

# WITH HUMBLE SPIRIT

DECEMBER 2024

## CALENDAR NOTES

DEC 1

*The First Sunday of Advent*

The new cycle of readings begins with *Year C* as the Sunday cycle and *Cycle I* as the Weekday cycle in Ordinary Time.

DEC 9

*Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

- Transferred because December 8 is the Second Sunday of Advent. Holy Day of Obligation.
- **GLORIA AND CREED** are said.

DEC 12

*Our Lady of Guadalupe*

- **GLORIA** is said.
- **READINGS:** Note there are options for the readings to be proclaimed.
- **SECONDARY PATRONESS** for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City: Consider invoking the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe for our diocese in the Prayers of the Faithful.
- Please refer to the [Guidelines for Use of Matachines in Catholic Celebrations](#).

DEC 16

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

DEC 15

*Third Sunday of Advent*

- **GAUDETE SUNDAY:** Rose vestments may be worn. No Gloria.

DEC 24-25

*The (Vigil of the) Nativity of The 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

### OCIA, PERIOD OF EVANGELIZATION AND PRECATECHUMENATE

We continue a series that examines the *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*. The new Order may be used beginning December 1.

"Although the Order of Initiation begins with admission to the catechumenate," (the ritual for which was discussed in last month's edition of *With Humble Spirit*), "the period that precedes it, the 'precatechumenate,' is of great importance and should not normally be omitted" (OCIA #36). This period of the process of one becoming a Christian and a Catholic is considered foundational since in it, "as the Holy Spirit opens their hearts, non-Christians may be freely converted to the Lord as believers and sincerely hold fast to him who, since he is the way, the truth, and the life, fulfills all their spiritual expectations, and indeed infinitely surpasses them" (OCIA #36).

The encounter with the Lord is assisted by the work of Evangelization, which must be a priority for every Christian and in every community of faith. It is God who acts. God calls non-Christians to an encounter with his love, but those who are already baptized and confirmed must serve as bridges to encounter his love.

Those unbaptized who encounter the Lord through evangelization are called "inquirers" by the Order. Priests, deacons, catechists, and other lay people are entrusted with the mission to explain to an inquirer the Gospel (cf. OCIA #38). If they show continued promise that they might enter the catechumenate, they are also referred to as the "well-disposed" by the Order.

Of course, there are many ways in which one who is unbaptized might end up becoming an inquirer. The Order envisions meetings with the Christian community wherein those who are interested may engage in "fellowship and conversation" (cf. OCIA #39.3). Furthermore, the Order envisions there is a friend to present the inquirer ("well-disposed"). The inquirer "is greeted with generous words and received by a Priest or by another worthy and suitable member of the community" (cf. OCIA #39.3).

Individual communities are ultimately responsible for providing spaces for this period of evangelization to occur so that those who are unbaptized might encounter the Lord through an encounter with the Christian community. While the Mass has its own evangelistic potency and power, it is not considered the primary space for evangelization by the Order.

During the period of evangelization and the precatechumenate, Minor Exorcisms and Blessings may be used for the benefit even of those "well-disposed" who are not yet catechumens. The Minor Exorcisms (OCIA #94) and Blessings (OCIA #97) may be prayed by a Priest, Deacon, or a "worthy and suitable catechist

## CALENDAR NOTES, CONT'D

- **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 I."
- **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-JAN 1

*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).

DEC 28

*Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination of Archbishop Paul S. Coakley (as bishop of Salina)*

DEC 29

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

- Note, there are several options for the readings.

## LOOKING AHEAD

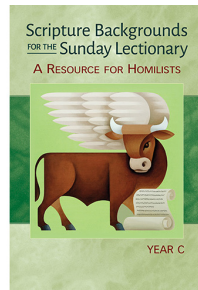
- **Mary, Mother of God (Jan 1)** - Holy Day of Obligation.
- **EPIPHANY:** Prepare blessed chalk/water for house blessings. Consider using the Epiphany Proclamation found [here](#). Search online later for fully pointed chant version. (usually on ccwatershed.org)
- Ordinary time begins Jan 13.
- Ash Wednesday is March 5. The new translation of the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults must be used after this date.

appointed by the Bishop to carry out this ministry" (OCIA #93, cf. #16).

The Period of Evangelization and Precatechumenate ends for an individual when he or she is accepted as a catechumen, which is the first step of the OCIA.

*Zachary M. Boazman*

## RESOURCES FROM OUR OFFICE



**Scripture Backgrounds for the Sunday Lectionary, Year C**  
A Resource for Homilists

*Various authors incl. Mary A. Ehle and Paul Turner*

This resource offers invaluable commentary on the Lectionary readings for Year C (including the Responsorial Psalm) for Sundays, holydays of obligation, and feasts and solemnities that may occur on a Sunday. Written in a pastoral tone, it offers historical-critical background on each of the readings and underscores their relevance to life today. Thematically related quotations from major Church documents are included with each Scripture background to provide context and connections to Church teaching. Organized by the liturgical calendar, each season of readings begins with an overview of the season and a brief look at where the readings come from and any unifying messages or themes present throughout the selected readings. *Scripture Backgrounds for the Sunday Lectionary, Year C* is written by a team of writers with a broad range of theological, pastoral, and catechetical experience. Their reflections offer homilists a solid foundation from which to begin the process of preparing to speak the Word of God to their assemblies.

**WITH HUMBLE SPIRIT** is celebrating its **THIRD YEAR ANNIVERSARY** of digital publication!  
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*Go Make Disciples*

**DIVINE WORSHIP**

ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY

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