

LITURGYNOTES

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

August 2025

Diocese of Davenport

IN THIS ISSUE...

- **Jubilee 2025**
- **News and Notices:** news from the BCDW & FDLC;
- **Calendar notices (Aug-Oct)**
- **All Saints & All Souls**
- **Formation:** Recordings from FDLC's *Ars Celebrandi* series available
- **Liturgy Prep:** Candles; Universal Prayer

CALENDAR FOR THIS MONTH

- **6: Feast of the Transfiguration**
- **15: Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

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JUBILEE YEAR 2025

<https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html>
(<https://www.usccb.org/committees/jubilee-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.

The Vatican has released a special Mass for the Holy Year, which is posted on the USCCB website:

[USCCB.org/prayer-and-worship/the-mass/votive-masses-and-various-needs/mass-for-the-holy-year](https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/the-mass/votive-masses-and-various-needs/mass-for-the-holy-year)

NEWS & NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE FDLC

National Meeting 2025: Registration Open

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! For more information, please visit: <https://fdlc.org/56th-fdlc-national-meeting/>.

Speakers will include Cardinal Arthur Roche, Prefect of the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments at the Vatican and Abbot Gregory Polan, OSB, who recently returned to the United States after completing his term as the tenth Abbot Primate of the Benedictine Order (2016-2024). His expertise as a Scripture scholar, linguist, and musician all contributed to his leadership of the monks of Conception Abbey and their work on The Abbey Psalm and Canticles – the psalms now approved for liturgical use in the United States.

National Meeting 2026: Save the Dates!

Our region – Region Nine – will be hosting the 2026 meeting... here, in our diocese! We will be meeting at the Graduate in Iowa City from September 29 to October 1, focusing on the Liturgy of the Word.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR: THIS MONTH

AUGUST

- August 6: The Feast of the Transfiguration is celebrated on August 6, which is also the anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, when nature itself was violently transfigured. Perhaps as we gather for Eucharist or pray the Hours this day we would do well to pray for peace and that the horrors of that August 6 eighty years ago will never be repeated.
- August 15: The Solemnity of the Assumption of the BVM is a Holy Day of Obligation this year. Ritual Masses (i.e., marriage, confirmation) and funeral Masses are prohibited. A marriage or funeral may be celebrated outside of Mass using the texts from the Rite of Marriage or the Order of Christian Funerals.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR: NEXT MONTH

SEPTEMBER

- September 1 – Labor Day (see below)
- September 1 — World Day of Prayer of the Care of Creation [start of Season of Creation, to Oct. 4] (see below)
- September 8 — World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly (moved from July in US).
<https://www.usccb.org/topics/marriage-and-family-life-ministries/grandparents-elderly>
- September 9 — Day of Prayer for Peace in Our Communities (USA)
<https://www.usccb.org/committees/ad-hoc-committee-against-racism/combating-racism-parish-resources> and
<https://www.usccb.org/committees/ad-hoc-committee-against-racism>
- September 11 (see below) – National Day of Mourning and Remembrance
- September 14 – Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
 - Replaces the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
- September 21 (Third Sunday in September; USA) — Catechetical Sunday
<https://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/catechetical-sunday/catechetical-sunday-about> and <https://www.usccb.org/committees/evangelization-catechesis/catechetical-sunday-2025>
- September 22-28 (Last Week in September) — National Migration Week (USA)
<https://justiceformigrants.org/national-migration-week-2025/>
- September 27 – Anniversary of the Ordination of Bishop Dennis Walsh as the 10th Bishop of Davenport
 - The anniversary of the bishop’s episcopal ordination should be celebrated in each church. The Mass for Various Needs and Occasions, I. For the Church, 3. For the Bishop may be used.
- September 28 (Last Sunday in September) — World Day of Migrants and Refugees
<https://migrants-refugees.va/world-day-of-migrants-refugees/>
- September 28 (Last Sunday in Sept) — Priesthood Sunday
<https://serraus.org/priesthood-sunday/>
- September 29 – Ordination of Bishop-Elect Thomas Hennen as the next bishop of Baker, Oregon.

Monday, September 1: Labor Day / World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

Parishes may wish to celebrate the Mass for the Sanctification of Human Labor (#26; readings from #907-911) on this day. Preface V for Sunday is used, and white vestments are worn (since it is a special observation in the US).

This is also an appropriate Mass to celebrate in observation of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (see below).

On Labor Day weekend, intercessions for workers ought to be included in the Universal Prayer; for example:

- For those who are unemployed or underemployed, for those seeking work; let us pray: (Lord, hear our prayer)
- For those who work in hazardous conditions without sufficient protection, [especially during this pandemic]; let us pray: (Lord, hear our prayer)
- For migrant workers and all who work the land and the waters, so we might be fed; let us pray: (Lord, hear our prayer)
- For those who work in the service of their sisters and brothers; that they would not be discouraged by lack of support or progress; 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)

The *Book of Blessings* also offers a number of opportunities. Brief pastoral visits (observing appropriate physical distancing and wearing masks) could be made to places of work, and the following rites could be used: (18) Blessing of an Office, Shop, or Factory; (23) Blessing of Technical Installations or Equipment, and (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, and (24) Blessing of Tools or Other Equipment for Work be used. A brief gathering outdoors after Mass might be a good way to do this. 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, as in the examples above.

September 1 also inaugurates the “Season of Creation,” which culminates on October 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Patron Saint of Ecology. Pope Francis instituted the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation in 2015 as a practical step following the publication of his encyclical *Laudato Si’*. September 1 was chosen for the yearly observance, as it is the same date chosen by the Orthodox Church in 1989. The day of prayer gives Catholics the opportunity to give thanks to God for the creation of the world and of humanity, and to recall and strengthen the responsibility of men and women to care for that creation. Some options for the liturgy on this day include:

- As noted above, celebrating the Mass “For the Sanctification of Human Labor” from the Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions (no. 26; see especially the second Collect of formulary A) may be a fitting option.
 - This formulary requires the use of Preface V of the Sundays in Ordinary Time, entitled simply “Creation.” The preface speaks eloquently of God’s creation of the world, and the need of humanity to praise God by caring for that creation. Connections between human labor and the care of creation can be drawn out by the formulary itself, and in the homily and Universal Prayer.
 - Since this is also Labor Day in the US this year, white vestments are worn.
 - The readings may be taken from the appropriate selection in volume IV of the Lectionary for Mass (see Mass “For the Blessing of Human Labor,” nos. 907-911; see especially 907-2 and 909-1).
- Even if no special Mass formulary or readings are selected for the occasion, it would still be appropriate to mention the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation and its significance in the homily, petitions, and/or concluding announcements (on this day and on the preceding Sunday).

LiturgyNotes – August 2025

“The Eucharist commits us to the poor” (CCC #1397).

- Other resources:
 - <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/care-for-creation>
 - <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/season-of-creation/>
 - <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/documents/2016/6/litWorldDayofPrayerforCreation2015.pdf>
 - <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/deacon-formation-resources/#LaudatoSi>
 - Catholic Climate Covenant: <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/learn/resources/>
 - Laudato Si' Movement: <https://laudatosimovement.org/>
 - Season of Creation: <https://seasonofcreation.org/>
 - USCCB: <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/prayers-to-care-for-creation.cfm>
 - Laudato Si' Action Platform: <https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/>

Thursday, September 11

On September 11, parishes may wish to celebrate a special Mass for “first responders” – such as police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians/paramedics – using the Mass for Those in Public Office (#22) or the Mass for the Preservation of Peace and Justice (#30). Appropriate intercessions could also be included at the Sunday Masses on the weekend of September 7-8. <https://www.usccb.org/resources/september-11-patriot-day>

LITURGICAL CALENDAR: LOOKING AHEAD

OCTOBER

- Domestic Violence Awareness Month
<https://www.usccb.org/topics/marriage-and-family-life-ministries/domestic-violence>
- Respect Life Month / October 5 — Respect Life Sunday
<https://www.usccb.org/respectlife>
<https://www.respectlife.org/respect-life-month>
- October 19 — World Mission Sunday
<https://www.usccb.org/committees/evangelization-catechesis/world-missions>

A NOTE ON ALL SAINTS / ALL SOULS FROM THE USCCB

	Mass before 4pm	Mass after 4pm	Morning Prayer	Evening Prayer
Friday, Oct 31	Friday, 30 th week in Ordinary Time		Friday, Week II	EP I of All Saints
Saturday, Nov 1	All Saints	All Souls*	All Saints	EP II of All Saints*
Sunday, Nov 2	All Souls	All Souls	31 st Sun OT***	31 st Sun OT***

*If desired for pastoral reasons, a Mass of All Saints Day outside the usual Mass schedule may be celebrated on Saturday evening.

**For pastoral reasons where it is the custom, Evening Prayer II may be followed by Evening Prayer for the Dead.

***The Office for the 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time is said, especially in individual recitation; the Office of the Dead may be used, however, if Morning or Evening Prayer is celebrated with the people.

Ritual Masses are forbidden on All Saints Day (GIRM, no. 372). While the Ritual Mass for the Celebration of Marriage is forbidden, the Mass of the day with the ritual itself and the nuptial blessing could be celebrated. Alternatively, the Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass could also be used if the celebration of Marriage is to take place on this day. Ritual Masses are also forbidden on All Souls' Day. As a reminder, All Saints Day is not a holy day of obligation this year, owing to the 1992 decision of the USCCB abrogating the precept to attend Mass when November 1 falls on a Saturday or Monday. Therefore, funeral Masses may be celebrated on this day (see GIRM, no. 380).

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HOLY WEEK / TRIDUUM / EASTER 2026

- The *Chrism Mass* is scheduled for March 30, the Monday of Holy Week.
- The *Triduum* falls on Thursday, April 2 through Sunday, April 5 – with the Easter Vigil falling on the night of Saturday, April 4. On that night, sunset is at ~7:30 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 8:15 pm CDT.

UPCOMING EVENTS: DIOCESAN LITURGIES

UPCOMING EVENTS: FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

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

WEBINAR SERIES NOW POSTED ON THE FDLC WEBSITE

From May 7 to June 4, 2025, over nine hundred people participated in our weekly series on “*Ars Celebrandi*: Something More is Required.” Now even more people can view this excellent series! Perhaps you’d like to see a session again. Perhaps you’d like to use a session to train your liturgical ministers or your parish commissions. Each video is 75 minutes long.

All of the *Ars Celebrandi* videos and handouts are now posted: <https://fdlc.org/artofcelebrating2025>

Session	Topic	Presenter(s)
I	Understanding Ars Celebrandi	Fr. Bruce Cinquegrani and Father Paul Turner
II	The Role of the Assembly	Sr. Joyce Ann Zimmerman, C.P.P.S.
III	Artful Presiding	Bishop Mark Seitz
IV	Lay Liturgical Ministers	Victoria Tufano and Msgr. Michael Begolly
V	The Art of Liturgical Music	Dr. Dolores Martinez and Dr. Steve Janco

LITURGY PREPARATION

FYI: A NOTE ON CANDLES FROM FR. PAUL TURNER

In a recent post (<https://paulturner.org/former-high-altar/>), Fr. Paul Turner addressed the question of whether or not candles ought to be placed anywhere other than around or on the church’s single altar (for example, on unused old altars or around the tabernacle or ambo). He had this to say: “Take a look at GIRM 117. It calls for candlesticks on or next to the altar. It does not mention them anywhere else. I’ve seen many churches where candles flank the tabernacle, which, in my view, draws too much attention to the tabernacle during Mass, when our attention is to be focused on the altar. The tabernacle is supposed to be off the altar (GIRM 315), which strengthens the view that candles do not belong with it. I’ve also seen many, many churches with candles at the ambo. The GIRM never calls for them there. It’s not the altar table.... There’s only one altar, and that should be clear by the decor inside the church.”

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RESOURCES FOR THE UNIVERSAL PRAYER

- (1) Synod on Synodality
<https://www.davenportdiocese.org/synod-2023>
- (2) The Center for Liturgy (general intercessions for Sundays)
<http://liturgy.slu.edu/>
- (3) 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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