



# FROM THE OFFICE OF WORSHIP

## NOTES FOR MAY/JUNE 2025

### Contents

Calendar Notes for May & June_____	1	Minister of Exposition_____	4
Liturgical Books in Use_____	2-3	Candles at the Altar?_____	4
Conference-SCL Conference_____	3	Let's Sing with the Pope_____	4

### Calendar Notes for May & June: Pope Saint Paul VI; Ascension; Pentecost; Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church; Saints Peter and Paul

#### **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 (Collect) have been provided, and other 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. Biographical information, Second Reading and Responsory have been provided for the Liturgy of the Hours. As a Memorial, funerals may be celebrated this day if needed.

#### **June 1—Ascension of the Lord**

Ascension in 2025 will be on Sunday, June 1. It will continue to be celebrated on the seventh Sunday of Easter rather than Thursday 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.

#### **June 8—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. After Pentecost the Easter candle is placed near the baptismal font.

#### **June 9—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.

#### **June 29—Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles**

June lands on a Sunday in 2025, which means that the Solemnity takes the place of the 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Other Peter & Paul notes—this is one of the few days that does have proper prayers and readings for a vigil Mass the evening of June 28. Masses celebrated after 4 PM on June 28 would use the vigil Mass prayers and readings. Other ritual Masses (such as wedding Masses) celebrated this day would need to use the readings and prayers for the Solemnity.

## Liturgical Books Currently in Use

For your reference (and maybe updating your sacristy library), below is a list of current ritual books approved for liturgical use in the United States of America. The years in *italics* refer to the current Latin *editiones typicae* (or reprint). Years in (parenthesis) refer to past English editions, and the years in **bold** refer to the current English edition. An underlined year indicates a Spanish edition approved for use in the U.S.

### For the Eucharist

✠ Roman Missal (including General Instruction & Calendar)	2008 (1974; 1985) <b>2011, 2018</b>
✠ Excerpts from the Roman Missal (“Book of the Chair”)	<b>2018</b>
✠ Lectionary for Mass	1981 (1970) <b>1998/2002</b>
✠ Lectionary for Mass Supplement	<b>2017</b>
✠ Rite of Concelebration	2009 (1974; 1985) <b>2011</b>
✠ Collection of Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary	1987 (1992) <b>2012</b>
✠ Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest	(1988; 2006) <b>2012; 2007</b>
✠ Eucharistic Prayers for Masses with Children	1974/2002 (1985) <b>2011</b>
✠ Lectionary for Masses with Children	<b>1993</b>

### Music for the Eucharist

✠ <i>Graduale Romanum</i> (Gregorian chants for all parts of the Mass except the Eucharistic Prayers)	1974
✠ <i>Liber usualis</i> (companion book for the <i>Graduale Romanum</i> , containing rules for proper use)	1997
✠ <i>Kyriale Simplex</i> (music for the ordinary parts of the Mass)	1997
✠ The Simple Gradual for Sundays and Holy Days (proper parts of the Mass in simpler melodies than found in the <i>Graduale Romanum</i> )	2007; <b>1969</b>
✠ <i>Ordo cantus Missae</i> (chants for the Mass)	1988
✠ <i>Liber Cantualis</i> (selection of Mass parts and hymns)	1983
✠ <i>Inbilate Deo/Psalms Ecclesia</i> (simpler Gregorian chants) 1999/2002	
✠ <i>Ordo Missae in Cantu</i> (complete <i>Ordo Missae</i> in chant notation)	2012
✠ Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ	1989 (1971) <b>1998</b>

### For the other Sacraments/Sacramentals

✠ Roman Pontifical	(1978) <b>2012</b>
• Ordination of a Bishop, of Priests, and of Deacons	1989 (1978; 2003; 2012) <b>2021</b>
• The Institution of Lectors and Acolytes	1972 (1978) <b>2012</b>
• Institution of Catechists	2021
• The Blessing of Abbots and Abbesses	2010 (1978) <b>2012</b>
• The Consecration of Virgins	1970 (1978) <b>2012</b>
• The Order of Confirmation	2003 (1978; 2012) <b>2015</b>
• The Order for Blessing the Oil of Catechumens and of the Sick and of Consecrating the Chrism	1971 (1985, 2012) <b>2019</b>
• The Order of the Dedication of a Church and an Altar	1977 (1989) <b>2018</b>
✠ Roman Ritual	
• Order of Baptism of Children	1973 (1970); <b>2020; 2009</b>
• Order of Christian Initiation of Adults	1972 (1974, 1988) <b>2025; 2025</b>
• Order of Celebrating Matrimony	2008 (1970) <b>2016; 2010</b>
• Order of Penance	1974 (1975; 2010) <b>2023</b>

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## Liturgical Books Currently in Use (cont.)

- Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharistic Mystery Outside Mass 1974 (1976) **2024**
- Order of the Anointing of the Sick and of their Pastoral Care 1972 (1974, 1983); **2026; 2026**
- Book of Blessings 1994; **1989**
- Order of Christian Funerals 1969; **1989; 2002**
- Order of Religious Profession 1970 (1989); **2026**
- Exorcisms and Related Supplications 2005; **2017**

## Other Liturgical Books

- ✠ Liturgy of the Hours 2000; **1975/1976**
- ✠ *Ordo cantus officii* (chants for the Liturgy of the Hours) 2015
- ✠ *Liber hymnarius* (hymns with invitatories and responsories for the LoH) 1983
- ✠ *Antiphonale Romanum I* (Lauds for Sundays, Solemnities, and Feasts) 2020
- ✠ *Antiphonale Romanum II* (Vespers for Sundays, Solemnities, and Feasts) 2009
- ✠ *Martyrologium Romanum* 2004
- ✠ Ceremonial of Bishops 2008; **1989**
- ✠ Manual of Indulgences: Norms and Grants 1999; **2006**
- ✠ Order of Crowning an Image of the Blessed Virgin Mary 1981; **2005**

## Excerpts of Ritual Books published in fascicle format

- ✠ Pastoral Care of the Dying 2002
- ✠ Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers (1988; 2007) **2020**
- ✠ *Bendición al Cumplir Quince Años* (Quinceañera) 2008
- ✠ Rite for the Blessing of a Child in the Womb 2012
- ✠ Communion of the Sick 2012
- ✠ Administration of Communion and Viaticum by an Extraordinary Minister 2013
- ✠ Prayers Against the Powers of Darkness 2017

## Upcoming Conference

*The Spirit of the Liturgy at 25: The Liturgical Legacy of Joseph Ratzinger - Benedict XVI*

September 25 – 26

Society for Catholic Liturgy

The Catholic University of America, Washington D.C.



After the death of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI in 2023, the Church began the process of evaluating and appreciating anew the rich and extensive legacy of his long life. As a scholar, university professor, Priest, Bishop, and Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith for almost a quarter of a century, Joseph Ratzinger was an undoubtedly influential voice in both the academy and ecclesiastical affairs. Following his election to the papacy in 2005, his work took on a new and even greater significance, introducing his writing and teaching to a new and greater audience. Now that some time has passed since the conclusion of so eminent a life, the 2025 Annual Conference of The Society for Catholic Liturgy will examine the contribution of Joseph Ratzinger-Benedict XVI to the Church's understanding and celebration of the sacred liturgy, coinciding with the 25th anniversary of the publication in English of his most famous work, *The Spirit of the Liturgy*. Keynote addresses by Professor Helmut Hoping, Professor of Dogmatics and Liturgy University of Freiburg and Professor Christopher Ruddy Associate Professor of Historical and Systematic Theology at The Catholic University of America.

For more information and to register, please visit the [SCL Conference website](#).

## Layperson as Minister of Exposition

### **Q. What is the proper role of a layperson asked to expose/repose the Blessed Sacrament for adoration?**

**A.** According to *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharistic Mystery Outside Mass* no. 91, in the absence of a priest or deacon, an acolyte, extraordinary minister of Holy Communion or other designated person may expose and repose the Blessed Sacrament. These lay ministers may open and remove the Blessed Sacrament from the tabernacle, place the host in the monstrance on the altar, and then replace the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle at the end of the period of adoration.

It is not permitted, however, for lay ministers to give Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament, nor should they incense it. This also means that the lay minister does not wear the cope or humeral veil.

## Number of Candles for the Altar

### **Q. How many candles should be used at the altar for Solemnities, Feasts, etc.?**

**A.** According to the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* no. 117, there should be “at least two in any celebration, or even four or six, especially for a Sunday Mass or a Holyday of Obligation...” So there should be at minimum two candles on or near the altar every time. But that is as specific as the rubrics get in this case. However, we can use the idea of “progressive solemnity” (doing more on more important days) to come up with a guide:

- ✘ Six candles on Sundays and other holy days of obligation; proper Solemnities like the Assumption or All Saints; local Solemnities like the anniversary of the dedication of the church or the parish/church patron feast day; or other local celebrations that call for more festivity.
- ✘ Four candles on proper Feasts like the Exaltation of the Holy Cross or the Transfiguration; local Feasts like the anniversary of the dedication of Saint Benedict Cathedral (November 6—a Feast for all churches in the diocese); proper Memorials that you want to celebrate with a little more festivity.
- ✘ Two candles on proper Memorials (obligatory or optional); weekdays with no feasts.
- ✘ The GIRM also mentions that when the bishop celebrates (Confirmation, for example), seven candlesticks may be used.

The above list is just a guide, and how many candles are used above and beyond the two will be dictated by what the church has available, what space is available. Better to have two or four nice candles out than to have six mismatched ones!

## “Let’s Sing with the Pope” Initiative

“Let’s Sing with the Pope” is a new initiative from the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music (PIMS), which is launching a series of short educational video tutorials on social media to help the People of God sing along with the Holy Father, especially during the major liturgical celebrations that began his pontificate.

It aims to make the rich heritage of Gregorian chant accessible to all—a universal musical and spiritual language for celebrations such as papal Masses and to promote active and conscious participation in the liturgy.

Fr. Robert Mehlhart OP, Rector of the Institute, presents simple, singable chants that are easy to learn, encouraging active and meaningful participation both for papal liturgies and local celebrations.

For more information please visit the [Pontifical Institute’s website](#) or their [YouTube playlist of videos](#).