



FROM THE OFFICE OF WORSHIP

NOTES FOR MARCH/APRIL 2025

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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 part of 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 March & April: Bishop Gettelfinger Anniversary

April 11—Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Emeritus Gettelfinger

Please remember Bishop Emeritus Gettelfinger in your prayers as we celebrate the 36th 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. Using a 1999 indult from the Holy See, the dioceses that make up the province of Indiana (and the vast majority of the dioceses in the United States) elected to transfer 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 2025 will be on Sunday, June 1. It will continue to be celebrated on the seventh Sunday of Easter for the foreseeable future.

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 31. 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.

Saint Teresa of Calcutta Added to General Calendar

On December 24, 2024, the opening of the Jubilee Year on the Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord, Pope Francis ordered the inscription of the celebration of Saint Teresa of Calcutta (“Mother Teresa”) on the General Roman Calendar as an Optional Memorial on September 5. Canonized by the Holy Father in 2016, the decree underlines her service as a “model of mercy,” “an authentic icon of the Good Samaritan,” and a “source of hope” for all those seeking consolation in the midst of suffering. As the Church celebrates the Jubilee 2025, Pilgrims of Hope, Saint Teresa is a fitting companion, model, and intercessor.

The Holy See has provided Latin liturgical texts for the *Roman Missal*, *Lectionary for Mass*, *Liturgy of the Hours*, and *Roman Martyrology*, and the current liturgical indications are available at the [USCCB website](#). Suggested readings for Mass are Isaiah 58:6-11, Psalm 34, and Matthew 25:31-46. English and Spanish translations of the materials must be prepared and submitted to the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments for approval before being put into use.

Available on the [Dicastery’s website](#) are the decree in multiple languages (including English and Spanish), Latin liturgical texts, and a reflection by the Prefect, Arthur Cardinal Roche. He writes, “May the insertion of this celebration in the General Roman Calendar help us to contemplate this woman, a beacon of hope, small in stature yet great in love, a witness to the dignity and privilege of humble service in the defense of all human life and of all those who have been abandoned, discarded and despised even in the hiddenness of the womb.”

From the USCCB BCDW February 2025 Newsletter

Order of the Anointing of the Sick and of their Pastoral Care

In decrees dated November 30, 2024, the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has confirmed the English translation of the *Order of the Anointing of the Sick and of their Pastoral Care* and the Spanish translation of the *Ritual de la Unción de los enfermos y de su atención pastoral* for liturgical use in the United States. Both texts will replace the current Anointing rituals in use since the early 1980s, *Pastoral Care of the Sick: Rites of Anointing and Viaticum* (PCS) and its Spanish counterpart, *Cuidado pastoral de los enfermos: Ritos de la Unción y del Viático*. The new Anointing rites may be used from February 11, 2026 (the memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes and annual World Day of the Sick), and must be used as of Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026.

Along with the English and Spanish translations, the Holy See also confirmed several ritual and textual adaptations for this country. First, the new edition retains several adaptations present in the current text concerning the qualifications for the reception of the sacrament (for example, PCS no. 53), though simplified and incorporated into no. 8 of the introduction. Additionally, although the typical edition does not include a “short form” of Anointing for use in hospitals and institutions, the USCCB added a rubric at the beginning of the Anointing of the Sick chapter allowing priests to omit some elements from the ordinary rite of Anointing when visiting multiple patients in a hospital or institution.

Also, some material not present in the typical edition but included in *Pastoral Care of the Sick* has been retained in the new Anointing rites. Model rites for visiting a sick adult and a sick child, Christian Initiation in danger of death (cf. *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*, nos. 370-399), prayers after death (cf. *Order of Christian Funerals*, nos. 101-108), and the emergency rite of Penance, Anointing, and Viaticum will appear as Appendices I-IV in the Order of the Anointing of the Sick, respectively.

As the *Order of the Anointing of the Sick* approaches publication, additional news and catechesis will be provided.

From the USCCB BCDW January 2025 Newsletter

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 \$3.65 million to parishes throughout the United States.

Applications for the 2025 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](https://ocp.org/parish-grants) or call 1-800-LITURGY (548-8749).

CMAA Colloquium

35th Annual Sacred Music Colloquium

June 23-28

Church Music Association of America

University of St. Thomas, Saint Paul, Minnesota



**CHURCH MUSIC ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA**

Extensive training in Gregorian chant under a world-class faculty, with choices of chant classes for beginners to advanced, for men and women.

- ✘ Chant specialty breakout sessions on Gregorian modes and chant conducting
- ✘ Music specialty breakout sessions for organists and sessions on new music, vocal pedagogy, education, and chant theory, among others.
- ✘ Choral experience with one of three choirs singing sacred music of the masters such as Bruckner, Healey Willan, Stanford, Mozart, Guerrero, Langlais, Gallus, Bianciardi, Lasso, Victoria, Saint-Saëns, Gombert, and Der- ing, as well as a newly composed Spanish Mass Ordinary by Breck McGough.
- ✘ Daily liturgies with careful attention to musical settings in English, Spanish and Latin
- ✘ Individual training in vocal production and technique (by appointment only)
- ✘ A one-of-a-kind Book of Scores, including chant and polyphony
- ✘ Book sales from the CMAA warehouse, with discounts to CMAA members.

Scholarships through CMAA are available. For more information on this week full of great content, please visit the [CMAA Colloquium website](https://www.cmaa.org/colloquium).

Upcoming Conferences—NPM “On the Road”

NPM will host six regional events across the United States in the summer of 2025. The series, titled “NPM On the Road,” will be a 2-day event that includes a Keynote address, a concert, multiple workshop options, prayer opportunities, a choral reading session, networking opportunities, and much more. Locations include Chicago, San Antonio (English and Spanish), Atlanta, Oakland, Portland (Oregon), and Philadelphia.

For more information or to register please visit the [NPM On the Road website](https://www.npm.org/on-the-road). Each city has its own unique registration link.

Workshops at Saint Meinrad

Saint Meinrad Polyphony Workshop

May 21-23

Institute for Sacred Music

Saint Meinrad Archabbey Guest House and Retreat Center

This first-of-its-kind program at Saint Meinrad will focus on simple liturgical polyphony, particularly the English polyphony composed by monks of Saint Meinrad. There are nearly 200 polyphonic works in this repertoire, little of which has been published and none yet taught to the general public. Fr. Tobias Colgan has been among our most prolific composers, and he will join Dr. Tyler Thress, Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Mount Marty University, for this introduction that adds variety, beauty, and accessibility to liturgies reliant primarily on hymns.

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](#).

Summer Chant Workshop: Notation and Interpretation

July 21-25

Institute for Sacred Music

Saint Meinrad Archabbey Guest House and Retreat Center

This workshop is designed for directors of liturgical music and singers in parish liturgies who have some background in music. Sessions during the week will focus on how to read the earliest sources of chant and interpret their notation. Daily rehearsals will cover the differences in singing chant from other styles of sacred music. Participants will also be introduced to the church modes and how and why the melodies take the shape they do. These insights will allow participants to uncover the spiritual meaning of chant and sing with better understanding and intention. Br. John Glasenapp and Br. Joel Blaize will be joined by co-presenter Dr. Rosemary Heredos and others for the week.

Option for early arrival (Sunday, July 20) with private instruction (Sunday and Monday morning before the workshop begins). The fee includes both the lessons, additional meals and night of accommodation. This workshop may also be taken for credit through the Saint Meinrad School of Theology.

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](#).

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