

# WITH HUMBLE SPIRIT

APRIL 2025

## CALENDAR NOTES

APR 6

*Fifth Sunday of Lent*

The notes for the First Scrutiny apply when the Third Scrutiny is celebrated. The Rite of the Third Scrutiny is found in OCIA, #171ff.

APR 13

*Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord*

- **COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S ENTRANCE:** Based on circumstances, plan for the appropriate form used to commemorate the Lord's entrance into Jerusalem, which may not be omitted.

APR 15

*Tuesday of Holy Week*

- **CHRISM MASS:** 6:00pm at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

APR 17

*Holy Thursday*

- **THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM:** Consult the Ordo for important notes and information regarding the Triduum and liturgical law which governs these celebrations.
- **MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER:** Consider using the [Order for the Reception of the Holy Oils](#).

APR 18

*Good Friday*

- **CELEBRATION OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**

APR 19

*Holy Saturday*

- **PREPARATION RITES:** For the elect (those to be baptized), it may be appropriate to gather for the preparation rites according to OCIA #185ff.
- **EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT:** See the Missal and the Ordo for pertinent instructions and suggestions. The normal start of the Easter Vigil is at 8:30pm. It may not begin before 8:00pm without the explicit permission of the Archbishop. It is advised to prepare the rite written in full before the celebration of the Mass. Consider preparing a binder with all the pertinent texts for the entirety of the celebration.

## ARS CELEBRANDI

### OCIA: RITES OF IMMEDIATE PREPARATION AND THE CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

*We continue a series on the revised Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, which must be used beginning Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025.*

The Period of Purification and Enlightenment ends with the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation. The Order provides rites for the immediate preparation of these sacraments. It's important to remember that the Elect who are preparing to be baptized on Holy Saturday are to keep the paschal fast as much as possible and continue to be recollected throughout the day in preparation for their full initiation that evening.

The celebration of the rites of immediate preparation on Holy Saturday should happen according to the model given in 187-192. The possible rites include the Recitation of the Creed (193-196), the Ephphatha Rite (197-199), the Choosing of a Christian Name (200-202), and the Handing on of the Lord's Prayer (178-182). Each rite is optional. If both the Recitation of the Creed and Ephphatha are to be celebrated, the Ephphatha Rite precedes the prayer for the Recitation of the Creed (cf. 194, 199, 195).

Among the rites not permitted for immediate preparation in the United States is the anointing with the oil of Catechumens. This rite is also not permitted to be celebrated during the celebration of the Sacraments of initiation.

In previous articles (March 2023, April 2023); the Easter Vigil has been discussed fully. I encourage you to re-read these articles and the section of Elliott referenced therein. However, I must redact some of my previous assertions. In the United States, The Order for Christian Initiation of Adults instructs that the anointing with the Oil of Catechumens cannot happen during the Easter Vigil, as noted above. Furthermore, in its arrangement of the rites for the Baptismal liturgy when both catechumens and candidates for reception into full communion and confirmation are present, it instructs that the renewal of baptismal promises should follow immediately after the celebration of baptism. Then, the celebrant confirms together the newly baptized and the candidates who have just been received into full communion.

A new addition to the OCIA is a recommended instruction to be made before the neophytes and the newly confirmed Catholics receive their first

**CALENDAR NOTES, CONT'D**

If catechumens and candidates will be received into the Church at the Easter Vigil, cf. OCIA #566ff. If only catechumens will receive the sacraments of initiation, cf. OCIA #218ff. For more assistance read [this chapter from Bishop Peter Elliott](#).

**APR 20***Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord*

- **SEQUENCE:** The Sequence, *Victimae Paschali Laudes* (Christians to the Paschal Victim) may not be omitted. It is sung or said after the second reading while all are seated.
- **RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES:** In place of the Creed, the Renewal of Baptismal Promises may be said as in the Easter Vigil, #55.

**APR 21-27**

- **OCTAVE OF EASTER:** At every weekday Mass (except Funeral Masses), the Gloria is said, but the Creed is omitted.

**APR 27***Second Sunday of Easter or Sunday of Divine Mercy*

- **SPRINKLING RITE:** It is appropriate during the Easter Season to celebrate the Sprinkling Rite on Sundays in place of the Penitential Act. Cf. Roman Missal, Appendix II.
- **INDULGENCE:** The opportunity to receive a plenary indulgence should be announced and the appropriate prayers should be led after Mass or at another time.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

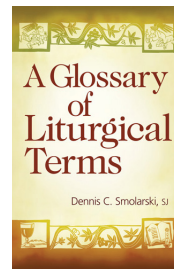
- **Corpus Christi** (Sunday, June 22): Please plan your parish's Eucharistic Procession to be on or around the Solemnity.

communion. This would happen before the normal invitation, "Behold the Lamb of God..."

While the celebration of the full initiation of adults usually happens at the Easter Vigil, it may be celebrated during a different Mass if necessary, or outside of Mass in danger of death. Chapter I, Step 3: The Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation is intended to be used after the homily at the Easter Vigil, but may be used after the Homily at any Mass. Chapter III offers a Simpler Order of Adult Initiation to be celebrated in Mass, which includes some of the other rites proper to the catechumenate, and Chapter IV outlines what may be celebrated when an individual is in near danger of death or at the point of death, even when the celebration of the Eucharist is not possible.

One who is to be received into Full Communion or who was previously uncatechized and is to be confirmed as an older adult may celebrate confirmation (and receive communion) at any Mass, or even outside of Mass (cf. Chapter VI). However, one should not receive their first communion outside of Mass, except in near danger of death.

*Rev. Zachary M. Boazman*

**RESOURCES FROM OUR OFFICE****A Glossary of Liturgical Terms**

*Dennis C. Smolarski, SJ,  
Monsignor Joseph DeGrocco*

This unique reference book provides concise definitions for words, names, and titles that practitioners and students of contemporary Roman Catholic liturgy may encounter. Father Dennis Smolarski, SJ, and Monsignor Joseph DeGrocco have expanded and updated the dictionary from Father Smolarski's classic work *Liturgical Literacy: Anamnesis to Worship* (Paulist Press, 1990) to provide an invaluable resource for clergy, pastoral ministers, liturgy directors, liturgical musicians, seminarians, students, and others having an interest in or responsibility for the liturgy.



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