

Dear servants of the liturgy,

September, already?? Time to start planning for the new liturgical year—so we include some notes about Advent and a reminder about LTP annual resources in this issue.

The calendar is full this month, so please see below for suggestions regarding the observation of Labor Day and September 11. In addition, please know that this month the other two Abrahamic Faiths observe important holy days. The Muslim community celebrates Ramadan beginning on September 13, and the Jewish community celebrates Rosh Hashanna, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot this month. Let us keep our sisters and brothers in Abraham in prayer.

Please note that new policies concerning the Eucharist have been promulgated by Bishop Amos; they are available on the diocesan website and are briefly described below.

Finally, may I please invite you to keep the men discerning a call to diaconal ministry—as well as their wives and children—in your prayers? We will be holding a series of meetings around the diocese to introduce the diaconate and explain the formation program to those who are discerning such a call. This month we meet at St. Mary, Fort Madison, from 1pm-4pm on September 30; next month we meet at St. Mary, Solon, on October 28.

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

LTP ANNUAL RESOURCES

LTP has announced that its annual resources are once again available. You may order your materials directly from LTP, 800-533-1900 or from Religious Supply Center in Davenport. Religious Supply is willing to provide the parishes with discounted prices; please call them for details. To place your order, call Jim, 563-324-0669 or 800-292-0052, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., M-F and 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday.

NEW POLICIES PROMULGATED

On August 21, the Memorial of Pope St. Pius X, Bishop Amos promulgated two new policies and published a new resource for the diocese. The first policy, *Policies Relating to Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion* updates the procedure for nominating and commissioning EMHCs in the diocese and brings the ministry of EMHCs into conformity with recent liturgical documents. The second, *Policies Relating to the Eucharist and Those with an Intolerance of Gluten and/or Alcohol*, provides guidance for welcoming our sisters and brothers with these health concerns safely to the Table. Finally, the resource, *Recipes for Eucharistic Bread* provides recipes that are both licit and valid for those communities that wish to bake substantial bread for the Eucharist. All are available on the liturgy section of the diocesan website:

<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/ddo-offices/page7.html>.

UPCOMING EVENTS**CONTINUING FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES:****WHAT EVERY PRIEST AND PASTORAL MUSICIAN NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT THE EUCHARIST**

NPM will be sponsoring a one-day program entitled *Models of the Eucharist* in St. Louis, Missouri on Monday, September 17. This intensive professional development seminar is intended for clergy, pastoral musicians, catechetical leaders, youth ministers, leaders of worship, and other pastoral ministers.

The seminar will be conducted by Msgr. Kevin W. Irwin, Dean of the School of Theology and Religious Studies at the Catholic University of America, and will be based on his recent book of the same title. Participants will have an opportunity to deepen their own understanding of the Eucharist, discover ways of enriching Eucharistic celebrations, evaluate musical repertoire for the Eucharist, and examine fresh approaches to catechesis on the Eucharist.

Models of the Eucharist will be held at Aquinas Institute of Theology on September 17 beginning at 9:00 a.m. and concluding at 4:00 p.m. Lunch is included in the registration fee. The [program brochure and registration form](#) may be downloaded from the [NPM website](#).

RECOMMENDED RESOURCE

The National Catholic Rural Life Conference offers wonderful prayers for use throughout the seasons; please visit <http://www.ncrlc.com/Seasonal-Calendar.html> to see. Here is a recent example:

A Prayer for Fields of Corn

Almighty and eternal God, You are the Lord of the harvest.
All over the land now, under the August sky, stands field after field of corn.
Its long leaves are drinking in the warm sun and rustling in the wind.

Bless this crop of ours, Lord, and make it plentiful and rich.
Millions of people will be fed with this grain now standing in the fields,
and millions of animals, too. Keep it from blight and pests.
Give it sufficient rain and warm sun. Help us in the harvesting of it, Lord, so that the hungry may
be fed and the desires of the needy fulfilled.

We thank You for all Your kindnesses to us. We beg You to bless our work in the fields, and give us a plentiful harvest, so that we may with gratitude and loving faithfulness always do Your will, with the help of Your grace, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and is King with You forever in the unity of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

*LITURGY PREPARATION*LITURGICAL CALENDARObserving Labor Day: September 3

Even though September 3 is the Memorial of Pope St. Gregory the Great, Masses for Various Needs and Occasions are allowed at the discretion of the priest celebrant, Therefore, parishes may want to take the opportunity celebrate the Mass for the Blessing of Human Labor (Masses for Various Needs and Occasions #25). The Preface would be for Independence Day and Other Civic Holidays I-II, the readings taken from 907-911, and the vestments white.

The *Book of Blessings* also offers a number of opportunities. Pastoral visits could be made to places of work, and the following rites be used:

- 18. Blessing of an Office, Shop, or Factory
- 23. Blessing of Technical Installations or Equipment
- 26. Blessing of Fields and Flocks

Or, at Sunday Masses or at Mass on Labor day itself, workers could bring the tools of their trades to be blessed:

- 24. Blessing of Tools or Other Equipment for Work

Special attention should be paid to laborers and those seeking work during the Prayer of the Faithful, as should those who are treated unjustly in the workplace. For example, the following intercessions / litany may be used or adapted. They are modified from those written by Patrick Gorman, Director of Worship for the Diocese of Madison, and printed in “Putting Labor into Labor Day Services” (National Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice), and are reproduced with permission:

Priest Celebrant: Friends, let us offer our prayer to God, who pronounced all creation good, who sent the Son to live and work as one like us, and who calls us to serve the poor and those oppressed.

Deacon/Reader: For all those who work; let us pray: (Lord, hear our prayer)

For those who are unemployed or underemployed, or have lost their jobs because of changing economic conditions; let us pray: (Lord, hear our prayer)

For those who work in hazardous conditions without sufficient protection; let us pray: (Lord, hear our prayer)

For migrant workers and all who work the land; let us pray: (Lord, hear our prayer)

For all employers, that they may seek to provide a just work environment;
let us pray: (Lord, hear our prayer)

For those who face discrimination, harassment, or abuse in the work place;
let us pray: (Lord, hear our prayer)

For those who must balance job commitments with the needs of their
family; let us pray: (Lord, hear our prayer)

Priest Celebrant: Loving God, through your Son you gave us an example to love one another as he loved us. Give us the strength to continue working to reveal your reign here on earth – a reign of justice and peace, kindness and compassion, grace and mercy. Grant this through Christ, our Lord. (Amen)

September 11

A special “Blue Mass” for police officers and firefighters, remembering those who have given their lives for others, may be celebrated today. The Mass *For Those Who Serve in Public Office* (#18) may be used.

Other Masses for Various Needs and Occasions that may be considered for use this day include:
22. For Peace and Justice
42. For Promoting Harmony

In addition, the Mass for the Dead may be celebrated, recalling all who lost their lives on September 11, and since, due to terrorism and war.

Finally, it would be good to remember the dead and those who continue to suffer the after-effects of 9-11 as part of the Prayer of the Faithful on Sunday the 9th as well. For example:

For those who died on September 11, 2001; for their families and friends who mourn them; we pray to the Lord:

For those who serve others at the risk of their own lives; we pray to the Lord:

For an end to terrorism and violence; for peace among nations; we pray to the Lord:

For the grace of forgiveness; for the healing of broken spirits and wounded souls; we pray to the Lord:

For those overwhelmed by sorrow or fear; for those who work for reconciliation; we pray to the Lord:

Advent

Advent, and the new liturgical year, begins on December 2 this year. As you and your communities begin to look ahead, I would offer the following points to keep in mind. I will provide Christmas guidelines next month.

1. With the new liturgical year, we begin the use of Cycle A in the Sunday Lectionary and Year II in the Weekday Lectionary.
2. The color of Advent is a bluer shade of violet, to distinguish it from the purple of penitence in Lent. Blue itself is not an allowed color in the U.S. Rose is an optional color for the vesture on the Third Sunday of Advent, signaling that the full joy of Christmas is drawing near. The vestments worn should not have a cross, nails, etc. on them – they should not be Lenten.
3. The Advent wreath is blessed only at the first mass, after the intercessions. See the Book of Blessings, #1509ff, chapter 47. On the other Sundays of Advent, it is lit before Mass begins and no additional prayers are said. The traditional wreath is a circle of evergreen branches that bears four candles. The dominant tradition calls for three violet and one rose candle, but four violet or four white candles may also be used. Some communities add a fifth candle, white, for Christmas. The wreath should be large enough for all to see, but not obstruct the view of the altar, ambo or chair.
4. A good Penitential Rite to use would be Rite C, #ii.
5. Don't anticipate Christmas with music and environment. Rather, make use of a full spectrum of Advent music.
6. Don't make believe Jesus never came – focus on the second coming. Remember: *Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.*
7. Giving trees should not be in the sanctuary. Remember you can transform them for Christmas. They are better placed in the entryway or some location other than the sanctuary, lest the simplicity of Advent decor be compromised. Likewise, while Jesse trees are good for religious education they should not be in the church.
8. The *Gloria* is omitted.
9. This season should reflect quiet and a subdued peace, as well as a sense of anticipation.

INTERCESSIONS

We've been publishing intercessions as part of the *LiturgyNotes* for quite some time now... and we are wondering how useful they have been for people. There are many sources out there for helping folks prepare the Prayer of the Faithful, so we don't want to be duplicating efforts. Please e-mail or call and let me know: Should we keep this section of the *LiturgyNotes* or retire it? Thanks.

(1) "Intercessions for Life" may be found on the USCCB website at:

<http://www.usccb.org/prolife/liturgy/wolarchive.shtml>

(2) Monthly intercession for vocations:

For immigrant priests who are assisting our diocese at the present time, and for their home dioceses and families, we pray...

(3) Weekly intercessions from the Liturgical Commission:

Oct 7 27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For victims of violence, ruin, and destruction; we pray...

Oct 14 28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For the outcasts of our age, for those shunned because of what they look like or who they are; we pray...

Oct 21 29th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For those who serve and uphold others in ministries of charity and justice; we pray...

Oct 28 30th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For the weak and oppressed, the orphan and widow, the poor and brokenhearted; we pray...