call 1-800-LITURGY (548-8749).