

# LITURGYNOTES

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

## July 2026

Diocese of Davenport

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### CALENDAR FOR THIS MONTH

- **4: Independence Day.** The Mass for Independence Day may be used during the day. The evening anticipatory Mass is the Mass for the 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time.
- **22: Feast of Mary Magdalene, Apostle to the Apostles**
- **29: Memorial of SS. Martha, Mary, and Lazarus**

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## NEWS & NOTICES

### NEWS FROM THE FDLC & BCDW

#### National Meeting 2026: Registration Open



Registration is now open for the 2026 National Meeting – “Word of God: Living and Effective.” The good folks of Region Nine will welcome us to Iowa City, Iowa from September 29 to October 1. The nightly rate is a very reasonable \$115 at the lovely Graduate Hotel by Hilton. Reserve your room with this special FDLC rate by using this link: <https://book.passkey.com/e/51175015>. Based on availability, the hotel will also honor this rate if you wish to stay on a few days and attend the Big Ten football game between the Iowa Hawkeyes and the Ohio State Buckeyes (October 3).

LINK TO FULL REGISTRATION BROCHURE: <https://fdlc.org/upcoming-national-meeting/>

LINK TO ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM: <https://fdlc.org/2026-fdlc-national-meeting-registration/>

## LiturgyNotes – July 2026

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

### Liturgy of The Hours – A Timeline

| DATE              | ACTION                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| July 1, 2026      | Publishers may accept pre-orders. They will take orders for all four volumes, even though they will ship in increments. |
| January 2027      | Volume II (Lent and Easter) ships                                                                                       |
| Feb 10, 2027      | Volume II may be used (Ash Wednesday)                                                                                   |
| April 2027        | Volume III (Ordinary Time Weeks 1-17) may be shipped                                                                    |
| May 17, 2027      | Volume III may be used (Monday after Pentecost)                                                                         |
| July 2027         | Volume IV (Ordinary Time Weeks 18-34) may be shipped                                                                    |
| August 1, 2027    | Volume IV may be used                                                                                                   |
| October 2027      | Volume I (Advent-Christmas) may be shipped                                                                              |
| November 28, 2027 | First Sunday of Advent -- Volume I may be used                                                                          |
| 2028              | Digital editions, one volume major extracts, and minor extracts                                                         |
| December 3, 2028  | FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – MANDATORY USE                                                                                  |

### USCCB: A Path Toward Justice: A National Prayer Service Honoring the Many Journeys that Shaped America

In observance of the United States’ 250th anniversary in 2026, and rooted in the Church’s pastoral mission of welcome, accompaniment, and solidarity, the purpose of this prayer service is to acknowledge and honor the many diverse communities that have journeyed to the United States in search of hope, safety, and opportunity, while also recognizing the voices, sufferings, and enduring contributions of those who were forcibly brought to this land. This resource offers a template for a prayer service for immigrants that may be celebrated at a variety of sites or points of entry throughout the country.

English: <https://www.usccb.org/national-prayer-service-honoring-many-journeys-shaped-america>

Spanish: <https://www.usccb.org/es/oracion-nacional-en-honor-las-diversas-comunidades-que-construyeron-los-estados-unidos-de-america>

### **LITURGICAL CALENDAR: THIS MONTH**

#### JULY

- July 4: Independence Day. The Mass for Independence Day may be used during the day. The evening anticipatory Mass is the Mass for the 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time.
- July 22: Feast of Mary Magdalene, Apostle to the Apostles  
<https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year-and-calendar/saint-mary-magdalene>
- July 29: Memorial of SS. Martha, Mary, and Lazarus  
<https://www.usccb.org/prayer-worship/liturgical-year/saints-martha-mary-and-lazarus>

### **LITURGICAL CALENDAR: NEXT 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 in 1945, when nature itself was violently transfigured. Perhaps as we gather for

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Eucharist or pray the Hours this day (and again on August 9, the day another atomic weapon was detonated over Nagasaki, a center of Catholic life in Japan, using Urakami Cathedral as the target) we would do well to pray for peace and that the horrors of that August eighty-one years ago will never be repeated.

- August 15: See below.

### August 15: Assumption of the BVM

Because it falls on a Saturday, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the BVM is NOT a Holy Day of Obligation this year. Because the obligation is lifted, funeral masses are permitted. However, ritual Masses (i.e., marriage, confirmation) and other Masses for the Dead are not. A marriage may be celebrated outside of Mass using the texts from the Order of Celebrating Matrimony; if celebrated within Mass then the texts for the Assumption must be used.

|                             | Morning Prayer                              | Mass before 4pm                          | Mass after 4pm                            | Evening Prayer                                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Friday,<br/>Aug 14</b>   | St. Maximillian Kolbe                       | St. Maximillian Kolbe                    | Vigil for Assumption of the BVM           | EP I Assumption BVM                                |
| <b>Saturday,<br/>Aug 15</b> | MP for Assumption BVM                       | Assumption BVM (Mass during the Day)     | 20 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time* | EP II Assumption BVM                               |
| <b>Sunday,<br/>Aug 16</b>   | MP 20 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time | 20 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time |                                           | EP II for 20 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time |

\*A regularly scheduled Anticipated Sunday Mass must be for the 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time as it is a day of precept and the Assumption is not a day of precept this year. It is still possible to have a Mass for the Assumption after 4pm, but it is not to be at the time of a regularly scheduled Anticipated Sunday Mass.

### **LITURGICAL CALENDAR: LOOKING AHEAD**

#### SEPTEMBER

- September 1 — World Day of Prayer of the Care of Creation [start of Season of Creation, to Oct. 4] (see below)
- September 7 – Labor Day (see below)
- September 13 — 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) / St. Peter Claver  
<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  
<https://www.usccb.org/resources/september-11-patriot-day>
- September 20 (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-2026>
- September 20-27 (Last Week in September) — National Migration Week (USA)  
<https://www.usccb.org/nmw>
- September 27 (Last Sunday in September) — World Day of Migrants and Refugees  
<https://migrants-refugees.va/world-day-of-migrants-refugees/>
- September 27: Anniversary of the Ordination of Bishop Dennis Walsh as the 10<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Davenport
  - Because September 27 falls on a Sunday this year, the Sunday Mass is to be used. It would be appropriate to remember the bishop in the universal prayer.

- September 27 (Last Sunday in Sept) — Priesthood Sunday  
<https://serraboulder.org/vocations/parish-vocations-activities/priesthood-sunday/>

### Tuesday, September 1: World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

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:

- The US Bishops approved the translation of the Mass “For the Care of Creation” and confirmation from Rome is pending.
- In its absence, 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.
  - Green 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).
- 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/>

### Monday, September 7: Labor Day

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).

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)

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- 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.

### 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>

## ***DIOCESAN LITURGIES***

### INSTITUTION AS ACOLYTES

#### July 12: Institution as Acolytes

Eleven men in formation for the diaconate for our diocese will be instituted as Acolytes on Sunday, July 12, at the 11:00am Mass at St. Thomas More Church in Coralville.

| Candidate        | Wife's Name | Parish                          |
|------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|
| John Ahlberg     | Angie       | St. Joseph, DeWitt              |
| Paul Alagna      | Sue         | Our Lady of Lourdes, Bettendorf |
| Tom Brooke       | Jen         | St. Paul, Davenport             |
| John Cooper      | Kate        | St. Anthony, Davenport          |
| John Hanenburg   | Cindy       | St. Ann, Long Grove             |
| Jorge Lopez      | Barb        | St. Thomas More                 |
| Trevor Pullinger | Jescie      | St. Paul, Davenport             |
| Spencer Sierra   | Betsy       | Holy Family, Davenport          |
| Matthew Staab    | Kristina    | St. Wenceslaus, Iowa City       |
| Dennis Uhl       | Lori        | St. Mary, Solon                 |
| Vern Vondera     | Jeri        | Our Lady of Victory, Davenport  |

According to the Church’s law and practice, the instituted acolyte is called to serve at the altar, including assisting the Priest and Deacon with the care of the sacred vessels and distributing Communion as an extraordinary minister if needed (GIRM #98). As distinct from the typical parish server or extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, these men will now exercise this ministry in a permanent way.

It would be appropriate to remember them in the Universal Prayer, for example:

- For the Deacon Candidates being instituted into the Ministry of Acolyte this Sunday, and for their families. Let us pray to the Lord.
- For the Deacon Candidates being instituted into the Ministry of Acolyte this Sunday, that their faithful ministry at the altar would reflect their care for those most in need. Let us pray to the Lord.

### ***INITIATION UPDATES***

#### **INITIATION OUTSIDE THE VIGIL**

##### **Candidates for Full Communion**

Unless they lack any catechesis (see OCIA 409), the Reception (and Confirmation) of Candidates for Full Communion is not tied to the Easter Vigil in any way. In fact, it is preferred that the celebration of these rites take place on another occasion and that the Vigil be reserved for the full initiation of the Elect. In addition, in doing so, it is critical that “no further burden is imposed than what is necessary to restore communion and unity” (OCIA 473). Candidates, therefore, should be Received and Confirmed as soon as they are ready.

##### **Catechumens**

It is normative for the Elect to celebrate the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil. At the same time, there are occasions when this is simply not possible. The OCIA foresees two possibilities:

##### **Exceptional Circumstances (Use of the Simpler Order of Adult Initiation, OCIA Chapter III)**

On the one hand, it may be that in exceptional circumstances the length of the catechumenate needs to be shortened or certain rites omitted. Pastors (and other priests with similar office) enjoy this faculty in our diocese:

##### ***Faculty 4.2 Abbreviated Catechumenate in Exceptional Circumstances***

You may permit the abbreviated rite for the initiation of an adult in the exceptional circumstances envisioned in the law: sickness, old age, change of residence, long absence for travel, or a depth of Christian conversion and a degree of religious maturity in the catechumen. In all other cases, the permission of the diocesan bishop is necessary to use the abbreviated rite (c. 851, 1°; OCIA 331-332).

As noted, in circumstances outside of those listed in Faculty 4.2, the permission of the bishop is required to utilize the Simpler Order of Adult Initiation.

##### **Other Circumstances (Use of the OCIA, Chapter I)**

Outside of these exceptional circumstances, it is expected that the OCIA be observed in its entirety. As laid out in OCIA 26-30, all the rites called for in the OCIA are to be celebrated in their proper sequence and timing. The only difference is that initiation will take place on a Sunday rather than at the Easter Vigil.

Therefore, what is called for, as specified in OCIA 29, is that “Election” be celebrated six weeks before Initiation, that the Scrutinies be celebrated 2, 3, and 4 weeks after Election, and that the Rites of Handing On be celebrated in the weeks following the First and Third Scrutinies. Apart from the dispensation from one or even two Scrutinies (as detailed in Faculty 4.3), any other departure from the norms of the OCIA requires the permission of the bishop. In addition, because the Rite of Election is reserved to the bishop or his delegate, a priest (or deacon, outside of Mass; see OCIA 121) wishing to celebrate that rite must first receive delegation from the bishop.

Adaptations specific to children of catechetical age are spelled out in OCIA Chapter II.

*BOTTOM LINE: If initiating candidates outside of the Vigil, go ahead; that’s preferred. If initiating catechumens outside of the Vigil, please contact the liturgy office for the proper permissions.*

#### CHILDREN YOUNGER THAN THE AGE OF REASON

##### **Those Not Baptized**

Children under the age of reason who are presented by their parents for baptism are treated as infants under the law, and are baptized using the *Order of Baptism of Children* (OBC).

##### **Those Baptized**

It is not unusual that parents who had their infant baptized in another Christian community then seek to join the Catholic Church. Even if the parents are subsequently baptized as Catholics or come into full communion with the Catholic Church, the status of the baptized child(ren) does not automatically change. What is required is a specific act of the will on the part of the parents, declaring that the child is to also join the Catholic Church. Such a public declaration may be done in a number of ways, after the baptismal status of the child is verified (by obtaining a baptismal certificate from the church of origin or by affidavit of a certificate is not available, and addressing questions related to validity). For example, if one wished to celebrate a public liturgy, one could adapt Chapter VI of the OBC for the occasion. More commonly, the parent(s) provide a written declaration of their wishes (a sample is given below). In either case, an entry recording the change in status is made in the sacramental records (see below). While another possibility is for one of the parents to simply request of their pastor to make a new notation in the baptismal register, and that notation serves as the public declaration, the documentation provided by a written letter is preferred.

#### Sample Letter

(Date)

To whom it may concern:

I, (name of parent), and I (name of other parent), declare that:

My/Our child, N., born on (date), was baptized on (date) at (name of church) by the (pouring of) (immersion in) water using the words, “I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit;” and further

I/We now will that from this day forward (he/she) be a member of the Catholic Church; and

I/We will do my/our best to raise our child as a Catholic.

I swear and declare before God that this is true.

(signature[s] of parents)

(signature of witness)

#### Sacramental Records (Baptismal Register)

See our diocesan policies on sacramental records, under §IV-708 Baptismal Register. The procedure for recording Reception into Full Communion is followed, *except* the date and place of the parental declaration is recorded (instead of date and place of the celebration of the Rite of Reception, #5 in the list) and the marginal notation would simply mention the date and place of the original baptism (#6 in the list). A sponsor is not required, so #4 is omitted.

**LITURGY PREPARATION**

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Lent / Triduum / Easter 2027

- *Ash Wednesday* will fall on February 10
- The *Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion* is scheduled for February 14, the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent. We will again celebrate the Rite in both Davenport and Ottumwa.
- The *Chrism Mass* is tentatively scheduled for March 22, the Monday of Holy Week.
- The *Triduum* falls on Thursday, March 25 through Sunday, March 28 – with the Easter Vigil falling on the night of Saturday, March 27. 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, preferably 8:30 pm.

UPDATED POLICIES AND FORMS

The *Policies Relating to the Bishop in the Liturgy* and the *Compendium: Policies Related to Confirmation* have been updated, as have the accompanying liturgy preparation forms.

Updated policies may be found at: <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/liturgy-policies>

Updated liturgy preparation forms may be found at: <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/liturgy-preparation-forms>

PREACHING RESOURCE: CATHOLIC BIBLICAL ASSOCIATION

The CBA has a webpage (<https://www.catholicbiblical.org/news/representations-of-jews-and-judaism>) dedicated to helping preachers and teachers to speak accurately about Judaism and Christian-Jewish relations. Resources include examples of lectionary guides and fact sheets as well as linking to a collection of video commentaries on the scriptures by both Catholic and Jewish exegetes.

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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