

LITURGYNOTES

"Good celebrations foster and nourish faith. Poor celebrations weaken and destroy it."

February 2025

Diocese of Davenport

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CALENDAR FOR THIS MONTH

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- February 8: World Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking
- February 7-14: National Marriage Week / February 9: World Marriage Day
- February 11: World Day of the Sick
- February 20: World Day of Social Justice

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EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL

<https://www.davenportdiocese.org/liturgy/eucharistic-revival>

Following the Eucharistic Congress, we are now entering into the "Missionary Year" of the Revival. Please see our diocesan page: <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/missionary-year-2024-2025>.

As part of that year, there will be a national pilgrimage from Indianapolis to Los Angeles, arriving on Corpus Christi. Please see: <https://www.eucharisticpilgrimage.org/>.



Please know that Bishop Walsh has given permission for the Pilgrimage to pass through our diocese on May 21-23, 2025!

Specifics will be shared as soon as they become available. We'll be needing lots of help!

JUBILEE YEAR 2025

Diocesan information is posted at: <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/liturgy#Jubilee2025>. For example, cards with the Jubilee Prayer are available for download there (bilingual English/Spanish and English/Vietnamese). Information about the Jubilee Indulgence and on pilgrimage churches in the diocese is also available.

NEWS & NOTICES

FORMATION: OCIA

We are grateful for the virtual and in-person workshops provided by LTP! If parishes or deaneries are interested in future formation opportunities, Deacon Agnoli (liturgy) and Trevor Pullinger (faith formation) are available to provide workshops on the updated OCIA.

NEWS FROM THE FDLC

Save the Dates

At the kind invitation of Archbishop William Lori, the fifty-sixth national meeting of diocesan liturgical commissions will be held in Baltimore, Maryland from **September 30 to October 2, 2025**. The focus will be on the **Liturgy of the Hours**. The good folks of Region Four look forward to welcoming you!

LITURGICAL CALENDAR: THIS MONTH

FEBRUARY

- February 2 – Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (see Missal for procession options and blessing of candles)
The Mass texts, readings, and Hours are taken from the Feast. This may be a very good opportunity to celebrate the full procession and blessing of candles – a pair of which will be used for the individual blessing of throats. For the Blessing of Throats at Mass, see the *Book of Blessings* #1626. The priest-presider may use the blessing formula to close the intercessions, or as the final blessing at the end of Mass, extending hands over the entire congregation.
World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life
<https://www.usccb.org/committees/clergy-consecrated-life-vocations/world-day-consecrated-life>
National Day of Prayer for the African-American Family
<https://www.usccb.org/committees/african-american-affairs/national-day-prayer-african-american-family>
- February 8 – World Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking
<https://www.usccb.org/committees/administrative/february-8th-international-day-prayer-and-awareness-against-human>
- February 7-14 – National Marriage Week / February 9 – World Marriage Day
<https://wwme.org/community/sponsored-events/world-marriage-day/> and
<https://www.usccb.org/topics/marriage-and-family-life-ministries/national-marriage-week>
- February 11 – World Day of the Sick
<https://www.chausa.org/prayers/world-day-of-the-sick> and <https://www.nacc.org/resources/spirituality-and-prayer-resources/world-day-of-the-sick/>
- February 15 – registrations for the Rite of Election are due (please see below)
- February 20 – World Day of Social Justice

LITURGICAL CALENDAR: NEXT MONTH

MARCH

- March 5 – Ash Wednesday; new edition of the OCIA must be used
- March 9 – Rite of Election; Daylight Savings Time starts
- March 19 – Solemnity of St. Joseph
- March 25 – Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord

LITURGICAL CALENDAR: LOOKING AHEAD

HOLY WEEK / TRIDUUM / EASTER 2025

- The *Chrism Mass* is tentatively scheduled for April 14, the Monday of Holy Week.
- The *Triduum* falls on Thursday, April 17 through Sunday, April 20 – with the Easter Vigil falling on the night of Saturday, April 19. On that night, sunset is at ~7:45 pm. In order to insure sufficient darkness, at least 45 minutes (preferably one hour) should elapse after sunset before the Vigil may begin. Therefore, the earliest that the Vigil may begin is 8:30 pm CDT, preferably 8:45 pm.

APRIL

- April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Resources from the USCCB are available at:
<https://www.usccb.org/committees/communications/abuse-prevention-resources>
<https://www.usccb.org/resources/child-abuse-prevention-month-how-and-why>
<https://www.usccb.org/resources/april-national-child-abuse-prevention-month>
<https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/child-and-youth-protection/upload/Prayers-of-the-Faithful-Child-Abuse-Prevention-Month.pdf>
- April 22: Earth Day
<https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/programs/earth-day/>
<https://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/care-for-creation>
<https://www.usccb.org/resources/renewing-earth>
<https://www.davenportdiocese.org/care-for-creation>
- April 27: 2nd Sunday of Easter / Divine Mercy Sunday
<https://www.usccb.org/prolife/divine-mercy-sunday>
<https://www.usccb.org/resources/holy-hour-divine-mercy-sunday>
<https://www.usccb.org/resources/divine-mercy-action-guide>

THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Please see: <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/ocia>

OCIA: MYSTAGOGY

In the Period of Mystagogy (OCIA #244-251), a number of rites can be celebrated—the most important of which are the “neophyte Masses” in which all those who have been baptized at the Vigil gather together again to celebrate the liturgy. Pentecost Sunday and the anniversary of their baptism would be other special days to keep in mind. Don’t forget – mystagogy isn’t just for the neophytes, but for the *whole* Church... and so the importance of mystagogical preaching!

UPCOMING EVENTS: DIOCESAN LITURGIES

RITE OF ELECTION & CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION: MARCH 9, 2025

This year we will be celebrating the combined rites twice on the First Sunday of Lent (March 9, 2025). Bishop Walsh will preside at a bilingual (English and Spanish) liturgy at St. Mary’s in Ottumwa. He has designated Fr. Thom Hennen to preside at the rites at the Cathedral. Both celebrations will begin at 2pm, and will be celebrated within Mass. We hope to be able to dismiss the catechumens (not the candidates) for a period of reflection. A reception will follow. Please don’t forget that parishes ought to celebrate the Rite of Sending at Mass either Saturday evening or Sunday morning.

For more information or to register for the rites, please visit: <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/rite-of-election>.

Please note that registrations are due by February 15!

CHRISM MASS

The Chrism Mass will be celebrated at Sacred Heart Cathedral on Monday, April 14. Parishes are being contacted to find out how much of the blessed oils and consecrated Chrism they will need this year. Please respond before the end of the month so we can order the oils.

UPCOMING EVENTS: FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

See the Liturgy Events webpage at: <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/liturgy-events>.

DIOCESAN MUSIC WORKSHOP: March 22, 2025

On behalf of the diocese, St. Mary Church in Riverside will be hosting a workshop for music ministers (especially music/choir directors and accompanists) and interested clergy. Dr. David Pitt, Professor of Sacramental and Liturgical Theology at Loras College, and frequent Director for our Diocesan Choir, will be presenting (<https://loras.edu/people/david-pitt/>). The workshop will focus on music selection for Mass, and will include both theory and practice, culminating in a walk through the Mass using the music selected by participants. For more information or to register, please visit: <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/liturgy-events#MMW2025>.

NOTRE DAME PREACHING CONFERENCE: JUNE 16-18, 2025

Mark your calendar! Dates are set for another major preaching conference at Notre Dame, June 16-18, 2025. The theme will be: JESUS, DEAD AND RISEN, JESUS LIVING IN THE CHURCH: PREACHING THE PASCHAL MYSTERY.

Taking a line from a work by the great French theologian, Louis Bouyer, the theme this summer is the Paschal Mystery (Jesus, dead and risen) as both the central content of our preaching and also the mystery that formats our reading, praying, and preaching of the Scriptures. Keynote speakers include Bishop Joseph Perry of Chicago, Hans Boersma, Karla Bellinger, Fr Robert Imbelli, and Fr Sergius Halvorsen. Registration will be open early in 2025.

NATIONAL GATHERING ON CHRISTIAN INITIATION® ON JULY 30–31

The Theme for 2025 is The Table of the Word: Scripture and the OCIA. Throughout the initiation process, we invite catechumens and candidates to join with us and feast at the table of the Word. Not only are we nourished by Scripture, we are formed by it to be missionary disciples—bringing the Gospel to the ends of the earth. For more information or to register, please visit: <https://ngci.org/2025> (early bird discount ends March 5th).

LITURGY PREPARATION

LITURGY PREPARATION AID 2025: LENT- TRIDUUM-EASTER

Because Lent is coming later this year, the FDLC annual Liturgical Preparation Aid for the Great Ninety Days has not yet been published. When it is, they will post it here: <https://fdlc.org/public-resources/>. We will also send it out and post it to our website: <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/liturgical-seasons#LentTriduumEaster>. Watch for it!

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Lent Fast and Abstinence

FAST—Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast. On days of fast, one full meal and two lesser meals are allowed. Eating between meals is not permitted. Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 (60th birthday) are bound to fast.

ABSTINENCE—Ash Wednesday and all of the Fridays of Lent are also days of abstinence. On days of abstinence, meat may not be taken. The law of abstinence binds all Catholics fourteen years of age or older. If members of the Faithful are unable to observe the fast and abstinence regulations because of ill health or other reasons, they are urged to practice other forms of penance and self-denial suitable to their condition.

Lenten Prayers over the People

Each day in Lent is assigned its own Prayer over the People, for use as part of the final blessing before the dismissal. On Ash Wednesday and on the Sundays of Lent, their use is mandatory. On weekdays, their use is optional.

Eastertime and Pentecost

- The days of the Easter Octave are celebrated as solemnities. The double alleluia is added to the dismissal and its response (just for the octave and on Pentecost; *not* for the entire season). The Sequence is required on Easter Sunday but optional on the other days of the octave.
- The Second Sunday of Easter is also celebrated as Divine Mercy Sunday. Resources from the USCCB are available at: <https://www.usccb.org/prolife/divine-mercy-sunday>.
- Have the neophytes (the newly baptized) sit in a special place during the Easter Season. Remember them in the intercessions. Please see RCIA #244-251.
- The paschal candle should be kept by the altar or ambo, and lit during liturgies until Evening Prayer II on Pentecost.
- Remember: we "fast for 40" but we "feast for 50!!" While difficult after the intensity of Lent and the Triduum, try to keep the whole season... don't let it become the equivalent of Ordinary Time with white vestments! Use music, the environment, and preaching to keep us attentive to the Mystery of the Resurrection... and the Gift of the Spirit!

Eastertime and Judaism

Excerpted from *God's Mercy Endures Forever: Guidelines on the Presentation of Jews and Judaism in Catholic Preaching* (Bishop's Committee on the Liturgy, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, September, 1988); full document at: <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/ecumenical-and-interreligious/jewish/upload/God-s-Mercy-Endures-Forever-Guidelines-on-the-Presentation-of-Jews-and-Judaism-in-Catholic-Preaching-1988.pdf>.

26. The readings of the Easter season, especially those from the book of Acts, which is used extensively throughout this liturgical period, require particular attention from the homilist in light of the enduring bond between Jews and Christians. Some of these readings from Acts (e.g., cycles A and B for the Third and Fourth Sundays of Easter) can leave an impression of collective Jewish responsibility for the crucifixion ("You put to death the author of life...." Acts 3:15). In such cases, the homilist should put before the assembly the teachings of *Nostra Aetate* in this regard (see no. 22 above), as well as the fact noted in Acts 3:17 that what was done by some individual Jews was done "out of ignorance" so that no unwarranted conclusion about collective guilt is drawn by the hearers. The Acts may be dealing with a reflection of the Jewish-Christian relationship as it existed toward the end of the first century (when Acts was composed) rather than with the actual attitudes of the post-Easter Jerusalem Church. Homilists should desire to convey the spirit and enthusiasm of the early Church that marks these Easter season readings. But in doing so, statements about Jewish responsibility have to be kept in context. This is part of the reconciliation between Jews and Christians to which we are all called.

Some helpful resources from our website as we head into Lent, Triduum, and Eastertime....

<https://www.davenportdiocese.org/preaching-links#AvoidingAntiJudaism>

Catholic Biblical Association Fact Sheets (*These are posted with the kind permission of the CBA.*)

- [Introduction](#)
- [On Jewish Responsibility for the Death of Jesus](#)
- [On Lepers](#)
- [On the Pharisees](#)
- [On Women](#)

Video Series: Presenting the Passion... without blaming "the Jews"

1. [Judas and Betrayal](#) ("Do you betray me with a kiss?") with Ruth Langer and Jesper Svartvik
2. [The Jewish Leaders and Conspiracy](#) ("Looking for a way to arrest Jesus...and kill him.") with Katharina von Kellenbach and Peter A. Pettit
3. [The Jewish Crowd, Pilate, and Guilt](#) ("His blood be on us and our children.") with Victoria Barnett, Philip Cunningham, and Adam Gregerman
4. [The Crucifixion and Accountability](#) ("And they took him away and crucified him.") with Mary Boys, John Pawlikowski, and Elena Procario-Foley

RESOURCES: XAVIER SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

The Xavier Society provides free religious, spiritual, and inspirational reading materials in braille, large print and audio – including large print bibles and missalettes – to blind and visually impaired individuals worldwide. For more information, please visit <https://xaviersocietyfortheblind.org/> or contact the society at 800-637-9193, 212-473-7800, or info@xaviersocietyfortheblind.org.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE: HYMNALS

350 JOURNEYSONGS hymnals are available from St. Alphonsus in Mt. Pleasant. This is the 2014 hardback pew edition published by OCP that includes Sunday readings. If interested, please contact Fr. Ross Epping at eppingr@diodav.org

RESOURCES FOR THE UNIVERSAL PRAYER

- (1) Synod on Synodality
<https://www.davenportdiocese.org/synod-2023>
- (2) Eucharistic Revival
English: <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/documents/2022/9/General%20Intercessions%20ENGLISH%20-%20National%20Eucharistic%20Revival.pdf>
Spanish: <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/documents/2022/11/General%20Intercessions%20SPANISH%20-%20National%20Eucharistic%20Revival.pdf>
- (3) The Center for Liturgy (general intercessions for Sundays)
<http://liturgy.slu.edu/>
- (4) Intercessions for various life issues may be found on the USCCB website at (in English and Spanish):
<http://usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/prayers/intercessory-prayers-for-life.cfm>
<http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/word-of-life/index.cfm> (archive from 2011-2020)



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