



FROM THE OFFICE OF WORSHIP

NOTES FOR MAY/JUNE 2023

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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) 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 2023 will be on Sunday, May 21. 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 20. 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; Pentecost; Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church

Below is a brief summary of some additions to and clarifications of the liturgical calendar through June:

May 10—Saint John of Avila

In January of 2021, 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.

May 28—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 (for more details on the “double Alleluia,” see page 2 of this newsletter).

(continued on next page)

Calendar Notes (continued)

May 29—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 is used except for the Second Reading and Responsory, and the Gospel canticle antiphons for Morning and Evening Prayer. 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 (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 feast of patron saint of farmers, it would be appropriate to celebrate the above blessings 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](#).

The “Double Alleluia” in the Easter Season

Q.: When should the double Alleluia dismissal be used?

A.: One of the most striking parts of the Masses of Easter Sunday is the inclusion of the “double Alleluia” as part of the dismissal by the deacon or priest. The earliest reference to this practice comes from the thirteenth century. Having gone without any “alleluias” during Lent, we may be compelled to want to include it in all of our Easter celebrations. However, that would not be the way the Church envisions its usage. According to the *Roman Missal*, the double Alleluia is included as part of the dismissal on the following days:

- ✘ the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday
- ✘ the Octave of Easter (the eight days following Easter Sunday)
- ✘ Pentecost

Otherwise, through the rest of the Easter season, no alleluias are added to the dismissal. So save those alleluias for Pentecost—come Holy Spirit!

Upcoming Conference

Sacred Music Colloquium 2023

June 19-24, 2023

Old Saint Mary's Parish, Detroit, Michigan
Church Music Association of America



**CHURCH MUSIC ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA**

The Church Music Association of America is pleased to announce the 33rd annual Sacred Music Colloquium for chant and polyphony. This week-long experience, held at the gorgeous and historic Old St. Mary's Church and at Wayne State University will immerse beginner to advanced singers, conductors, and clergy in the beauty of sacred chant and polyphony.

Stunning liturgies, interactive choirs, and in-depth courses will grow your appreciation of sacred music and equip you with the tools and knowledge to bring it to your parish. Learn Gregorian chant under a world-class faculty, with choices of chant classes for beginners to advanced men and women. Participate in Music Specialty Breakout sessions for organists, chant conducting, new music, vocal pedagogy, warmup techniques, among others. Experience three choirs singing sacred music of the masters such as Isaac, Vivanco, Byrd, Victoria, Brumel, Morales, Bernabei, Hassler, and Guerrero, contemporary compositions by Knaggs and Jernberg, as well as a newly composed Spanish Mass Ordinary by David Hughes.

Who should attend?

- ✦ Anyone interested in sacred music in Catholic worship
- ✦ Professional musicians
- ✦ Volunteer singers
- ✦ Priests, deacons and seminarians

For more information on registration, schedule, housing and costs, please visit the [CMAA Colloquium website](#).



Upcoming Conference

Summer Chant Workshop

August 7-11, 2023

Institute for Sacred Music

Saint Meinrad Archabbey Guest House and Retreat Center



Saint Meinrad

This workshop is designed for directors of parish liturgical music and singers in parish liturgies. Come spend a week immersed in the beauty of liturgical chant. Learn how to incorporate English and Latin chant into today's parish liturgy. Through the week, attendees will have the opportunity to participate in the liturgies of Saint Meinrad's Benedictine monastic community, as well as to sing in a chant schola.

The Institute for Sacred Music advances the call for both the full and active participation of the faithful through their singing as well as their intellectual and spiritual training in the musical tradition of the Church. Through its events, resources, and course offerings, it brings together scholars with practitioners to promote sacred music as a living and vibrant tradition, grounded in history but always responsive to the unique demands of the moment.

For more information on this workshop as well as other resources for chant and sacred music, please visit the Saint Meinrad [Institute for Sacred Music website](#).

Upcoming Conference



46TH ANNUAL NPM NATIONAL CONVENTION

Walking with the Saints

JULY 10-14, 2023 • RENO, NEVADA | JULY 18-20, 2023 • VIRTUALLY

The 2023 National Convention will offer both in-person and virtual experiences. The in-person convention will be held in Reno, Nevada, July 10-14 at the Nugget Casino Resort. The virtual convention will take place July 18-20, with recorded content available for both in-person and virtual participants through September 30, 2023. The Virtual Convention will also include Breakout sessions presented live on the Virtual Convention web platform.

For more information on the registration costs, breakouts, information on speakers and other events, and housing options, please visit the [NPM national convention website](#).

OCP Parish Grants Program

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 2023 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).

Upcoming Conference

October 11, 2023
Cincinnati, OH
Federation of Diocesan
Liturgical Commissions



In a post-pandemic era when we are encouraging families with young children to return to Sunday worship, we need to educate parents and children alike. In a culture where families are struggling against the opinions of secular society, we need to nurture the Catholic identity of our youngest Church members. And in a time when entertainment is often more valued than true worship, we need to foster the full, conscious, and active participation of our youth in the liturgy, by means of the liturgy.

This study day includes:

- ✘ Two plenary sessions
- ✘ Six breakouts on topics ranging from RCIA for children, preparing First Communion Masses, music for Masses with children, and preaching to children
- ✘ In person or virtual options available

For more information on registration, session topics and presenters, accommodations and other costs, please visit the [FDLC National Meeting website](#).

Here lies all the powerful beauty of the liturgy. If the resurrection were for us a concept, an idea, a thought; if the Risen One were for us the recollection of the recollection of others, however authoritative, as, for example, of the Apostles; if there were not given also to us the possibility of a true encounter with Him, that would be to declare the newness of the Word made flesh to have been all used up. Instead, the Incarnation, in addition to being the only always new event that history knows, is also the very method that the Holy Trinity has chosen to open to us the way of communion. Christian faith is either an encounter with Him alive, or it does not exist.

—*Desiderio desideravi*, 10