

# WITH HUMBLE SPIRIT

MAY 2023

## CALENDAR NOTES

MAY 3

*Saints Philip and James, Apostles*

- **GLORIA**

MAY 14

*Sixth Sunday of Easter*

- **READINGS:** It is permitted to read the Second Reading and Gospel for the 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (cf. Lectionary 59).
- **MOTHER'S DAY:** The prayer over the people found in the Book of Blessings might be said (cf. BB #1728).

MAY 18

*Thursday after the Sixth Sunday of Easter*

**NB:** in the Roman Missal, the propers for this Mass are printed after the Mass for the Ascension of the Lord.

MAY 19

- **NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT:** Novena prayers should begin this day, 9 days before Pentecost.

MAY 21

*Pentecost Sunday*

- **VIGIL:** On May 27, the Vigil Mass of Pentecost must be celebrated in the evening. The Extended Form is optional, but a beautiful option if properly executed. Read [here](#) for more details.
- **SEQUENCE:** the Sequence "Veni Sancte Spiritus" (NOT "Veni Creator Spiritus") is obligatory and may not be omitted on Pentecost Sunday; however, it may be omitted at the Vigil Mass.
- **DISMISSAL:** the "Alleluia, Alleluia" is readded to the dismissal at the end of the Easter Season.

MAY 29

*Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother and the Church*

- The orations for this Mass are found in the Votive Masses (#10B), and a printout of the readings may be found here in [English](#) and in [Spanish](#).
- **MEMORIAL DAY:** Mass "for Peace and Justice," (VN #30A or B) may be fitting in cases of serious need or pastoral advantage.

MAY 31

*Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

- **GLORIA**

## LOOKING AHEAD

**CORPUS CHRISTI** (Sunday, June 11) Please plan your parish's Eucharistic Procession to be on or around the Solemnity. Valuable planning resources can be found [online](#). Corpus Christi 2023 marks the beginning of the [Parish Year of the Eucharistic Revival](#).

## ARS CELEBRANDI

### MASS WITH THE DEACON

According to the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM): "After the Priest, the Deacon, in virtue of the sacred Ordination he has received, holds first place among those who minister in the celebration of the Eucharist." (94) It is beneficial, then, to review the role of the Deacon in the Mass and consider how the diaconal ministry is best utilized in the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy.

The Deacon's role in the Mass is described in the GIRM nos. 171-186. The first sentence gives and important direction: "When he is present at the celebration of the Eucharist, a Deacon should exercise his ministry, wearing sacred vestments." (171) This, of course, must always be done under the direction and collaboration of the Priest celebrant and with due consideration of the circumstances. Nonetheless, all things being equal, if a Deacon is present, he should minister in the Mass as a vested Deacon.

The GIRM then lists the six ways a Deacon exercises his ministry: "(a) assists the Priest and walks at his side; (b) ministers at the altar, both as regards the chalice and the book; (c) proclaims the Gospel and may, at the direction of the Priest Celebrant, give the Homily (cf. no. 66); (d) guides the faithful people by giving appropriate instructions, and announces the intentions of the Universal Prayer; (e) assists the Priest Celebrant in distributing Communion, and purifies and arranges the sacred vessels; (f) carries out the duties of other ministers himself, if necessary, when none of them is present."

The vested Deacon wears "the alb, the stole, and the dalmatic; the latter may be omitted, however, either out of necessity or on account of a lesser degree of solemnity." (GIRM 119) Thus, a Deacon who assists at a daily mass might only wear a stole. Additionally, "All who wear an alb should use a cincture and an amice unless, due to the form of the alb, they are not needed." (GIRM 119)

The deacon walks in the entrance procession before the Priest if he carries the book of the Gospels (slightly elevated, i.e., not above the head). Otherwise, he walks at the Priest's side.

If carrying the Book of the Gospels, the Deacon omits bowing or genuflecting, waits for the Priest to approach the altar, and they both venerate it with a kiss. The Deacon assists with incense, if it is used, and then goes to the chair standing beside the Priest. The Missal does not indicate which side the Deacon stands on, however, typically he is usually to the right.

Before the Gospel, the Deacon assists with the incense again (if it is used) before bowing to the Priest and asking for the blessing. The Deacon makes the

Sign of the Cross and bows to the altar before taking up the Book of the Gospels to process to the ambo. He should process with the book slightly elevated, and at the ambo he proclaims the Gospel after he incenses the book (traditionally with three single swings). After the Gospel, the Deacon prays the prayer quietly, "Through the words of the Gospel..." as he kisses the book. Then, the Book of the Gospels may be placed on the credence table or in another suitable place. It may also remain at the ambo. If the Book of the Gospels is not used, the Deacon may still incense the Lectionary.

In the Liturgy of the Word, the Deacon also "announces the intentions of the Universal Prayer, usually from the ambo." (177)

In the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the deacon ministers in several ways. (cf. 178) The Deacon prepares the altar by caring for the sacred vessels and arranging them. He assists in receiving the gifts. He should present the paten with bread to be consecrated and the prepared chalice to the Priest. The Deacon can prepare the chalice at the altar or at the credence table. He should remember that the prayer must be said "By the mystery of this water..." and that a very little amount of water should be added in proportion to the wine. It is best to add enough wine in the chalice in order that it is not difficult to keep the proportion. If there are chalices for the people, it is not necessary to add water to all the chalices.

The Deacon helps again with the incensation of the altar, walking with the priest if opportune, and then incenses the priest, the concelebrating priests, if present, and the people. Both priest(s) and people receive three swings. (cf. GIRM 277) Traditionally, these are "double swings," however this is not specified in the GIRM.

"During the Eucharistic Prayer, the Deacon stands near the Priest, but slightly behind him, so that when necessary he may assist the Priest with the chalice or the Missal." (179) However, "From the epiclesis until the Priest shows the chalice, the Deacon usually remains kneeling." (179) This would be omitted if it is not physically possible. During the Doxology, the Deacon "holds the chalice elevated while the Priest elevates the paten with the host." (181) Either the

Priest may hand the chalice to the Deacon for him to hold or otherwise gesture for him to take up the chalice.

During the Lord's prayer, the Deacon remains with hands joined. At the invitation to the Sign of Peace, if appropriate, the Deacon with hands joined says the words "Let us offer each other the Sign of Peace." These words should not be altered or approximated but should be said as given in the Missal.

After the Priest communicates, the Deacon should receive communion from the Priest under both kinds. The Deacon then assists in distributing communion to the faithful. If applicable, his role is more appropriately the distribution of the chalice.

The Deacon is entrusted with the purification of the vessels and the collection of hosts which have not been consumed. He places the hosts in the tabernacle and may purify the vessels immediately or after Mass. The usual place for a deacon to purify is the credence table.

At the conclusion of Mass, the Deacon invites the people to bow before a Solemn Blessing or Prayer over the People. After the Priest's dialogue, "The Lord be with you...And with your spirit," the Deacon instructs with these words: "Bow down for the blessing." The Deacon should help make the response(s) "Amen" at the appropriate times by reading along in the Missal. After the blessing, the Deacon proclaims the dismissal as given in the Roman Missal. There are four options, each beginning with the word "Go" (cf. "Order of Mass" 144). It is most decorous to use one of the options as given instead of combining or inventing a dismissal. The Deacon and Priest venerate the altar with a kiss before reverencing and departing.

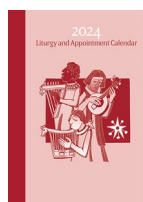
While the Deacon may appropriately carry out additional functions in the liturgy depending on circumstances, it is important that he do so with decorum and discretion and always at the direction of the Priest celebrant. Dutiful collaboration between the Deacon and Priest is critical for the faithful to enter fruitfully into the mystery communicated in the liturgy.

*Zachary M. Boazman*



Prepare your parish to participate in the Novena to the Holy Spirit starting **MAY 19**  
[CLICK HERE FOR RESOURCES](#)

## RESOURCES FROM OUR OFFICE



### Liturgy and Appointment Calendar 2024

This calendar helps you celebrate the liturgy each day! It works like a mini-ordo—each day includes the liturgical observance (such as the First Sunday of Advent or the Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows), citations for the readings from the Mass of the day, the proper liturgical colors, and the Psalter for the Liturgy of the Hours.

The calendar also includes other Catholic events and observances such as holydays of obligation, First Friday and First Saturday devotions, Catechetical Sunday, and more! Common secular and other non-Christian religious observances are noted as well.

This year's quotations include the antiphons from the responsorial psalm for each Sunday.

## CONTACT US

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