



# Office for Divine Worship Newsletter

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## Notification from the USCCB Concerning Copyrights

Please be advised that **readings may not be printed** in worship aids, bulletins, or shown on a screen for Liturgies without proper licensing from the USCCB. To license the readings, parishes can contact: Mary Elizabeth Sperry at [msperry@usccb.org](mailto:msperry@usccb.org).

## National Eucharistic Congress Pilgrimage

The Diocese of Erie invites you to join a historic pilgrimage to the 10th National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis from July 17-21, 2024, the first such gathering in 83 years. The Diocesan Eucharistic Adoration Committee is coordinating the journey, with two motorcoaches set to depart — one from Our Lady of Peace in Erie and another from Holy Redeemer in Warren, including a pickup at Good Shepherd in West Middlesex.

Social media posts are available for download at <https://www.eriecd.org/nec.html>. Parishes are asked to disseminate this information through bulletins, notice boards, email blasts, and social media platforms. The diocese seeks widespread participation and encourages all to extend this invitation to parishioners. For inquiries, contact Jo Feeney by email at [eriedeac@gmail.com](mailto:eriedeac@gmail.com) or by calling or texting 724.699.3340

## 2024 RITE OF ELECTION OF CATECHUMENS AND THE CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION OF CANDIDATES

Sunday, February 18, 2024, St. Peter Cathedral, Erie 3:00 pm

Sunday, February 25, 2024,

St. Catherine of Sienna Church of Holy Spirit Parish, Dubois 3:00 pm

Registration of catechumens and candidates is due to the Office for Parish Support by Friday February 2, 2024. For questions or more information please contact Danielle Schoenfeldt, Director of Faith Formation for Parish Support at 814-824-1224 or [dschoenfeldt@eriecd.org](mailto:dschoenfeldt@eriecd.org).

## Calendar Notes

During the 2024 liturgical year, there are three occasions when feast days are transferred:

- According to the Roman Missal, “Where the Solemnity of the Epiphany is transferred to Sunday, if this Sunday occurs on January 7 or 8, the **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord** is celebrated on the following Monday” (Proper of Time, emphasis added). Therefore, this Feast will take place on Monday, January 8, 2024, with only one reading before the Gospel. The First Week in Ordinary Time begins on the following day, Tuesday, January 9, and the readings assigned to Monday may be joined to those of Tuesday so that the opening of each book will be read.
- **The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord** on March 25 is impeded by Monday of Holy Week. According to the Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the Calendar, no. 60, **the Annunciation** is therefore transferred to Monday of the Second Week of Easter, in this case, April 8, 2024.
- Since December 8, 2024 is the Second Sunday of Advent, the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary** is transferred to Monday, December 9; the obligation to attend Mass, however, does not transfer. While Funeral Masses are not normally permitted on this day, they may take place this year since Immaculate Conception is not a day of precept (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, no. 380). The Optional Memorial of Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin, December 9, is omitted.
- There are also three occasions when non-obligatory Solemnities either precede or follow a Sunday: **Mary, the Holy Mother of God** (Monday, January 1), **the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist** (Monday, June 24), and **Saints Peter and Paul** (Saturday, June 29).
- On **Sunday evening, December 31**, the Mass of the Holy Family is celebrated, while at the Liturgy of the Hours Evening Prayer I of the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God is used. In celebrations with the people, however, Evening Prayer II of the Holy Family may take place. Because Holy Mary, Mother of God falls on a Monday, the precept to attend Mass is abrogated, and Funeral Masses are permitted.
- On **Sunday evening, June 23**, the Mass of the 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time is celebrated, though at a Mass outside the usual schedule, the Vigil Mass of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist may take place. At the Liturgy of the Hours, Evening Prayer I of the Nativity of Saint John is used; nevertheless, Evening Prayer II of the 12th Sunday may take place in celebrations with the people.
- On **Saturday evening, June 29**, at normally scheduled anticipated Masses, priests should anticipate the Mass of the 13th Sunday of Ordinary Time, though at Masses outside that usual schedule, the Mass of Saints Peter and Paul may be used. At the Liturgy of the Hours, Evening Prayer II of Saints Peter and Paul is used.
- The **Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed** (All Souls’ Day) falls on a Saturday this year. On Friday evening, All Saints Day is celebrated at the Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours, though, for pastoral reasons where it is the custom, Evening Prayer II of All Saints may be followed by Evening Prayer for the Dead. On Saturday evening, priests should anticipate the Mass of the 31st Sunday of Ordinary Time at normally scheduled anticipated Masses, though the Mass of All Souls’ Day may be used outside that usual schedule. At the Hours, Evening Prayer I of the 31st Sunday of Ordinary Time is used in individual recitation, though Evening Prayer for the Dead may be used in celebrations with the people.

## Missal Addition for January 23

Saint Marianne Cope

On July 10, 2013, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments confirmed the inscription of Saint Marianne Cope, Virgin, into the Proper Calendar for the Dioceses of the United States of America. Her proper liturgical texts in English and Spanish were confirmed the following day.

St. Marianne Cope is celebrated every year as an Optional Memorial on January 23. This is also the date of the Optional Memorial of Saint Vincent, Deacon and Martyr, which was transferred from January 22 in order to allow for the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. (In years when the Day of Prayer is transferred to January 23, the liturgical celebrations of both St. Vincent and St. Marianne Cope are omitted.)

### *Collect*

O God, who called us to serve your Son  
in the least of our brothers and sisters,  
grant, we pray, that by the example and intercession  
of the Virgin Saint Marianne Cope,  
we may burn with love for you and for those who suffer.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2024

January 18-25, 2024

"You shall love the Lord your God... and your neighbor as yourself."  
Luke 10:27

The theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2024 was selected by the Pontifical Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity, the World Council of Churches, and the Christian Churches in Burkina Faso, coordinated by the community of Chemin Neuf, a French Catholic and ecumenical community of vowed and lay people and its local community in Burkina Faso.

The theme, taken from the first chapter of the Gospel of Luke, reflects the connection between love of God and love of neighbor with a particular concern for challenging the boundaries of who is considered "neighbor". In this pericope, Jesus is questioned as to the path to eternal life. His answer is not to only observe the commandments, but to also imitate the love of God in the giving of self for another. It is a call for charity, mercy, justice, and unity.

For more information, daily meditations, and text of an ecumenical service please see:  
<https://www.usccb.org/committees/ecumenical-interreligious-affairs/week-prayer-christian-unity-2024>

## Sunday of the Word of God

“He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures” (Lk 24:45).

Observed on the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Sunday between January 21-27).

For resources and information please see: <https://www.usccb.org/committees/divine-worship/sunday-word-god>.

## Day of Prayer for the Protection of Unborn Children

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM), no. 373, designates January 22 as a particular day of prayer and penance, called the "Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children":

In all the Dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 (or January 23, when January 22 falls on a Sunday) shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion. The liturgical celebrations for this day may be the “Mass For Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life” (no. 48/1 of the Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions), celebrated with white vestments, or the Mass “For the Preservation of Peace and Justice” (no. 30 of the Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions), celebrated with violet vestments.

For more resources and information please see: <https://www.usccb.org/committees/pro-life-activities/january-roe-events/january-22-day-of-prayer>

## 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: <https://liturgy.teachable.com/p/instructions-for-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

## Time for Vigil Masses and Anticipated Masses

The time for Vigil Masses and Anticipated Masses in the Diocese of Erie is no earlier than 4:00. This applies to Holy Days of Obligation as well, including Christmas.

## Time of the Easter Vigil - 2024

The Easter Vigil is the first Mass of Easter Sunday and not in any way to be considered an Anticipated Mass for Easter Sunday. This is why the discipline of the Church insists that it should not begin before nightfall in any circumstance. It may be helpful to know that sunset, according to a variety of models, occurs approximately at 7:44 PM on March 30, 2024. This information is provided at this time to assist with calendar planning for 2023-2024. In general, given the variable date for Easter, it seems best to schedule the Easter Vigil each year for 8:30 PM or later.