

WITH HUMBLE SPIRIT

DECEMBER 2021

CALENDAR NOTES

NOV 28

The First Sunday of Advent

- **ORDER FOR THE BLESSING OF AN ADVENT WREATH**
(cf. Book of Blessings ch. 47)
NB: Within Mass, prayer of blessing (n. 1519) concludes the intercessions after the Creed. After prayer of blessing, first candle is lit (the violet candle opposite the rose candle.)

DEC 8

*Immaculate Conception of BVM
(Holy Day of Obligation)*

DEC 12

The Third Sunday of Advent

- **OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE**
The Mass of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe may not be celebrated on this day as the Third Sunday of Advent universally takes higher liturgical precedence. However, a Votive Mass using the same orations without the *Gloria* may be said on a weekday around Dec. 12.

DEC 16

*Anniversary of the appointment of the Metropolitan,
Archbishop Paul S. Coakley*

DEC 24 - 25

The (Vigil of the) Nativity of Our Lord

- **MASS TIMES**
Mass for the Vigil of the Nativity of Our Lord may not be celebrated before 4PM on Dec. 24.
- **GENUFLECTION DURING THE NICENE CREED**
Everyone should genuflect at the words, "and by the Holy Spirit...became man."
Consider making an announcement before Mass or indicating in a worship aid.

ARS CELEBRANDI

ELEVATIONS, PART I



"And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life" (Jn. 3:14-15). The elevation of the host and chalice are no doubt climactic in the offering of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Because of its significance and centrality in the celebration of the Eucharist, an examination of the elevations can point us in the right direction as we reflect on the general topic of *ars celebrandi* – the artful celebration of the rites of the Church.

The first step is to identify these elevations. In the Liturgy of the Eucharist, there are four distinct moments of elevation. First, during the preparation of the gifts, the vessels with the gifts are elevated while saying the prayers associated with them. Second, the host and the chalice are elevated after the words of consecration (the "body and blood statements") within the institution. Third, both sacred vessels are elevated during the doxology. Finally, the host is elevated above the paten or chalice with the invitation to communion. This article is divided into four segments corresponding to each moment of elevation, and for each moment we will explore the history and detail its proper execution.

As regards the liturgical history of this first moment of elevation, the roots of this gesture extend back to the early Middle Ages in the handing over of the gifts to be offered from the deacon to the priest who held them up in a gesture of offering. As Jungmann notes, however, "for a long time it was not a general rule that the celebrant raise paten and chalice above the altar" (J. A. Jungmann, *Mass of the Roman Rite*, Vol. 2, 58). Likewise, making the Sign of the

CALENDAR NOTES CONTINUED

DEC 24-25

The (Vigil of the) Nativity of Our Lord

- **THE CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION**
“The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ,” from the *Roman Martyrology* is a beautiful option to be chanted or recited (by priest, deacon, cantor, or lector) at the beginning of the Christmas Mass in the Night. This text with its proper chant can be found last in the *Roman Missal*, “Appendix 1.”
- **ORDER FOR THE BLESSING OF A MANGER OR NATIVITY SCENE**
(cf. Book of Blessings ch. 48)
NB: Within Mass, prayer of blessing (n. 1564) concludes the intercessions after the Creed.

DEC 26

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

NB: Masses celebrated the evening of DEC 25 cannot use the prayers of this day in anticipation; they must be a Mass of the Nativity of Our Lord.

DEC 26-31

The Octave of Christmas

- **GLORIA, NO CREED**
Within the Octave of Christmas, the *Gloria* is said at each Mass, but the Creed is still omitted (except on Sunday).

LOOKING AHEAD

- **MARY, MOTHER OF GOD (JAN 1)**
Not a holy day of obligation this year
- **EPIPHANY (JAN 2)**
Prepare blessed chalk/water for families to bless their homes.
The Epiphany Proclamation can be found online [here](#). Search online later in the month for a fully pointed chant version.
- **ORDINARY TIME** resumes JAN 10
- **ASH WEDNESDAY MAR 2.** Order ashes.

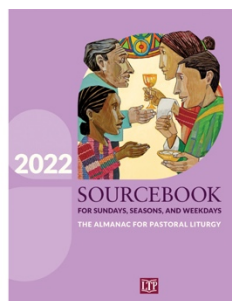
Cross with the paten and chalice over the altar are “more recent,” (ibid. 62). Nonetheless, both rubrics are inscribed in the *Missale Romanum* of Pius V by 1570.

Some principles should be kept in mind when considering how to execute these elevations. Like everything in the Roman liturgy, noble simplicity is the operative model. These movements should be executed neither in a sloppy nor an overly exaggerated manner. Intentionality and poise must always be attitudes which guide celebration of the Roman Rite.

The practical implementation of these principles in light of the history are revealed in the rubrics and instructions found in the *Roman Missal*. Regarding the first elevation, RM 23 and 25 both indicate that the gifts offered are to be “slightly raised above the altar.” While this instruction is somewhat imprecise, the tradition would indicate they should be raised at the height of the sternum. Certainly, the gifts should not be raised as high as eye-level. Furthermore, the rubrics cited read, “with both hands.” Never should this elevation occur sloppily only using one hand. Only one vessel should ever be elevated at a time during the offertory. There is no need to elevate several chalices or another ciborium along with the paten. When placing the paten or the chalice on the corporal, it is no longer indicated in the rubrics to make the Sign of the Cross with the vessel before placing it down. The noble and dignified gestures during the preparation of the gifts set the tone for the solemnity of the Liturgy of the Eucharist

Rev. Zachary M. Boazman

RESOURCES



Sourcebook for Sundays, Seasons, and Weekdays 2022
The Almanac for Pastoral Liturgy
Various authors including Chris de Silva and Kate Williams

This trusted annual publication provides concise and helpful material to inspire and assist those who prepare the Mass for each day of the liturgical year. It includes:

Preaching points, Ways to connect the liturgy to the Christian life, Online supplement for preparing the sacramental rites, Seasonal introductions, Daily calendar preparation guides, Brief biographies of the saints and blessed, and more! Contact the Secretariat for Divine Worship to order your copy for the new liturgical year!



Go Make Disciples

DIVINE WORSHIP

ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY

CONTACT US

VERY REV. STEPHEN BIRD, DIRECTOR

sbird@archokc.org

REV. ZACHARY BOAZMAN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

zachary.boazman@archokc.org