CALENDAR NOTES

OCT 4
Memorial of St. Francis of Assisi
- BLESSING OF ANIMALS
  On this day or another appropriate day, the Blessing of animals can be celebrated. Blessing may be found in Book of Blessings #942ff.

OCT 15
Anniversary of the Dedication of the Metropolitan Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help
- The anniversary of the dedication of a cathedral is a special moment in the liturgical year. Masses celebrated in the morning should be from the Common of the Dedication of a Church. Outside of the Cathedral itself, it is celebrated as a Feast with the Gloria being said or sung.

OCT 23
Thirtieth Sunday of Ordinary Time
- WORLD MISSION SUNDAY
  The Mass for the Evangelization of Peoples (VN #18) may be celebrated. See the Ordo for suggestions for readings.

LOOKING AHEAD
- NOVEMBER — MONTH OF THE DEAD: Consider preparing the book of the dead, planning an event to remember the dead on All Souls, visiting a cemetery, etc.
- NOV 1 — ALL SAINTS DAY: All Saints Day is a Holy Day of Obligation again this year.
- NOV 20 – OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE
- NOV 24 – THANKSGIVING DAY
- NOV 27 – FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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THE CHOICE OF THE MASS AND ITS PARTS
PART I

Among the most frequently occurring practical questions that come up from liturgists and priest celebrants is “Which Mass do I say?” While the GIRM gives a breadth of options, it emphasizes the criteria which should be used in making the selection for the choice of the Mass: “The pastoral effectiveness of a celebration will be greatly increased if the texts of the readings, the prayers, and the liturgical chants correspond as aptly as possible to the needs, the preparation, and the culture of the participants....Hence in arranging the celebration of Mass, the Priest should be attentive rather to the common spiritual good of the People of God than to his own inclinations” (GIRM #352).

This question can suddenly become very complex! The “common spiritual good of the People of God” could be construed as very vague and undefinable. However, we can understand more clearly this criteria when we consider the very structure and division of the Roman Missal. The variable parts of the texts of the Mass, “the propers,” are contained in 6 sections: The Proper of Time, the Proper of Saints, Ritual Masses, Masses for Various Needs and Occasions, Votive Masses, and Masses for the Dead. In distinct ways, each of these sections speak to the “common spiritual good of the People of God.”

The starting place, then, for this investigation should be the liturgical year which guides the liturgical celebrations throughout the year. A helpful document to understand the Liturgical Year is the “Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the Calendar,” which begins by stating the basis of this system: “Holy Church celebrates the saving work of Christ on prescribed days in the course of the year with sacred remembrance.” It goes on to explain that, “During the different periods of the liturgical year, in accord with traditional discipline, the Church completes the education of the faithful by means of both spiritual and bodily devotional practices, instruction, prayer, works of penance and works of mercy” (“Universal Norms,” 1). We see, then, this celebration and education of the faithful as the foundation of the common spiritual good of the People of God.

The “Table of Liturgical Days According to Their Order of Precedence,” is the most concise resource to consult. For the most part, however, the work of parsing out each day which Mass is to be celebrated is already done in the Ordo, making it an invaluable resource in this work of choosing the Mass texts to be used.

There are some occasions that require more careful attention, however. For example, #4 in the table speaks of “Proper Solemnities,” and #8 speaks of “Proper Feasts.” For a parish, the anniversary of the dedication day of a church and the day of parish patron, for example, are elevated to a solemnity, and thus those celebrations should take precedence over other celebrations inscribed in the liturgical calendar. Likewise, in a diocese, the anniversary of the dedication of the cathedral church should be celebrated as a feast. Local celebrations like this are annotated on the left side of the Paulist Press Ordo.

We may use the cathedral church of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma
City as a practical example. The anniversary of the dedication of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help is October 15. In the cathedral itself, this is celebrated as a solemnity under #4 of the table cited above. In the rest of the Archdiocese, it is celebrated as a feast under #8 of the table. In the general calendar, October 15 is the Obligatory Memorial of St. Teresa of Avila, #10 in the table.

October 15 is a Saturday this year. Thus, any regular parish Mass in the Archdiocese (outside of the cathedral) celebrated on Saturday morning must be the common of the dedication of a church using the prayers “outside of the church itself.” The exception to this would be a parish such as St. Teresa of Avila in Harrah, OK which would celebrate the namesake of the church as a solemnity (#4). If the parish were to transfer the solemnity celebration to Sunday, however, it would celebrate the anniversary of the dedication in a Saturday morning Mass.

Of course, Saturday afternoon Masses would generally be celebrated as the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time. In the cathedral, however, the whole day is celebrated as a solemnity of greater importance than even the Sunday. Thus, it is permitted, as the Universal Norms states, to transfer the celebration to Sunday. (cf. Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the Calendar, #58).

Next year, when October 15 falls on a Sunday, in the Cathedral the anniversary of the dedication will be celebrated as a solemnity instead of the Mass of the Sunday in Ordinary Time because it is higher in the order of precedence (#4 over #6). However, in the rest of the archdiocese, the anniversary will not be celebrated because it is lower in the order of precedence (#8 under #6).

We see, therefore, how a parish or priest celebrant can refer to the “Table of Liturgical Days According to Their Order of Precedence” as a helpful guide in planning Masses when multiple liturgical celebrations collide on a single day.

In subsequent articles, we will discuss how this table can help in choosing when and how to celebrate Mass on other occasions such as ritual Masses, votive Masses, and Masses for various needs and occasions. Furthermore, we will discuss the selection of various texts for the Mass, especially the readings.

**Please promote and join the EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City**

*The Diocesan Phase of the Eucharistic Revival is continuing in our Archdiocese with the Summit nights on the third Thursday Evenings of the month at the cathedral. We are in need of priests to help hear confessions. Also, please plan on attending the Eucharistic Revival Conference on December 3, 2022 from 9pm-3pm. There will be a presentation by Msgr. James Shea, president of the University of Mary in Bismarck, ND, to priests the evening before. More information was sent via email in August, and registration information is forthcoming.*

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE REVISED ORDER OF PENCEANCE**

Archbishop José H. Gomez, USCCB President, issued a promulgation decree on June 24, 2022 for the recently confirmed Order of Penance. The new translation may be used beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023, and the date for obligatory use has been set for Divine Mercy Sunday, April 16. The ritual book will be available for presale in October. There is no change to the essential words of the formula of absolution, but you may read about the changes in this article [here](#).

**RESOURCES FROM OUR OFFICE**

**Prayerbook for Engaged Couples Fourth Edition**

_Austin Fleming_

Newly revised, *Prayerbook for Engaged Couples, Fourth Edition* is the perfect gift for those who have recently become engaged. This resource helps couples to discuss, pray over, and choose the scripture that will be proclaimed at their wedding. It also invites them to pray with the words of the rite and the Mass, and gives a brief reflection and questions for discussion on each. It also contains additional prayers and blessings pertinent to the lives of engaged couples. Use of this book will allow couples to develop a practice of prayer and reflection that will sustain them throughout their married life.

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