



FROM THE OFFICE OF WORSHIP

NOTES FOR MARCH/APRIL 2024

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Good Friday Crosses

Q. How many crosses may be used for Adoration at the Good Friday Celebration of the Passion of the Lord?

A. Only one cross is used for adoration. While the previous edition of the *Roman Missal* made allowance for the use of more than one cross, the current rubric for Good Friday is very clear:

Only one Cross should be offered for adoration. If, because of the large number of people, it is not possible for all to approach individually, the Priest, after some of the clergy and faithful have adored, takes the Cross and, standing in the middle before the altar, invites the people in a few words to adore the Holy Cross and afterwards holds the Cross elevated higher for a brief time, for the faithful to adore it in silence. (*Roman Missal*, Friday of the Passion of the Lord, no. 19)

When a sufficiently large cross is used even a large community can reverence it in due time. The foot of the cross as well as the right and left arm can be approached and venerated. Coordination with ushers and planning the flow of people beforehand can allow for this part of the liturgy to be celebrated with decorum and devotion. This personal adoration of the cross is an important feature in this celebration and every effort should be made to achieve it.

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!

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](#).

Calendar Notes for April: Late Annunciation & Bishop Gettelfinger Anniversary

April 8—Annunciation of the Lord

The Church places such importance on this feast that it is not dropped from the calendar when there is a date conflict. With March 25 landing on the Monday of Holy Week, this solemnity is moved to the first available date on the calendar, which in this case is two weeks later. The Gloria should be sung, the Creed should be recited, and all should genuflect during the Creed at the words of the Incarnation (“...and was incarnate of the Virgin Mary...”). Please do not overlook this day in the midst of the eclipse!

April 11—Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Emeritus Gettelfinger

Please remember Bishop Emeritus Gettelfinger in your prayers as we celebrate the 35th anniversary of his ordination and installation as bishop of the Diocese of Evansville.

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 2024 will be on Sunday, May 12. It will continue to be celebrated on the seventh Sunday of Easter for the foreseeable future. (*continued on next page*)

Ascension – Thursday or Sunday? (cont.)

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 11. The readings, however, remain the same for both the vigil and the Sunday. 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.

Hymn and Theme Song for the National Eucharistic Revival

The National Eucharistic Revival held a music contest in early 2023 to encourage the composition of new Eucharistic hymns. “Let the Earth Acclaim” by Kathleen Pluth was chosen as the winning hymn, alongside the revival’s theme song, “We Do Believe, O Lord,” written by Diane Mahoney.

Examining the new hymn more closely, the lyrics focus on the living presence of Christ, who continues to dwell with us in the Eucharist, as well as his entry into the world, on the altar, and into our lives. Christ transforms us by his sacrifice, death and resurrection. Each of the five stanzas are kerygmatic, proclaiming the different ways that Christ comes to redeem us. The first stanza highlights Christ’s divine sonship, cross, and grace, and the second shares an image of the Lord knocking at the door. Our incorporation into the Lord’s resurrection is the subject of the third, and stanzas four and five express praise and thanksgiving at the transforming power of God’s goodness.

Well suited for liturgies like Mass and Eucharistic Adoration, the meter of “Let the Earth Acclaim” is 87 87 D, versatile enough to set to a variety of melodies. On the Eucharistic Revival website, the hymn is set to three familiar tunes: Hyfrydol, Hymn to Joy, and Nettleton. Lyrics and sheet music for both the hymn and theme song were released to the public and are freely available in both English and Spanish at [EucharisticRevival.org/post/sheet-music-available-for-new-eucharistic-hymns](https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/post/sheet-music-available-for-new-eucharistic-hymns).

From the USCCB BCDW December 2023 Newsletter

Hymn for the Jubilee Year 2025: “Pilgrims of Hope”

The cherished custom of pilgrimage to the Holy Door during a Jubilee Year has inspired the text of the hymn “Pilgrims of Hope” by Italian theologian and composer Pierangelo Sequeri. The lyrics echo passages from the Book of Isaiah and reflect the themes of pilgrimage, the universality of God’s word, his tenderness, patience, and recreating work. Set to music by Francesco Meneghello of Padua, Italy, the work was selected from among 270 entries from 38 countries as the official hymn of the Jubilee Year 2025, whose theme is a “Holy Year of Hope.”



Musical resources are available for the upcoming Jubilee at [Jubilaum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025/inno-giubileo-2025.html](https://jubilaum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025/inno-giubileo-2025.html). The hymn was translated into English by Msgr. Andrew Wadsworth, and its musical score is SATB with descant and organ. The Spanish version – for unison voice and organ – was translated by the Episcopal Conference of Spain. Audio recordings are available for download in both languages, and the English features the choir of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception of Washington, DC, directed by Peter Latona.

From the USCCB BCDW December 2023 Newsletter

More details regarding the diocesan celebration of the Jubilee Year will be released in the coming months. More details on the Jubilee can be found at the [official 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 \$3.45 million to parishes throughout the United States.

Applications for the 2024 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.org/parish-grants or call 1-800-LITURGY (548-8749).

National Revival Hymn

LET THE EARTH ACCLAIM CHRIST JESUS

Hymn Text by Kathleen Pluth

Meter: 87 87 D

Winning hymn of the USCCB Eucharistic Theme Song Competition

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1. Let the earth acclaim Christ Jesus, God the Father's equal Son,
in the Virgin's womb incarnate when the course of time had run.
He became for us a servant, bore the cross and crushed the grave,
and remains, a living Presence, to complete his plan to save.
2. For the same divine Lord Jesus, by our gracious Father sent,
comes to us upon the altar in the Blessed Sacrament.
Here he stands and knocks for entry. See, the King of glory waits!
Open wide the door in welcome. Lift up high the ancient gates!
3. Jesus rose upon the third day as the Holy Spirit willed,
like a seed once dead and buried till the times had been fulfilled;
and his glorious Resurrection raises not the Lord alone:
those who eat and drink his Supper stay in him, become his own.
4. God, pure goodness ever-living, source of everlasting days,
gives this pledge of life eternal to the Church he works to raise:
by this foretaste of the Kingdom weakened souls begin to thrive,
darkened minds are filled with wisdom, stony hearts and wills revive.
5. In this festival of gladness may we be transformed, O Lord,
Sacrifice, O Source and Summit, Jesus, Eucharist adored.
Jesus, Sacrament most holy, Jesus, Sacrament divine,
may all praise and all thanksgiving be at every moment thine.