

LITURGY NOTES

“Good celebrations foster and nourish faith. Poor celebrations weaken and destroy it.”

February 2026

Diocese of Davenport

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CALENDAR FOR THIS MONTH

- 1: National Day of Prayer for the African-American Family
- 2: Feast of the Presentation of the Lord; World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life
- 7-14: National Marriage Week / February 8 – World Marriage Day
- 8: World Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking
- 11: World Day of the Sick; first use of new *Anointing of the Sick and of their Pastoral Care*
- 18: Ash Wednesday
- 20: World Day of Social Justice
- 22: First Sunday of Lent, Rite of Election (see below)

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NEWS & NOTICES

JUBILEE OF ST. FRANCIS: JAN 10, 2026 – JAN 10, 2027

Pope Leo has named this year as a special Jubilee to mark the 800th Anniversary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi. Information about the Jubilee, including the Jubilee Indulgence, may be found on our liturgy homepage:
<https://www.davenportdiocese.org/liturgy>.

NEWS FROM THE FDLC & BCDW

Order of the Anointing of the Sick and of their Pastoral Care

This ritual book replaces “Pastoral Care of the Sick,” and is being structured in accord with the Latin typical edition. Per the USCCB: These ship on January 1, 2026, first use is February 11, feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, and mandatory use is April 5, 2026, Easter Sunday.

LiturgyNotes – February 2026

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

FDLC Free Webinars

The FDLC is pleased to provide another series of free webinars on the latest liturgical text to be released. Each session will air live at 1:30 (eastern) and will be 75 minutes in length. As before, they will be recorded for further viewing. Register at: www.fdlc.org/AnointingSeries2026

LITURGICAL CALENDAR: THIS MONTH

FEBRUARY

- February 1 – registrations for the Rite of Election are due (please see below)
National Day of Prayer for the African-American Family
<https://www.usccb.org/committees/african-american-affairs/national-day-prayer-african-american-family>
<https://www.usccb.org/resources/day-prayer-african-american-and-african-family>
- February 2 – Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (see Missal for procession options and blessing of candles)
World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life
<https://www.usccb.org/committees/clergy-consecrated-life-vocations/world-day-consecrated-life>
- February 7-14: National Marriage Week / February 8 – 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 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 11 – World Day of the Sick
First use of *Order of the Anointing of the Sick and of their Pastoral Care*.
<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 18 – Ash Wednesday – Day of Fast and Abstinence (see below); also, first day of Ramadan
- February 20 – World Day of Social Justice
- February 22 – First Sunday of Lent, Rite of Election (see below)

LITURGICAL CALENDAR: NEXT MONTH

MARCH

- March 1 – Penitential Rite for Candidates
- March 8 – Daylight Savings Time starts; First Scrutiny; Rite of Handing on the Creed this week
- March 15 – 2nd Scrutiny
- March 22 – 3rd Scrutiny; Rite of Handing on the Lord’s Prayer this week
- March 29 – Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion

LITURGICAL CALENDAR: LOOKING AHEAD

HOLY WEEK / TRIDIUM / 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.

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 2-5: Sacred Triduum
- April 5: Easter Sunday
Obligatory use of new *Order of the Anointing of the Sick and of their Pastoral Care*.
- April 12: 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>
- 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>

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 – FEBRUARY 22, 2026

The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion will be celebrated on the First Sunday of Lent; February 22 this year. Bishop Walsh will preside at the Cathedral and Fr. Jason Crossen, our Vicar General, will preside at a bilingual (English-Spanish) rite in Ottumwa; both Masses will begin at 2pm. Please visit www.davenportdiocese.org/rite-of-election for more information or to register for the rites. *If you have not yet registered, please do so ASAP!*

CHRISM MASS

The Chrism Mass will be celebrated at Sacred Heart Cathedral at 10:30 am on Monday, March 30. Parishes have been contacted to find out how much of the blessed oils and consecrated Chrism they will need this year. Please respond no later than March 2 so we can order the oils.

LITURGY PREPARATION

LITURGY PREPARATION AID 2026: LENT- TRIDIUM-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 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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