



# FROM THE OFFICE OF WORSHIP

## NOTES FOR MARCH/APRIL 2026

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### Holy Week Reminders

#### **Holy Oils & Chrism Mass**

- ✘ **Please do not bring empty oil stocks to the Mass.** Vessels for your holy oils will be provided.
- ✘ **Please do not return empty oil stocks to the Office of Worship.** Please reverently clean and recycle your vessels from last Chrism Mass.
- ✘ Holy oils from the previous year should be burned or buried.

#### **Good Friday Cross**

Per the rubrics for Good Friday in the Missal, (*Roman Missal*, Friday of the Passion of the Lord, no. 19), only one cross is used for adoration at the Good Friday Celebration of the Passion of the Lord. 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.

#### **Holy Thursday Place of Repose & Period of Adoration**

- ✘ The regular tabernacle of the church should be completely empty before Mass. Be sure to also extinguish the sanctuary lamp.
- ✘ The place of reservation for the Blessed Sacrament should be suitably adorned with flowers and other decorations (since Lent has ended with start of the Evening Mass). It should also allow for the prayer and meditation of the people. It should not take on the appearance of a tomb or be presented as the place of the Lord's burial. The focus should be on the Blessed Sacrament reserved for Holy Communion the next day.
- ✘ If the regular tabernacle of the church is located in a chapel separate from the central part of the church, it may be used as the place of repose.
- ✘ **Regardless of location, the Blessed Sacrament is reserved in a closed, locked tabernacle. It is never put into a monstrance for exposition or left on an altar.**
- ✘ The faithful should be encouraged to spend time in adoration before the reserved Eucharist this evening.

### Calendar Notes for 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 37th anniversary of his ordination and installation as bishop of the Diocese of Evansville.

## 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.
- ✘ *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

One of the most striking parts of the Masses of Easter Sunday is the inclusion of the “double Alleluia” as part of the dismissal. 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, 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

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

## 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 2026 will be on Sunday, May 17.

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 16. 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 John Henry Newman Added to General Calendar

On November 1, 2025, Pope Leo XIV proclaimed Saint John Henry Newman as a Doctor of the Church and “together with Saint Thomas Aquinas, as co-Patron of the Church’s educational mission.” As a part of this, the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments issued a Decree in the name of the Holy Father, adding Saint John Henry Newman, Priest and Doctor of the Church, to the General Roman Calendar on 9 October, with the rank of optional memorial.

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 Sirach 39:6e-10, Psalm 40:2 and 4, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10, and Matthew 13:47-52. 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](#) is the decree in multiple languages (including English and Spanish), as well as the Latin liturgical texts. In the decree, Arthur Cardinal Roche, Prefect of the Dicastery, writes, “The inclusion of this celebration in the General Roman Calendar invites us to contemplate Saint John Henry Newman as a man led by the “kindly light” of God’s grace to find peace within the Catholic Church. His enduring contributions of profound theological and ecclesiological significance, as well as his poetic and devotional writings, continue to inspire the spiritual and intellectual journey of the faithful. His steadfast pursuit of moving beyond shadows and images to reach the fullness of truth remains a shining example for every disciple of the Risen Lord.”

## Liturgy of the Hours, Second Edition Approved

In a decree dated October 18, 2025, the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has confirmed the English translation of the *Liturgy of the Hours, Second Edition* for liturgical use in the United States. The Holy See’s confirmation now begins the publication and implementation stage of this long-awaited revision of the Divine Office.

The first-use date of the new breviary will be Ash Wednesday, February 10, 2027, and the mandatory-use date as the First Sunday of Advent, December 3, 2028. The first volume to be released for sale will be Volume II (Lent and Easter Time) in January 2027, in time for the first-use date, with subsequent volumes following over the course of 2027. All four volumes are expected to be published before the end of 2027, but a longer period was established to allow for the publication of extracted editions—especially the one-volume edition that includes Lauds and Vespers—for the benefit of permanent deacons and the lay faithful.

The Committee on Divine Worship selected [Ascension Press](#) and [Word on Fire Publishing](#) to be the exclusive publishers of the *Liturgy of the Hours, Second Edition* in the United States. They will be responsible only for producing the four-volume editions of the breviary, while the publication of other extracted editions, both major and minor, will be entrusted to other publishers. Editions will be available for sale beginning in January 2027, with each volume being released throughout the year. Pricing, page counts per volume, and starting date for preorders will be announced in the future.

The publication of the second edition thus represents a great opportunity for the Church in the United States to promote the use of the Liturgy of the Hours among clergy and laity alike. As the implementation date approaches, additional news and catechesis will be provided.

*From the USCCB BCDW November-December 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 \$3.8 million to parishes throughout the United States.

Applications for the 2026 Program are being accepted through May 30. All applicants are required to fill out an online application at [ocp.org/parish-grants](https://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

*36th Annual Sacred Music Colloquium*

June 22-26

Church Music Association of America

St. John Newman Center, Champaign IL



**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 Palestrina, Marenzio, Gombert, Isaac, Guerrero, Severac, La Rocca, as well as a newly composed Mass Ordinary by composer Chris Mueller.
- ✘ 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).

Every path towards conversion begins by allowing the word of God to touch our hearts and welcoming it with a docile spirit. There is a relationship between the word, our acceptance of it and the transformation it brings about. For this reason, the Lenten journey is a welcome opportunity to heed the voice of the Lord and renew our commitment to following Christ, accompanying him on the road to Jerusalem, where the mystery of his passion, death and resurrection will be fulfilled.

—Pope Leo XIV, *Message for Lent 2026*

## Workshops at Saint Meinrad

*The Sacred Music of St. Hildegard of Bingen*

May 17-22

Institute for Sacred Music  
Saint Meinrad Archabbey



Spend a week learning the music and monastic theology of St. Hildegard of Bingen, the first named composer in the West, Doctor of the Church, Benedictine abbess, visionary, healer, and preacher. In this workshop, led by expert scholars and performers of Hildegard, Dr. Alison Altstatt, Dr. Rosemary Heredos, and Sr. Jeana Visel OSB, participants will engage her music within the context of her extraordinary and novel musical theology and within the daily rhythm of liturgical prayer with the monks of Saint Meinrad Archabbey. The focus of this immersive week will be on applying Hildegard's music to contemporary Catholic liturgy. The workshop will culminate in singing a special Mass based on Hildegard's music at the historic German parish of St. Boniface in Fulda, Indiana followed by a festive dinner.

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](#).

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*Summer Chant Workshop: History and Theory of Chant*

July 20-24

Institute for Sacred Music  
Saint Meinrad Archabbey

This workshop is designed for directors of liturgical music and singers in parish liturgies who are new to chant. Classroom sessions will introduce participants to the basics of chant, including notation and essential terminology, while daily rehearsals will offer an opportunity to sing and interpret this foundational repertoire of sacred music. Through the week, attendees will have the opportunity to participate in the liturgies of Saint Meinrad's Benedictine monastic community, as well as to form and sing in a chant schola. Presenters Br. John Glasenapp and Br. Joel Blaize will be joined by Dr. Charles Weaver from The Julliard School.

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](#).

## NPM National Convention

*Forever We Will Sing: 48th Annual National Convention*

July 20-24

National Association of Pastoral Musicians  
Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.



Taking its theme from Psalm 89, this year's convention highlights the fifty years of NPM and provides many exciting, unique opportunities, including a DC monuments tour by night, the National Catholic Handbell Festival, a Cantor Institute, an organ crawl, and many more. Attend in person or take advantage of the recorded/livestream packages.

Registrations are now open. For more information or to register please visit the [NPM Convention](#) website.