



Office for Divine Worship Newsletter

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Masses for the Neophytes and a Pentecost Celebration During Easter Time

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults provides helpful guidance for the pastoral care of the newly baptized adults at Easter:

247. Since the character and value of this period should arise from this new personal experience both of the Sacraments and of the community, the principal place for "Mystagogy" is the so-called "Masses for the neophytes" or Masses of the Sundays of Easter Time because at them, in addition to the gathered community and their participation in the mysteries, the neophytes find, especially in Year A of the Lectionary, readings particularly suited to them. For that reason, the entire community should be invited to those Masses together with the neophytes and their godparents, and the texts they contain can be used also when Initiation is celebrated outside the normal times.
248. Throughout Easter Time at Sunday Masses neophytes should be allowed their own special places among the faithful. All the neophytes should make an effort to participate in these Masses with their godparents. The homily and, as circumstances suggest, also the Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful) should take account of them.
249. To close the Period of Mystagogy at the end of Easter Time, some sort of celebration should be held near Pentecost Sunday, even with additional festivities according to the customs of the region.

Missal Additions

May 17 - Anniversary of the Dedication of St. Peter Cathedral

This day is ranked as a feast in all places of the Diocese of Erie outside of the Cathedral. It is observed as a solemnity in the Cathedral. The Mass includes the singing of the Gloria. The scripture readings come from the Common of the Dedication of a Church. There is a proper Preface; the Divine Office is from the Common of the Dedication of a Church.

Jubilee of Workers

The Jubilee of Workers will be held from Thursday, May 1, to Sunday, May 4, 2025; however, these resources can be used for engaging and celebrating workers at any time throughout the Jubilee Year. For additional resources please see: [Jubilee of Workers](#).

Jubilee of Musical Bands

The Jubilee of Musical Bands will be held on Saturday, May 10, and Sunday, May 11, 2025; however, these resources can be used for engaging and celebrating musical bands at any time throughout the Jubilee Year.

It should be noted that the official language used for this celebration on the Vatican Calendar is the Jubilee of Marching Bands. Marching bands are historically associated with military service, performing in parades or city squares. In the U.S., marching bands are also associated with schools and universities, performing at athletic events and show competitions that take place on a field. This USCCB resource uses the term "musical bands" to be inclusive of a wider variety of musical ensembles.

This resource packet is for anyone who finds it useful. It can be used and/or adapted by dioceses, eparchies, parishes, schools, campuses, apostolates, movements, organizations, or individuals to plan their celebration of the Jubilee of Musical Bands. It might also serve as a catalyst or inspiration for the creation and development of local or year-round resources for the music community. For additional resources please see:

[Jubilee of Musical Bands](#).

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Jubilee of Confraternities

The Jubilee of Confraternities will be held from Friday, May 16, to Sunday, May 18, 2025; however, these resources can be used for engaging and celebrating confraternities at any time throughout the Jubilee Year.

Confraternities are Christian voluntary associations, often coordinated by lay women or lay men to promote charitable works, devotional life, or a particular mission in the Church. Well-known examples include the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Knights of Columbus, National Council of Catholic Women, Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Order of Malta and Knights of Peter Claver, among many others.

This resource packet is for anyone who finds it useful. It can be used and/or adapted by dioceses, eparchies, parishes, schools, campuses, apostolates, movements, organizations, or individuals to plan their celebration of the Jubilee of Confraternities. It might also serve as a catalyst or inspiration for the creation and development of local or year-round resources for those active in these associations. For additional resources please see: [Jubilee for Confraternities](#).

Jubilee of Families, Children, Grandparents and the Elderly

The Jubilee of Families, Children, Grandparents and the Elderly will be held from Friday, May 30, to Sunday, June 1, 2025; however, these resources can be used for engaging and celebrating those groups at any time throughout the Jubilee Year.

This resource packet is for all the faithful. It can be used and/or adapted by dioceses, eparchies, parishes, schools, apostolates, movements, organizations, or families to plan their celebration of the Jubilee of Families, Children, Grandparents and the Elderly. It may also serve as a catalyst or inspiration for the creation and development of local or year-round resources. For additional resources, please see: [Jubilee of Families, Children, Grandparents, Elderly](#).

Jubilee of Ecclesial Movements, Associations and New Communities

The Jubilee of Ecclesial Movements, Associations and New Communities will be held from Saturday, June 7, to Sunday, June 8, 2025; however, these resources can be used for engaging and celebrating these lay people at any time throughout the Jubilee Holy Year.

This resource packet is for anyone who finds it useful. It can be used and/or adapted by dioceses, eparchies, parishes, schools, campuses, apostolates, movements, organizations, or individuals to plan their celebration of the Jubilee of Ecclesial Movements, Associations, and New Communities. It might also serve as a catalyst or inspiration for the creation and development of local or year-round resources for the laity who are engaged in these apostolates. For additional resources, please see: [Jubilee of Ecclesial Movements, Associations and New Communities](#).

Jubilee of Sports

The Jubilee of Sports will be held Saturday, June 14 to Sunday 15, 2025, in Rome; however, these resources can be used for engaging and celebrating athletes, managers, coaches, and sports fans at any time throughout the Jubilee Year.

This resource packet is for anyone who finds it useful. It can be used and/or adapted by dioceses, eparchies, parishes, schools, campuses, apostolates, movements, organizations, or individuals to plan their celebration of the Jubilee of Sports. It might also serve as a catalyst or inspiration for the creation and development of local or year-round resources for volunteers in the community or globally. For more information and resources, please see: [Jubilee of Sports](#).

Jubilee of Seminarians

The Jubilee of Seminarians will be held from Monday, June 23, to Tuesday, June 24, 2025; however, these resources can be used for engaging and celebrating seminarians at any time throughout the Jubilee Year.

In the Catholic Church, seminarians are men in formation to become priests in their diocese, eparchy or religious institute or society of apostolic life. A seminarian's formation takes place in community where he receives not only intellectual formation, but also human, spiritual, and pastoral formation. Seminarians, through cooperating with God's grace, are prepared to serve the Church as priests upon ordination through their formation in imitating Christ as the Good Shepherd (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Program of Priestly Formation, Sixth ed. U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2022, no. 14).

Baptism, where life devoted to imitating Christ first begins, serves as the foundation for the call to the priesthood. In preparation for this vocation, seminarians strengthen their Baptismal identity through their participation in the life of the Church (ibid., no. 10). By communing with Christ in the sacraments and engaging with the intellectual tradition of the Church, seminarians begin to slowly ground themselves in the mysteries of the Trinity (ibid., no. 24). Seminarians engage with these mysteries not in isolation, but rather in union with their brothers in seminary, religious institute or society of apostolic life and with the wider Church community as a whole (Second Vatican Council, Decree on Priestly Training (Optatam Totius), no. 8). By meeting Christ in prayer and in the people they meet, seminarians become another Christ: assuming Jesus' mission of serving the Father and healing his creation (Program of Priestly Formation, sixth ed., no. 14).

For additional resources please see: [Jubilee of Seminarians](#).

Jubilee of Bishops

The Jubilee of Bishops will be held Wednesday to Thursday, June 25-26, 2025; however, these resources can be used for engaging and celebrating the work of the bishops at any time throughout the Jubilee Holy Year.

Though this celebration in Rome is dedicated to the bishops of the Church, this moment can be used as a chance for all Catholics to reflect more deeply on the ministry of the bishops as shepherds and successors of the apostles, guiding the Church, teaching the faith, and preserving her unity.

This resource packet is for anyone who finds it useful. It can be used and/or adapted by dioceses, eparchies, parishes, schools, campuses, apostolates, movements, organizations, or individuals to plan a celebration of the bishops. For those who are making any type of Jubilee pilgrimage to Rome or to a particular Jubilee celebration or holy site in a diocese or eparchy within the United States during 2025, this packet can also serve as an aid in the preparation or experience of that trip. For additional resources please see: [Jubilee of Bishops](#).

Jubilee of Priests

The Jubilee of Priests will be held from Wednesday, June 25, to Friday, June 27, 2025; however, these resources can be used for engaging and celebrating priests at any time throughout the Jubilee Year.

In the Catholic Church, priests are ordained men who share in the ministry of Christ through their preaching and administration of the sacraments in their diocese, eparchy or religious institute or society of apostolic life. The office of the priesthood, instituted by Christ and passed down through the apostles, conforms men to "Christ the Priest in such a way that they can act in the person of Christ the Head" (Second Vatican Council, Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests (Presbyterorum Ordinis), no. 2). Through their preaching, prayer, and celebration of the sacraments, priests guide the body of Christ to the Father.

Priests serve God "in the midst of the flock [where] they adore Him in spirit and in truth," offering their voluntary poverty, chastity, and obedience as a sacrifice to God (Second Vatican Council, Lumen Gentium, no. 28). The practice of the evangelical counsels serves as a means for priests to reach the perfection of charity (Second Vatican Council, Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests (Presbyterorum Ordinis), no. 14). Priests grow in charity in a particular way through the celebration of the Eucharist, which brings about "a bond of priestly perfection which draws their life and activity to unity and coordination" (ibid., no. 14). A priest's life images the life of Christ when centered around the Eucharist: a life dedicated to bringing others to the Father out of an unwavering love of God himself (ibid., no. 14). For additional resources, please see: [Jubilee of Priests](#).

May 2025 Liturgical Calendar

Easter Season

- The sprinkling of the faithful with holy water may continue instead of the Penitential Act.
- The Gloria is sung or recited during Sundays.
- Any of the five prefaces of Easter may be used.
- There is no double Alleluia in the final dismissal (except Pentecost Sunday).

May 2: Saint Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church (Memorial) - white

May 3: Saint Philip and Saint James, Apostles (Feast) - red

- Prayers are proper and found in the Proper of Saints.
- Gloria is sung or said.
- Creed is not said.
- Solemn Blessing #17 may be used.

May 4: Third Sunday of Easter

May 11: Fourth Sunday of Easter-Good Shepherd Sunday

- World Day of Prayer for Vocations (Priesthood, Permanent Diaconate, Consecrated Life)
- Mother's Day
 - ◊ This secular observance must in no way diminish the primary focus of this Sunday as the celebration of the Paschal Mystery. However, you may include a special intention for mothers.
 - * For all mothers, that they may be blessed in their love and care for their families. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide them with wisdom and love. We pray to the Lord.
 - ◊ The Book of Blessings, Ch. 55 has a special blessing to be used.

May 2025 Liturgical Calendar, cont'd.

May 13

Our Lady of Fatima (Optional memorial) - white

May 14: Saint Matthias, Apostle (Feast) - red

- Prayers are proper and found in the Proper of Saints.
- Sprinkling Rite may be used.
- Gloria is sung or said.
- Creed is not said.
- May use the Preface for the Apostles.
- Solemn Blessing for the Apostles may be used.

May 15

Saint Isadore the Farmer (Optional memorial) - white

- Prayers from the Book of Blessings may be used:
 - ◊ Chapter 26 Blessing of Fields and Flock
 - ◊ Chapter 27 Blessing of Seeds at Planting Time

May 18: Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 25: Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 26: Saint Philip Neri, Priest (Memorial) - white

Memorial Day (USA)

- The Mass for the Preservation of Peace and Justice #30A or B may be used.
- Order for Visiting a Cemetery may be used, which is found in Book of Blessings, Ch. 57.
- You may incorporate the intentions of those who have died in service to their country in today's Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful).

May 29: Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

- The weekdays after the Ascension of the Lord through the Saturday before Pentecost is a time of preparation for the coming of the Holy Spirit.
- During these days the hymn, Veni Creator Spiritus, may be sung at Mass and Liturgy of the Hours.
- Paschal candle is lit.
- White vestments are used.
- Two sets of formularies to be used:
 - ◊ At the Vigil Mass (Evening before)
 - ◊ At the Mass during the day (Day)
- Readings (Vigil Mass and Mass during the day)
 - ◊ 58: Acts 1:1-11; Ps. 47:2-3, 6-9; Ephesians 1:17-23 *or* Hebrews 9:24-28; Luke 24:46-53
- Gloria is sung or said.
- Use Preface I or II of the Ascension.
- Use Solemn Blessing #7.
- Double Alleluia is NOT sung during the dismissal.

May 31: Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- Vestments: White
- Mass texts and readings are proper.
- The Gloria is sung or said.
- The Creed is omitted.
- Preface II of the Blessed Virgin Mary may be used.
- Solemn Blessing #15 may be used.

Jubilee 2025 Information

Bishop Persico Issues Jubilee Indulgence Decree

The indulgence, a priceless gift of divine mercy, is one of the special *signs* of the Jubilee Year. On Wednesday, November 27, 2024, Bishop Persico issued a decree outlining the requirements for the reception of indulgences related to the Jubilee Year 2025 in the Diocese of Erie. All the *truly repentant* faithful, moved by a spirit of charity, who, purified through the sacrament of penance and refreshed by Holy Communion, will be able to obtain the indulgence by undertaking spiritual activities as outlined in the decree found at: [Diocese of Erie Indulgence Decree](#).

Places of Jubilee Pilgrimage in the Jubilee Year

Every Jubilee celebration has aspects of pilgrimage. The sites of pilgrimage are the holy doors of the four papal basilicas in Rome. In the dioceses of the world, Pope Francis has designated the cathedral church as a place of pilgrimage. In the Diocese of Erie, Bishop Persico has designated Saint Leo Magnus Church in Ridgway as a secondary place of pilgrimage.

Mass “For the Holy Year”

The Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments confirmed three new Mass formularies, “For the Holy Year.” These Masses may be celebrated whenever special celebrations are held during the Jubilee, except on solemnities, Sundays and feasts, during Holy Week and the Easter Triduum, days within the Octaves of the Nativity and of Easter, Advent weekdays from December 17 to December 24 inclusive, the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls’ Day), and Ash Wednesday. The proper readings provided may only be used in Ordinary Time; during the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter, the usual daily readings are required. In addition to the Mass prayers and readings, the Dicastery also provides five samples for the Penitential Act, and four invitations, responses, and concluding orations for the Universal Prayer. These liturgical resources are available in the attachment to this newsletter and at: [USCCB Jubilee Year Votive Masses and Various Needs](#).

In light of the Jubilee’s theme, “Pilgrims of Hope,” the prayers naturally stress the themes of pilgrimage and hope. Incorporated into Christ, the faithful are a Body of believers, filled with hope. They look forward to the Lord’s coming in the present and at the end of the ages, an expectation which gives them an eternal vision and moves them to make pilgrimage to God and neighbor. The titles of the Prefaces underline the Christocentric meaning of the Jubilee Year: “Christ, our sole hope,” (Form A); “Christ, our true hope,” (Form B); and “Christ, God and man, the Savior of all” (Form C).

The readings provided for this Mass are nearly identical to those of the annual Chrism Mass (Lectionary for Mass, no. 260): Isaiah 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9; Psalm 89:21-22, 25 and 27; and Luke 4:16-21. In Isaiah, the prophet declares that he has been anointed by the Lord “to announce a year of favor,” and, in the Psalm, God speaks about his servant David: “with my holy oil [I have] anointed him.” These passages culminate in the Gospel passage from Luke, where Christ, at the beginning of his public ministry, reads the prophecy of Isaiah (61:1-2) and declares it fulfilled: “The Lord has sent me to announce a year of favor.” In addition to these selections, there is one additional option for the First Reading, Romans 5:5-11, whose verse 5 opens the Bull of Indiction: “Hope does not disappoint.”

Jubilee Logo

Individuals and organizations may download the Jubilee logo in high resolution and the main languages at: [Jubilee Logo](#).

Since the logo is subject to copyright, its use is intended for pastoral and non-profit purposes only. Such use is to be linked to the following pastoral and ecclesial initiatives with no commercial purposes:



- Place the trademark on materials related to the Jubilee, such as: pamphlets, postcards, brochures, posters, outlines, banners, websites, and other media;
- Place branding on pastoral materials to be used for spiritual preparation for the Jubilee;
- Place trademark on promotional materials related to the Jubilee, particularly on posters, banners, T-shirts, hats, mugs, and other materials and media; not for commercial use.

Jubilee Websites: Vatican: <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html>
Diocesan: <https://www.eriescd.org/holyyear2025.html>

Jubilee Hymn

“Pilgrims of Hope” is the Jubilee 2025 hymn. Prepared by Pierangelo Sequeri, set to music by Francesco Meneghello, the hymn intercepts the many themes of the Holy Year: creation, fraternity, God’s tenderness, and hope.

The English translation, recording and music can be found at: [Jubilee Hymn](#).

Eucharistic Congress 2029

Courtesy of Catholic News Service:

The National Eucharistic Congress, Inc. is thrilled to share that initial steps preparing for the 11th National Eucharistic Congress in 2029 have begun. The location for the event has not been shared but organizers of the event will provide more details in the near future.

Recurring Information:

Colds and Flu

People feeling ill should avoid receiving Communion from the chalice. Priests are encouraged to use good pastoral common sense to calm the fears of the faithful during cold and flu season. An example of this might include reminding the faithful not to receive the Precious Blood, if they are ill.

Workshops for Liturgical Ministers

If any parish or institution would like a workshop for liturgical ministers, especially Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion or lectors, please contact the Office for Divine Worship. If a parish or institution conducts its own workshop for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, please remember to present candidates for this ministry to the Bishop when they are deemed prepared by the pastor or chaplain of said institution.

The following resource is available from the Liturgical Institute at Mundelein for the formation of parish liturgical ministers: [Parish Liturgical Ministers](#).

Copyrights

According to the United States Copyright Office, if you reproduce, distribute, publicly display, or derive a new piece from a copyrighted work without the permission of the copyright owner, you may have infringed on copyright. That could include putting a poem or song on your website, printing an essay or column in your bulletin, or even streaming a service on your website, Facebook or YouTube that includes the performance of hymns from a hymnal you have purchased. The safest thing a church can do is only to use copyrighted materials when you have the express written permission of the copyright owner. This is generally accomplished by purchasing the appropriate license. The majority of parishes use OneLicense.net.

In worship aids:

- To license the readings for a worship aid, parishes can contact: Mary Elizabeth Sperry at msperry@uscgb.org. If you need any other clarification, please call the Office for Divine Worship at 814-824-1271.
- For reprinting excerpts of the Roman Missal in a worship aid, credit is given to the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL).

On screens:

- The Committee on Divine Worship does not permit projecting readings and liturgical texts on screens during the liturgy. The bishops believe that since people spend much time on screens, the Sacred Liturgy should be a prayerful break from that. They also think screens distract from the liturgy itself.