

LITURGYNOTES

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

October 2026

Diocese of Davenport

THIS ISSUE...

- **FDLC and BCDW News: Thank you!!**
- **Calendar notices (October-January)**
- **OCIA: Precatechumenate & Catechumenate**
- **Formation Opportunity: Sunday of the Word of God**
- **Liturgy Preparation: 2027 Liturgical Calendar; Advent; Christmastime; Holy Week & Triduum 2027; Resources for the Universal Prayer**

CALENDAR FOR THIS MONTH

- **Domestic Violence Awareness Month**
- **Respect Life Month / October 4: Respect Life Sunday**
- **October 4: Close of the Seasons of Creation (feast of St. Francis)**
- **October 18: World Mission Sunday**

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NEWS & NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE FDLC & BCDW

National Meeting 2026



Many thanks to all those who worked so hard to make the National Meeting of the FDLC in Iowa City such a success. A special word of gratitude to Kay Temple, the Region 9 representative to the FDLC, to all the members of our Diocesan Liturgical Commission, and to the people, pastors and staff of St. Patrick, St. Mary, and the Newman Center in Iowa City for hosting the conference Masses.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR: THIS MONTH

OCTOBER

- Domestic Violence Awareness Month
<https://www.usccb.org/topics/marriage-and-family-life-ministries/domestic-violence>
- Respect Life Month / October 4 — Respect Life Sunday
<https://www.usccb.org/respectlife>
<https://www.respectlife.org/respect-life-month>
- October 4 – Close of the Seasons of Creation
Bishop Walsh has allowed the use of the Votive Mass in honor of St. Francis on this day, given that we are celebrating a Holy Year in honor of the 800th anniversary of his *transitus*.
The vestment color is white. The Propers are taken from October 4, the Memorial of St. Francis of Assisi.
The Readings are taken from the Lectionary for Mass, 651. The New Testament reading given there (Gal 6:14-18) is used as the second reading and an Old Testament reading from the Common of Holy Men and Women: For Religious (737) is selected. The Preface for Holy Virgins and Religious is used.
- October 18 — World Mission Sunday
<https://www.usccb.org/committees/evangelization-catechesis/world-missions>

LITURGICAL CALENDAR: NEXT MONTH

NOVEMBER

- Black Catholic History Month; Native American Heritage Month
- November 1 – All Saints
All Saints falls on a Sunday this year, and is a Holy Day of Obligation. Both 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 Order of Celebrating Matrimony and Order of Christian Funerals, respectively. Daylight Savings Time Ends.

	Morning Prayer	Mass before 4pm	Mass after 4pm	Evening Prayer
Saturday, Oct 31	Saturday, 30 th Week of Ordinary Time	Saturday, 30 th Week of Ordinary Time	All Saints	EP I All Saints
Sunday, Nov 1	MP All Saints	All Saints		EP II All Saints

- November 2: Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed (“All Souls”).
- November 15: Feast of the Dedication of the Cathedral (a Solemnity at the Cathedral itself)
 - Because November 15 falls on a Sunday this year, the Sunday takes precedence (except at the Cathedral itself), and so the feast is not observed in the rest of the diocese.
 - World Day of the Poor (33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time)
- November 22: Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
- November 29: First Sunday of Advent (Year B)

LITURGICAL CALENDAR: LOOKING AHEAD

DECEMBER

- December 8: Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is a Holy Day of Obligation. Ritual and funeral Masses are not permitted. A marriage or funeral may be celebrated outside of Mass using the texts from the Rite of Marriage or the Order of Christian Funerals.
- December 12: Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The evening Mass and Evening Prayer are for the Third Sunday of Advent.
- December 25: Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (see below)
- December 27: Feast of the Holy Family

December 24-25, 2026

For prayers, the Missal has five different Masses for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The Mass for December 24 is the proper text for Masses in the morning of December 24. The proper text for Masses in the evening (= after 4 p.m.) of December 24 is the Christmas – Vigil Mass. The texts for Christmas – Mass during the Night are to be used for Masses beginning “at night,” preferably on or around midnight between December 24 and 25. The proper texts for the first Mass in the morning of December 25 are those for Christmas – Mass at Dawn. Later Masses on December 25 should use the texts for Christmas – Mass during the Day.

The Mass during the Night may be preceded by a more prolonged vigil, taken from the Office of Readings (see the General Instruction of the Liturgy of the Hours #71-73, 98, 215). This extended vigil is the preferred time for the blessing of the crèche (Book of Blessings, ch. 48, §1542-44).

The Lectionary for Mass provides 4 sets of readings for Christmas: the Vigil, the Mass at Night, the Mass at Dawn, and the Mass during the Day. It is strongly recommended that the readings be used as assigned, in particular that the Vigil readings be used at the Vigil. That being said, based on pastoral need, and acknowledging that the Mass that any person attends will be “their” Christmas Mass, the *Homiletic Directory* (#110) allows for the use of any of the 4 sets of readings at any of the four Masses.

On December 25, 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 Order of Celebrating Matrimony or the Order of Christian Funerals.

JANUARY

- January 1: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God – Holy Day of Obligation; 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.
- January 3: Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord
- January 10: Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Close of the Jubilee Year in Honor of the 8th Centenary of St. Francis’ death.
- January 18-25: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
<https://www.christianunity.va/content/unitacristiani/en/news/2026/2026-06-18-texts-for-2027-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity.html>
<https://www.atonementfriars.org/2027-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-theme-announced/>
- January 22 – Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children
<https://www.usccb.org/january-22>

LiturgyNotes – October 2026

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

- January 24: Sunday of the Word of God
<https://www.usccb.org/committees/divine-worship/sunday-word-god>

DIOCESAN LITURGIES

THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

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

THE PRECATECHUMENATE AND CATECHUMENATE

The process of Christian Initiation is marked by the liturgical celebrations along the way, culminating in the celebration of the Easter Sacraments. While no formal rites mark the period of the Precatechumenate (Inquiry), the transition from the Precatechumenate to the Catechumenate is celebrated through the Rite for Entrance into the Catechumenate (OCIA §§ 41-74). This Rite is to be celebrated at set times throughout the year, preferably on days when full attention can be given to it (for example, avoiding days when other rites are being celebrated or the season/feast is of particular importance – such as Christ the King or the First Sunday of Advent). The transition from Catechumen to one of the Elect is celebrated in the Rite of Election, preceded by the Rite of Sending (§§ 106-117). There are analogous celebrations for those baptized in other Christian communities who are journeying to full communion (§§ 411-458).

During the Catechumenate (see §§ 75-80 for introduction), a number of other rites are available for those not baptized that you may want to use. A number of these may be celebrated by a properly deputed catechist rather than requiring an ordained minister; please see the texts in question for details.

- Celebrations of the Word of God (§§81-89)
- Minor Exorcisms (§§ 90-94)
- Blessings of the Catechumens (§§ 95-97)
- Anointing of the Catechumens (§§ 98-103).

In addition, the Handing On of the Creed and Lord’s Prayer may be celebrated during this time if necessary (§§ 104-5).

UPCOMING EVENTS: FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

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

SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD – JANUARY 24, 2027

The Church observes the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time as the Sunday of the Word of God. Since its inception, our diocese has kept this celebration by offering an afternoon of reflection on the scriptures. For example, we have explored the themes of synodality and the Eucharist in the Bible, reflecting our participation in the Synod process and the Eucharistic Revival, respectively. We’re working on the specifics for this year, and will let you know more in the November issue.

LITURGY PREPARATION

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Liturgical Calendar 2026-2027

The 2026-2027 Diocesan Liturgical Calendar is now available at:

<https://www.davenportdiocese.org/documents/2026/9/LiturgicalCalendar2027.pdf>

The USCCB calendar may be found at <https://www.usccb.org/resources/2027cal.pdf>.

Advent

1. With the new liturgical year, we begin the use of Cycle **B** in the Sunday Lectionary and Year **I** in the Weekday Lectionary. For more information, especially in regards to the Missal and Advent, please see our webpage on the liturgical seasons (<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/liturgical-seasons>) or go directly to http://www.davenportdiocese.org/documents/2016/6/FDLC7-Navigating_RM01_Advent.pdf.
2. The color of Advent is a bluer shade of violet, to distinguish it from the purple of penitence in Lent. Blue 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 Act to use would be the third form, #1 (Appendix VI of the Missal).
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. Even though we aren't using this as a memorial acclamation at Mass anymore, it is still true: 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 (though there are exceptions when it comes to certain ritual Masses).
9. This season should reflect quiet and a subdued peace, as well as a sense of anticipation.
10. Remember that Advent and Christmas are the perfect times to remember Mary, our ultimate model for discipleship. The following Marian feasts and solemnities are observed during Advent:
 - a. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception falls on a Tuesday this year, and is a Holy Day of Obligation. Ritual Masses and funeral Masses are not permitted.
 - b. The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is observed on Saturday, December 12. Evening Masses and Vespers are for the 3rd Sunday of Advent.

The Advent Lectionary and Judaism

Excerpts 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):

The lectionary readings from the prophets are selected to bring out the ancient Christian theme that Jesus is the "fulfillment" of the biblical message of hope and promise, the inauguration of the "days to come" described, for example, by the daily Advent Masses, and on Sundays by Isaiah in cycle A and Jeremiah in cycle C for the First Sunday of

Advent. This truth needs to be framed very carefully. (11) Christians proclaim that the Messiah has indeed come and that God's Reign is "at hand." With the Jewish people, we await the complete realization of the messianic age. In underlining the eschatological dimension of Christianity, we shall reach a greater awareness that the people of God of the Old and the New Testament are tending toward a like end in the future: the coming or return of the Messiah--even if they start from two different points of view (1985 Notes, nos. 18-19). (12) Other difficulties may be less theologically momentous but can still be troublesome. For example, the reading from Baruch in cycle C or from Isaiah in cycle A for the Second Sunday of Advent can leave the impression that pre-Jesus Israel was wholly guilt-ridden and in mourning, and Judaism virtually moribund. In fact, in their original historical settings, such passages reveal Judaism's remarkable capacity for self-criticism.... (13)

The full text may be found at: <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/documents/2016/6/litGodsMercyEnduresForever-Advent.pdf>

Christmastime (see: <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/liturgical-seasons#AdventChristmas>)

Please see the Diocesan Liturgical Calendar for details regarding the celebration of the various feasts and solemnities this year.

1. God reveals God's self to us as the One who loves us. The feast days during Christmas remind us of this revelation and seek our response to it.
2. The color is white or gold; it is ideal if vestments and fabrics used are different from those used at Easter.
3. A good Penitential Rite is the third form, #II (found in Appendix VI of the Missal).
4. Sing the *Gloria* the entire season. The carol "Angels We Have Heard on High" may not replace the Gloria.
5. Christ is present here and now. TODAY is born our Savior. Avoid historicizing. For example, use Christmas music with good theology for the whole season (Hark the Herald Angels Sing) and avoid historical settings (O Little Town of Bethlehem).
6. Make sure your decorating reflects all that is important: the Word, the people.... Enhance the whole building, not just the sanctuary. Remember: less is more!
7. Remember that Advent and Christmas are the perfect times to remember Mary, our ultimate model for behavior. See the diocesan liturgical calendar for details.
 - a. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is observed on Monday, December 8. It is a holy day of obligation.
 - b. The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is observed on Friday, December 12.
 - c. The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, is observed on Wednesday, January 1. It is a holy day of obligation.
8. There are two customary proclamations used during the Christmas Season. The deacon, reader, or cantor may sing (if permitted)/proclaim these texts, which will now be found in Appendix I of the Missal. See the diocesan website (use link above).
 - a. At Christmas Midnight Mass, after the greeting and introduction, the "Proclamation of the Birth of Christ" is sung or proclaimed. The Gloria immediately follows.
 - b. On Epiphany, the "Proclamation of the Date of Easter" is sung or proclaimed after the homily or after the prayer after communion.

9. During most of the year, we make a profound bow during the Proclamation of Faith while speaking the words: “by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.” During the Vigil of Christmas and all the Masses of Christmas, we genuflect at this time—highlighting the awesome mystery of the Incarnation.

10. Regarding the various Christmas Masses:

a. For prayers, the *Missal* has five different Masses for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The Mass for December 24 is the proper text for Masses in the morning of December 24. The proper text for Masses in the evening (= after 4 p.m.) of December 24 is the Christmas – Vigil Mass. The texts for Christmas – Mass during the Night are to be used for Masses beginning “at night,” preferably on or around midnight between December 24 and 25. The proper texts for the first Mass in the morning of December 25 are those for Christmas – Mass at Dawn. Later Masses on December 25 should use the texts for Christmas – Mass during the Day.

b. The Mass at Night may be preceded by a more prolonged vigil, taken from the Office of Readings (see the *General Instruction of the Liturgy of the Hours* #71-73, 98, 215). This extended vigil is the preferred time for the blessing of the crèche (*Book of Blessings*, ch. 48, §1542-44).

c. The *Lectionary for Mass* provides 4 sets of readings for Christmas: the Vigil, the Mass at Night, the Mass at Dawn, and the Mass during the Day. It is strongly recommended that the readings be used as assigned, in particular that the Vigil readings be used at the Vigil. That being said, based on pastoral need, and acknowledging that the Mass that any person attends will be “their” Christmas Mass, the *Homiletic Directory* (#110) allows for the use of any of the 4 sets of readings at any of the four Masses.

11. The crèche does not go under the altar or even in the sanctuary. It is preferable to put out a crèche that represents the whole story; there is no need to have “traveling kings.” Please see the *Book of Blessings*, chapter 48, §1544. Additional information can be found in the GIRM §299 and in *Built of Living Stones* §§124, 125, and 128.

12. There is a tradition of blessing chalk on the Epiphany, which is then used by the faithful to bless their homes. In addition, this would be a proper time to celebrate the “Order for the Blessing of Homes during the Christmas and Easter Seasons” found in the *Book of Blessings* §§ 1597-1621. The Epiphany blessing is also available on our website:

<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/liturgical-seasons> OR

<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/documents/2016/6/litEpiphanyChalkBlessing.pdf>.

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 1st 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.

LiturgyNotes – October 2026

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

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)



If you have received this newsletter in error, or no longer wish to receive *LiturgyNotes*, please contact Stephanie Schoel at the chancery and request to be removed from our distribution list.

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