



Liturgical Notes for Spring of 2025

Upcoming Dates

➤ March 11 — The Light Is on for You:

The Sacrament of Penance is to be made available in all parishes of the diocese from 6:00-8:00 PM on Tuesday, March 11.

➤ Chrism Masses:

- **South Bend:** Monday, April 14, 7:00 PM — St. Matthew Cathedral
- **Fort Wayne:** Tuesday, April 15, 7:00 PM — Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

➤ Easter Vigil Start Time:

On Saturday, April 19, 2025, the end of civil twilight is at 8:54 PM EDT on the Fort Wayne side, and 8:59PM EDT on the South Bend side. Therefore, about 9:00 PM would be the earliest possible time to begin the Easter Vigil in the diocese.

Since the USCCB encourages waiting an extra 15-30 minutes (because total darkness occurs after civil twilight ends), 9:15 PM or later would be the most appropriate start time.

The Roman Missal states that the Vigil must begin “after nightfall.”

➤ Adult Confirmation Dates:

(Sign-ups will be sent after Easter)

- **South Bend:** Sunday, June 1, 11:00 AM — St. Matthew Cathedral
- **Fort Wayne:** Sunday, June 8, 11:30 AM — Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception



Jubilee Year of Hope 2025

The list of our designated diocesan Jubilee pilgrimage churches and information about the Jubilee indulgences can be found [here on the diocesan website](#).

The Holy See has approved special Mass formularies and readings for use during the Jubilee Year – [these can be found here in English, Spanish, and Latin](#). Also included are instructions for when this special Holy Year Mass can be used.

Reminder of new translations of HCWEMOM and OCIA

HCWEMOM: Use of the revised translation of *Holy Communion and the Worship of the Eucharistic Mystery Outside Mass* (which replaces the 1976 *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside Mass*) is now mandatory. An overview of the contents and changes in the new HCWEMOM – including Communion services and distribution of Communion to the sick – can be found in the Fall 2024 Newsletter ([English](#) / [Español](#)).

In addition, please note that the new English translations of *O salutaris Hostia* and *Tantum ergo Sacramentum* as found in HCWEMOM are considered to be the official English translations, and will appear in hymnals and missalettes moving forward.

Also, the USCCB Secretariat of Divine Worship has clarified that the customary verse and response of “You have given them bread from heaven // Having all sweetness within it” can still be utilized during Benediction, even though they do not appear in HCWEMOM. Though once the revised Liturgy of the Hours has been approved, there will be a new official translation for those lines.

OCIA: The new translation of the *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults* is mandated to fully replace the old RCIA text on Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025. Information on the new OCIA text has been shared with diocesan OCIA directors, and further diocesan guidance and norms for the implementation of the OCIA will be forthcoming. Any questions concerning OCIA can be directed to the Office of Worship.

Ordering information for both HCWEMOM and OCIA [can be found here](#).



Annual Reminders for Lent, Holy Week, & Easter

➤ Faculties for Conferring Confirmation

- While planning the Sacraments of Initiation this spring, please keep in mind that priests in this diocese do not possess faculties to confirm someone who is already a baptized Catholic. An attempt to do so would be an invalid Confirmation. The only exceptions involve someone who had apostatized from the faith, or someone who, through no personal fault, was instructed in or adhered to a non-Catholic religion. Please consult the Priestly Faculties handbook for additional details.

➤ Baptisms during Lent

- Lent is indeed a time of preparation for initiation, with an eye towards Easter baptisms. However, nothing prohibits infant baptisms during Lent, and delaying until Easter is not always reasonable. The *Code of Canon Law* #867 states that “parents are obliged to take care that infants are baptized in the first few weeks.” The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1250 says: “The Church and the parents would deny a child the priceless grace of becoming a child of God were they not to confer Baptism shortly after birth.”

➤ Candidates Not Dismissed at Mass

- Unlike for catechumens, the Rites do not call for candidates to be dismissed prior to the Liturgy of the Eucharist during their preparation for full initiation (OCIA 433, 545, 560), on account of their existing baptism. Of course, they still do not receive Holy Communion until their initiation is complete.

➤ Use of the Oil of Catechumens During the OCIA

- The anointing with the Oil of Catechumens is required for catechumens. As per OCIA 33.7, it should ideally be done during the catechumenate period (see OCIA no. 98), or else during the Lenten Period of Purification and Enlightenment (after the Rite of Election, using the rite in no. 98). The norm in the United States is that the anointing be done at one of those times, rather than during the Holy Saturday Rites of Immediate Preparation or at the Easter Vigil.



➤ Emptying Holy Water Fonts

- Holy water fonts should not be drained or replaced with any other substance during Lent. The penitential season benefits greatly from access to the sacramental that reminds us of baptism. Holy water fonts should only be emptied of water during the Triduum: from after the Mass of the Lord's Supper until being refilled with water blessed at the Vigil. (Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments, Prot. N. 569/00/L)

➤ Veiling of Crosses & Images

- Crosses in the church may be covered from the end of the Mass for Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent until the end of the celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday. Images in the church may be covered from the end of Mass for Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent until the beginning of the Vigil. However, Stations of the Cross and stained-glass images are not veiled. The USCCB describes the practice of veiling as a sort of fasting from sacred images, whereby the fasting culminates in a profound sense of veneration on Good Friday and in a renewed sense of awe at paschal glory on Easter.

➤ The Reading of the Passion

- Changes to the flow and structure of the Passion Gospel reading on Palm Sunday and Good Friday are to be avoided. The *Circular Letter Concerning the Preparation and Celebration of the Easter Feasts* (Congregation for Divine Worship, 1988) states in #33: "The Passion narrative occupies a special place. It should be sung or read in the traditional way, that is, by three persons who take the part of Christ, the narrator and the people. The Passion is proclaimed by deacons or priests, or by lay readers; in the latter case, the part of Christ should be reserved to the priest. The proclamation of the Passion should be without candles and incense, the greeting and the sign of the cross on the book are omitted." While certain sung settings of the Passion itself may be appropriate, interjecting hymn texts or otherwise altering the reading is not.

➤ Holy Thursday

- Bells are rung during the Gloria at the Mass of the Lord's Supper. Afterwards, the bells should remain silent until the Gloria at the Easter Vigil.
- In addition, "during this same period, the organ and other musical instruments may be used only so as to support the singing" (Roman Missal, Thursday of the Lord's Supper, no. 7).



➤ Footwashing

- As decreed by the Congregation for Divine Worship in 2016, the optional footwashing rite on Holy Thursday is no longer restricted only to male participants. Rather, “pastors may select a small group of the faithful to represent the variety and the unity of each part of the people of God. Such small groups can be made up of men and women.” (The update goes on to say that participants could “consist of people young and old, healthy and sick, clerics, consecrated men and women and laity.”)

The priest still must carry out the actual washing of feet himself, as described in the Roman Missal.

➤ Good Friday

- During the veneration of the cross, any cross containing a relic of the True Cross would be ideal, if a parish is fortunate enough to have one. Otherwise, either a crucifix or a plain cross may be used.

➤ Sacraments During the Triduum

- “Throughout the Sacred Paschal Triduum, it is important to emphasize that the Sacraments of Penance and the Anointing of the Sick may continue to be celebrated (see rubrics for Good Friday, no. 1). Holy Communion may be given to the sick and homebound immediately after the liturgies of Holy Thursday and Good Friday, and only as viaticum to the dying on Holy Saturday” - USCCB Newsletter, May 2011.
- In addition, apart from the prescribed use of the altar of repose, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is not permitted during the Triduum.

➤ Renewal of Baptismal Promises on Easter Sunday

- “On Easter Sunday, the optional nature of the Renewal of Baptismal Promises is emphasized in the rubrics, and the text itself is not included on Easter Sunday. If it is to be used, the text is taken from the appropriate place in the Easter Vigil, and the Creed is omitted. In any event, the Penitential Act still takes place as usual” - USCCB Newsletter, May 2011.

➤ The Sequences

- The prescribed Sequences must be used at Mass before the Alleluia on Easter Sunday and on Pentecost Day (GIRM #64). The Easter Sequence is



Victimae Paschali Laudes ("Christians, to the Paschal Victim..." in the Lectionary) and may also be used during Masses throughout the Easter Octave. The Pentecost Sunday Sequence is *Veni Sancte Spiritus*.

- These may be sung by the cantor alone, and should at least be recited if singing is not possible.

➤ "Double Alleluia"

- The melismatic "double Alleluia" is prescribed for the dismissal during the Easter Octave and then on Pentecost. It is not used on other days in the Easter Season or the rest of the year.

➤ Disposal of Old Oils and Paschal Candles

- A simple yet reverent way to dispose of old remaining holy oils or paschal candles is to have them burned in the pre-Easter Vigil fire.

Other Notes & Reminders

➤ Accommodating Those with Celiac Disease

- We know of course that those with celiac disease (which makes people unable to tolerate the gluten found in wheat) can request and be given low-gluten hosts at Mass.

But some with severe celiac disease cannot tolerate even the very small amount of gluten that is contained in low-gluten hosts. As such, Holy Communion from the chalice should be provided to anyone in the parish who cannot receive hosts. If the Precious Blood is not being distributed due to flu season, it should still be made available just to celiac sufferers who request it.

When the chalice is offered in this situation, it is important that it must not yet have been drunk from by anyone who has already received a host (including low-gluten hosts), because even trace amounts of gluten cross-contamination can adversely affect sufferers of severe celiac disease.

This guidance was also sent in a letter from Bishop Rhoades in 2019. Please



ensure that celiac sufferers in your parish are aware of these pastoral accommodations.

➤ **When Baptized Non-Catholics Can Read at Weddings and Funerals**

- Per the *Directory for the Application of Principles and Norms on Ecumenism*, no. 133: “The reading of Scripture during a Eucharistic celebration in the Catholic Church is to be done by members of that Church. On exceptional occasions and for a just cause, the bishop of the diocese may permit a member of another Church or ecclesial Community to take on the task of reader.”

So for a wedding Mass or funeral Mass, having a baptized non-Catholic do one of the readings would require the permission of the bishop by special request, on a case-by-case basis.

However, if it is a wedding or funeral liturgy outside Mass, then there is nothing prohibiting any member of the baptized from reading.

➤ **Resources for the Blind and Visually Impaired**

- Please be aware that the Xavier Society for the Blind provides free braille, audio, and large-print materials to Catholics who are blind/visually impaired and to those living with recent vision loss due to macular degeneration, glaucoma, cataracts, etc.

Some of the resources offered by the Xavier Society for the Blind include:

- The *New American Bible* in size 22 font, sans-serif
- The *Mass Propers* in large print (i.e., large-print Missalettes for Mass including the readings, prayers, and responses to the Mass on Sundays and special Feast days). These are mailed out monthly.

For anyone who would like to receive these free resources, the registration application available at <https://xaviersocietyfortheblind.org/register-for-services> should be completed and submitted, with the certification section filled out by the pastor or with the assistance of Allison Sturm, who directs our diocesan ministry to persons with disabilities. She can be reached at 260-399-1452 or asturm@diocesefwsb.org.