



FROM THE OFFICE OF WORSHIP

NOTES FOR MAY/JUNE 2026

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Calendar Notes for May & June: Pope Saint Paul VI; Ascension; Pentecost; Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church; Consecration to the Sacred Heart

May 17—Ascension of the Lord

Ascension in 2026 will be on Sunday, May 17. 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 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.

May 24—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.

May 25—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.

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 12—Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

On June 11, as part of the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. bishops will consecrate the United States of America to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Parishes around the country are encouraged to join the bishops in celebrating the consecration of our nation to the Sacred Heart. Resources to aid in this can be found on the USCCB website—[We Hold These Truths](#).

Assumption of the BVM—Holy Day of Obligation or Not?

Q. Is the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary a holy day of obligation this year?

A. August 15 lands on a Saturday in 2026. This means that the Assumption **is not** a holy day of obligation. When it lands on a Saturday or a Monday is the obligation lifted.

Evening Prayer I and the Vigil Mass of the Assumption are celebrated on Friday evening. The “Mass during the Day” may be celebrated at any time on Saturday; however, Saturday evening Masses that regularly anticipate the Sunday (after 4 PM) should be for the Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Evening Prayer II on Saturday evening is of the Assumption, as it is higher in rank in the Table of Liturgical Days than the Sunday in Ordinary Time. Funeral Masses are allowed on Saturday because of the abrogation of the obligation (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, no. 380), but other Masses for the Dead and ritual Masses are not permitted. Weddings celebrated within Mass must use the prayers for the Assumption, and the selection of readings should follow the guidance given in the *Order of Celebrating Matrimony*, no. 34.

Review/Update Your Liturgical Ministers

- ✘ If you have not recently sent in an update of your parish’s listing of extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion (EMHCs), now is a good time to do so! If you are not sure or would like a copy of what is on record, please contact the Office of Worship and we will gladly send you a copy. Updated lists can be sent to the Office of Worship via email or regular mail. If you would like a letter template for submitting to the bishop the Office of Worship can provide you with one.
- ✘ EMHCs are commissioned by the bishop at the recommendation of the pastor. They are commissioned for five year terms, and can be renewed as often as needed. The “Order for the Commissioning of Extraordinary Ministers” in chapter 63 of the *Book of Blessings* should be used to inaugurate their ministry.
- ✘ While not commissioned in the same way as EMHCs, other ministers such as readers, altar servers, sacristans, musicians, and ushers may also be blessed to begin or restart their service using chapter 62 of the *Book of Blessings*. This could be done at a Sunday Mass, or as part of an in-person gathering or formation session for those who perform those ministries.
- ✘ It could be helpful to bring together your parish’s various liturgical ministers for some formation this summer or fall. Resources for various ministries at Mass can be found in the “Mass” section of the Worship area of the diocesan website.

Upcoming Conference

Made Holy by the Praises of God: The Liturgy of the Hours in the Life of the Church

September 23-25, 2026

Society for Catholic Liturgy

Notre Dame Seminary, New Orleans, LA



The forthcoming publication of a revised English translation of the *Liturgia Horarum* presents a generational opportunity to meet the hopes of the Liturgical Movement and the Second Vatican Council with a renewed appreciation for the place of the Divine Office today. As such, the 2026 Conference of the SCL will address this through keynotes by Margot Fassler, Ph.D. Keough-Hesburgh Professor of Music and Liturgy, Emerita University of Notre Dame; and Rev. Cassian Folsom, O.S.B., S.L.D. Professor, Pontifical Atheneum of St. Anselm, Rome. Member papers and opportunities for prayer and socialization in historic New Orleans fill out the time.

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

Upcoming Conference

Sacred Music Colloquium 2026

June 22-26, 2026

Church Music Association of America

St. John Newman Center, Champaign, Illinois



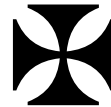
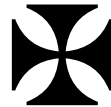
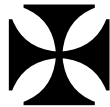
**CHURCH MUSIC ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA**

The Church Music Association of America is pleased to announce the 36th annual Sacred Music Colloquium for chant and polyphony. This five-day experience, held at the St. John Newman Center at the University of Illinois, will allow beginners to advanced singers, conductors, and clergy to enter into the beauty of sacred chant, polyphony, and organ repertory.

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

- ✘ Music specialty breakout sessions for organists and sessions on new music, vocal pedagogy, education, and building chorister programs, among others.
- ✘ Choral experience with one of two 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. In addition, all attendees will sing in the Grand Choir for the Mozart Requiem.
- ✘ Daily liturgies with careful attention to musical settings in English and Latin
- ✘ Plenary talks in timely and relevant liturgical topics.
- ✘ Individual training in vocal production and technique (by appointment only)
- ✘ A one-of-a-kind Book of Scores, including chant and polyphony
- ✘ Your own copy of Mozart Requiem Choral part

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



Sacred Music Workshop at Saint Meinrad

Summer Chant Workshop: History and Theory of Chant

July 20-24, 2026

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](#).

Obtaining Low-Gluten Hosts and Mustum

In the dioceses of the United States, there are four approved distributors of low-gluten hosts and two of mustum that have the approval of the USCCB Secretariat of Divine Worship.

Low-Gluten Hosts

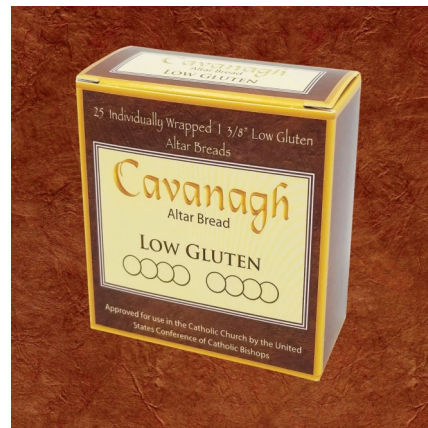
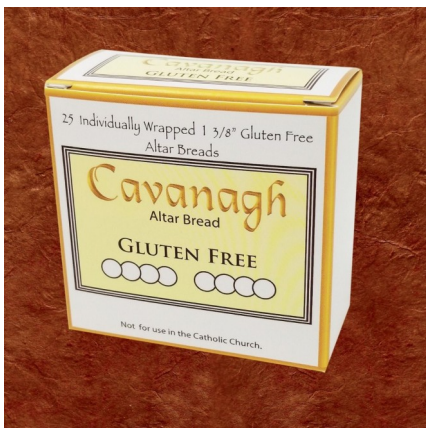
1. Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration
Altar Breads Department
31970 State Highway P
Clyde, MO 64432-8100
Phone: (800) 223-2772
Web: www.BenedictineSisters.org
2. Parish Crossroads
P.O. Box 2413
Kokomo, IN 46904
Phone: (800) 510-8842
Web: www.ParishCrossroads.com
3. GlutenFreeHosts.com Inc.
100 Buckley Road
Liverpool, NY 13088
Phone: (800) 668-7324 ext. 1
Web: www.GlutenFreeHosts.com

4. Cavanagh Company
610 Putnam Pike
Greenville, RI 02828
Phone: (800) 635-0568
Web: www.CavanaghCo.com

Mustum

1. Mont La Salle Altar Wines
605 Trancas Street, Suite D
Napa, CA 94558
Phone: (800) 447-8466
Web: www.MontLaSalleAltarWines.com
2. Monks Wine and Candles
P.O. Box 681248
Schaumburg, IL 60168
Phone: (800) 540-MONK (6665)
Web: www.MonksWineAndCandles.com

As a reminder—never purchase or offer low-gluten hosts unless they have been obtained from a verified provider. Care must be taken when ordering low-gluten hosts from a church supply store or other third-party to ensure that one is getting low-gluten hosts instead of completely gluten-free hosts—they may offer these products side-by-side. For example:



The white box on the left is completely gluten free and not valid matter for the Eucharist. The brown box on the right has the minimal amount of gluten required to be valid matter.

For more information on celiac disease, alcohol intolerance, and how the Church pastorally responds to these needs, please visit the [USCCB website](http://www.usccb.org) for more details.