



FROM THE OFFICE OF WORSHIP

NOTES FOR MAY/JUNE 2021

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Saints in July—Saint Mary Magdalene; Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus

While they may not be holy days of obligation, there is one Feast and a new Memorial in July that deserve some special attention in July:

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 is 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.

July 29—Memorial of Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus

On January 26, 2021, Pope Francis ordered the inscription of Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus into the General Roman Calendar as an obligatory Memorial, to replace the existing celebration of Saint Martha alone. The proper liturgical texts were released by the Holy See in Latin. While some of the existing texts have remained the same, others have been adjusted slightly or included for the first time. Interim liturgical guidelines for the celebration of Sts. Martha, Mary and Lazarus will be made available on the “Worship” area of the website. As with any Memorial, funerals may still be celebrated this day.

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 Sunday in 2021. This means that the Assumption is a holy day of obligation (since it is a Sunday). Assumption takes the place of the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

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 a holy day of obligation, funeral Masses may be not celebrated this day. In addition, other ritual Masses (such as wedding Masses) would need to use the readings and prayers for the Assumption.

With it landing on a Sunday, this gives many more people an opportunity to turn to our Blessed Mother in prayer and ask for her maternal care for her children. Queen assumed into heaven—pray for us!

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 week-day that allows for a Votive Mass to be celebrated (check your *ordo*). Proper prayers for the Mass can be found in the *Missal* under Votive Masses, #9, The Holy Spirit; and readings can be found in the *Lectionary* at #1001.

Review/Update Your Liturgical Ministers

Having used few to no extra liturgical ministers over the past year, many parishes may find themselves in need of reviewing and updating their rosters. Here are some things to keep in mind:

- ✘ It could be helpful to bring together your parish’s various liturgical ministers for some formation this summer—either to remind and refresh them in the ministry or to make any changes needed due to the pandemic or other reasons. Resources for various ministries at Mass can be found in the “Mass” section of the Worship area of the diocesan website.
- ✘ If you have not recently sent in an update of your parish’s listing of extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion (EMHCs), now is a good time to do so! If you are not sure or would like a copy of what is on record, please contact the Office of Worship and we will gladly send you a copy. Updated lists can be sent to the Office of Worship via email or regular mail.
- ✘ EMHCs are commissioned by the bishop at the recommendation of the pastor for their ministry. They are commissioned for five year terms, and can be renewed as often as needed. The “Order for the Commissioning of Extraordinary Ministers” in chapter 63 of the *Book of Blessings* may be used to inaugurate their ministry.
- ✘ Other ministers such as readers, altar servers, sacristans, musicians, and ushers may also be blessed to begin or restart their service using chapter 62 of the *Book of Blessings*. This could be done at a Sunday Mass, or as part of an in-person gathering or formation session for those who perform those ministries.

Additions to the Litany of Saint Joseph

In honor of the current Year of Saint Joseph, Pope Francis recently inserted seven new invocations in the Litany of St. Joseph, “drawn from the interventions of the Popes who have reflected on aspects of the figure of the Patron of the Universal Church.” These are first changes to the litany since its original promulgation in 1909. This was communicated by a circular letter from the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments on the memorial of St. Joseph the Worker, May 1. The additions are:

- ✘ Servant of Christ; Minister of salvation (after “Zealous defender of Christ”)
- ✘ Support in difficulties (after “Cornerstone of families”)
- ✘ Patron of exiles; Patron of the afflicted; Patron of the poor (after “Hope of the sick”)

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

Christmas Creep 2021 & Mary Mother of God 2022

This year, the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) falls on a Saturday and is immediately followed on Sunday by the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. In cases like these of consecutive feast days, there are often questions regarding which Mass is to be celebrated on Saturday evening and whether Evening Prayer II of the current day or Evening Prayer I of the following day is prayed at the Liturgy of the Hours.

What day is celebrated is determined by two considerations: the rank of each celebration on the Table of Liturgical Days and whether each celebration is a holy day of obligation. In some cases, e.g., when the Assumption falls on a Saturday, the Mass of the Sunday in Ordinary Time is generally anticipated on Saturday evening because precedence is given to the “feast of precept” – even though the Assumption occupies a higher place on the Table of Liturgical Days.

In the case of Christmas and Holy Family, both are days of precept (the latter because it falls on a Sunday), but Christmas occupies a higher place on the Table of Liturgical Days. Therefore, on the evening of Saturday, December 25, the Nativity Mass during the Day is celebrated with its accompanying readings from the Lectionary, and Evening Prayer II is prayed.

On days such as these, there are also questions regarding the fulfillment of the obligation to attend Mass. In short, each obligation (in this case, one for Christmas and another for Holy Family) must be fulfilled with a separate Mass. The fulfillment of the Mass obligation does not depend upon the Mass prayers and readings but rather on the time of day at which one attends Mass. According to canon 1248 §1, “A person who assists at a Mass celebrated anywhere in a Catholic rite either on the feast day itself or in the evening of the preceding day satisfies the obligation of participating in the Mass.” Evening is commonly understood to begin at 4:00 PM, the earliest time permitted for anticipated Masses. The chart below may be helpful :

Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)	Holy Family
Obligation may be fulfilled from the evening of Friday, December 24 through Saturday, December 25.	Obligation may be fulfilled from the evening of Saturday, December 25 through Sunday, December 26.
For example, one may attend: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vigil Mass of the Nativity• Mass during the Night (celebrated at any time)• Morning/afternoon/evening Masses on December 25	For example, one may attend: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Afternoon/evening Masses on December 25 (even though the Mass texts will be for the Nativity)• Morning/afternoon/evening Masses on December 26

The situation with the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God on Saturday, January 1, 2022 is more straightforward. In the United States, the obligation to attend Mass on the Solemnity of Mary is lifted when this celebration occurs on a Monday or a Saturday. In this case, because the Solemnity occurs on a Saturday, the Vigil Mass of the Epiphany is celebrated and Evening Prayer I of the Epiphany is prayed at the Liturgy of the Hours. Even if both solemnities were holy days of obligation, the Vigil Mass and Evening Prayer I of Epiphany would still be celebrated on the evening of Saturday, January 1. While one is not required to anticipate a Mass on the preceding evening of a Sunday or feast of precept, the Vigil Mass of the Epiphany is not an anticipated Mass but a Vigil. According to the Universal Norms of the Liturgical Year and the Calendar, “Some Solemnities are also endowed with their own Vigil Mass, which is to be used on the evening of the preceding day, if an evening Mass is celebrated” (no. 11). *(based on materials in the March/April 2021 BCDW Newsletter)*

Litany of Saint Joseph

The Litany of Saint Joseph was first approved for public use by Pope Saint Pius X in 1909, and is ordinarily enriched with a partial indulgence. During the Year of Saint Joseph, however, the use of the Litany has been included among other prayers enriched with a plenary indulgence. Taken from the USCCB, 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.
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Saint Joseph,
Illustrious son of David,
Light of Patriarchs,
Spouse of the Mother of God,
Guardian of the Redeemer,
Pure Guardian of the Virgin,
Provider for the Son of God,
Zealous defender of Christ,

Servant of Christ,

Minister of salvation,

Head of the Holy Family,

Joseph, most just,

Joseph, most chaste,

Joseph, most prudent,

Joseph, most brave,

Joseph, most obedient,

Joseph, most loyal,

Mirror of patience,

Lover of poverty,

Model for workers,

Glory of family life,

Guardian of virgins,

Cornerstone of families,

Support in difficulties,

Comfort of the sorrowing,

Hope of the sick,

Patron of exiles,

Patron of the afflicted,

Patron of the poor,
Patron of the dying,
Terror of demons,
Protector of the Holy Church,

Lamb of God, you take
away the sins of the world, **spare us, O Lord.**

Lamb of God, you take
away the sins of the world, **hear us, O Lord.**

Lamb of God, you take
away the sins of the world, **have mercy on us.**

He made him master
of his house, **and ruler of all
his possessions.**

Let us pray.

O God, who in your inexpressible providence
were pleased to choose Saint Joseph
as spouse of your most holy Mother,

grant, we pray,

that we, who revere him as our protector on earth,
may be worthy of his heavenly intercession.

Who live and reign for ever and ever.

Amen.

Alternate introduction:

Lord, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.
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Christ, have mercy.	Christ, have mercy.
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Lord, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.
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Or:

God the Father in heaven,	have mercy on us.
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God the Son,	have mercy on us.
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Redeemer of the world,	have mercy on us.
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God the Holy Spirit,	have mercy on us.
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Holy Trinity, one God,	have mercy on us.
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Holy Mary...	
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Alternate conclusion:

Christ, hear us.	Christ, hear us.
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Christ, graciously hear us.	Christ, graciously hear us.
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Or:

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,	spare us, O Lord.
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Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,	hear us, O Lord.
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Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,	have mercy on us.
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He made him master...	
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Let us pray. O God...	
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