

# MEMO

TO: Clergy

FROM: Monsignor Robert Mazur

DATE: November 3, 2009

CONCERNING: Enclosures: Advent and Christmas Season Mailing

- ( 1) Advent and The New Liturgical Year 2010
- ( 2) Solemnity of Immaculate Conception and Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
- ( 3) Blessing of Advent Wreath
- ( 4) Communal Advent Penance Service: Attachment
- ( 5) Blessing of Nativity Scene
- ( 6) Holy Days for the Liturgical Year
- ( 7) Special Days of Prayer for the Liturgical Year
- ( 8) Prayers for Peace - January 1st
- ( 9) Seasonal Proclamations
  - (A) Christmas
  - (B) Epiphany - Date of Easter
- (10) Dates and Times of Diocesan Lenten Penance Services
- (11) Time of the Easter Vigil 2010
- (12) Bulletin Inserts

(1) **ADVENT and THE NEW LITURGICAL YEAR 2010**

The **SUNDAY READINGS** begin with **CYCLE C** found in *LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAY MASS, VOLUME I*. The **WEEKDAY READINGS** begin with **CYCLE II** found in the *LECTIONARY FOR WEEKDAY MASS, VOLUME III*.

(2) **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION and MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**

December 8, 2009, falls on a Tuesday this year. In accord with the USCCB decision of November 1991, confirmed by the Holy See in July 1992, the precept to attend Mass on this Solemnity is maintained. Therefore, **Tuesday, December 8, 2009, is a holy day of obligation for the faithful in the United States**. The Monday evening Mass of December 7 will be the Vigil Mass of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

January 1, 2010, falls on a Friday this year. In accord with USCCB decision of November 1991, confirmed by the Holy See in July 1992, the precept to attend Mass on this Solemnity is maintained. Therefore, **Friday, January 1, 2010, is a holy day of obligation for the faithful in the United States**. The Thursday evening Mass of December 31 will be the Vigil Mass of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

(3) **THE ADVENT WREATH:**

The order for the blessing of the advent wreath within Mass is enclosed. The official text for the blessing of the advent wreath may be found in the Book of Blessings, Numbers 1509-1520.

The blessing of the wreath occurs only on the First Sunday of Advent as part of the General Intercessions. On the subsequent Sundays of Advent there are no further blessings or prayers. The candles are lighted before Mass or before the Opening Prayer.

The advent wreath is a popular symbol in churches. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. The candles make a combination of 3 violet candles and 1 rose candle or 4 violet candles or 4 white candles. The evergreen speaks of life and freshness that is Christ. The wreath may be placed in the entrance of the church or near the ambo; it should not obscure the altar, ambo or chair.

A copy of this blessing has been provided. Please place the blessing within an appropriate folder for liturgical use.

**(4) COMMUNAL ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE:**

Enclosed is a Penance Service that is copy ready (will only need folded) for your parish community this Advent. While not required, a light violet color of paper would be appropriate.

**(5) THE NATIVITY SCENE:**

The order for the blessing of the nativity scene within Mass is enclosed. The official text for the blessing of the traditional Christmas crèche within Mass may be found in the Book of Blessings, Numbers 1541-1546, 1562-1564.

The blessing of the nativity scene occurs as part of the General Intercessions with the presider's concluding prayer containing the blessing.

A copy of this blessing has been provided to place within an appropriate folder for liturgical use.

**(6) HOLY DAYS FOR THE LITURGICAL YEAR:**

Tuesday, December 8, 2009, **Immaculate Conception**, Holy Day of Obligation  
Friday, December 25, 2009, **Christmas**, Holy Day of Obligation  
Friday, January 1, 2010, **Mary, Mother of God**, Holy Day of Obligation  
Thursday, May 13, 2010, **Ascension Thursday**, Holy Day of Obligation  
Sunday, August 15, 2010, **Assumption**, Holy Day of Obligation  
Monday, November 1, 2010, **All Saints**, NOT a Holy Day of Obligation

**(7) SPECIAL DAYS OF PRAYER FOR THE LITURGICAL YEAR:**

Friday, January 1, 2010 - Diocesan Day of Prayer for World Justice and Peace  
Friday, January 22, 2010 - Day of Penance in the United States of America  
Thursday, May 27, 2010 - Mary, Mother of the Church, Patroness of the Diocese  
Tuesday, June 29, 2010 - Saints Peter and Paul, Diocesan Celebration Year of the Priest  
Monday, September 6, 2010 - Diocesan Day of Prayer for Human Rights and Equality  
Thursday, November 25, 2010 - Diocesan Day of Prayer for the Harvest and  
Fruits of the Earth

**(8) JANUARY 1st - PRAYERS FOR PEACE:**

January 1st is a Day of Prayer for World Justice and Peace in our Diocese.  
If possible, one Mass on January 1<sup>st</sup> should be for world peace. The Mass for Peace is found in the *Sacramentary: Masses and Prayers for Various Needs* Number 22. When praying the Mass for Peace, presiders are invited to pray the *Eucharistic Prayer for Masses for Various Needs and Occasions*; a suggestion would be the fourth Preface: "*Jesus, the Compassion of God.*"

A possible petition for the General Intercessions on January 1<sup>st</sup> would be:

*For the safety of our soldiers and for lasting peace, we pray to the Lord....*

**(9) SEASONAL PROCLAMATIONS:**

**(A) The Christmas Proclamation:**

Enclosed is a musical selection of the Christmas proclamation. It is appropriately proclaimed at the vigil before Christmas Day.

**(B) The Epiphany Proclamation:**

A copy of the text approved by the United States Catholic Conference is enclosed.

The proclamation of the date of Easter and the various dates that depend on Easter (April 4th) is chanted by the deacon or cantor after the homily on the Solemnity of Epiphany (Sunday, January 3rd).

**(10) DIOCESAN LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES:**

Bishop will gather with his priests on the following dates in Lent 2010:

Monday, March 22, Saint John Gualbert Cathedral, Johnstown  
Penance Service at 6:30 PM.

Tuesday, March 23, Good Shepherd Parish, State College  
Penance Service at 7:00 PM.

Wednesday, March 24, Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona  
Penance Service at 6:30 PM.

**(11) TIME OF THE EASTER VIGIL:**

The **Easter Vigil** on **Saturday, April 3, 2010**, will begin no earlier than **8:30 PM, Daylight Saving Time.**

**(12) BULLETIN INSERTS:**

The bulletin inserts for this year will discuss and explain the upcoming Roman Missal. The newly revised Missal is projected to be ready for Advent of next year. Please make every effort to place these inserts in your weekly bulletin. This is one of several ways the Diocese will prepare for the new translations in the revised third edition of the Roman Missal. This is an important form of catechesis for both us and the Faithful. Thank you.

**ADVENT - CHRISTMAS, 2009**

N  
o  
v  
e  
m  
b  
e  
r  
  
29

**ROMAN  
MISSAL**

***Liturgical Reflection...***

A new liturgical year begins. It is the season of Advent. It is the time to prepare for Christmas, remembering the Lord's birth in Bethlehem, and a time to prepare for the Lord's return in glory. This year the Diocesan Liturgy Office will prepare us for the new Roman Missal which has been in preparation for some time. What is the Roman Missal? The Roman Missal is the liturgical book containing the complete rite of the Mass for Sundays and every day in the year according to the Roman Rite. This book contains everything that is said or sung by the ordained at Mass.

2009, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 124 Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648.

D  
e  
c  
e  
m  
b  
e  
r  
  
6

**ROMAN  
MISSAL**

***Liturgical Reflection...***

Advent time is an occasion to prepare for Christmas. The Diocesan Liturgy Office will begin to prepare our people for the revised Roman Missal this new liturgical year. Since the Second Vatican Council, there have been three editions of the Roman Missal promulgated by the Church in 1970, 1975, and 2000. The first two editions were under the pontificate of Pope Paul VI following Vatican Council II; the most recent edition was issued by Pope John Paul II on the occasion of the Great Jubilee of the Incarnation.

2009, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 124 Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648.

D  
e  
c  
e  
m  
b  
e  
r  
  
8



***Liturgical Reflection...***

This Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, is a Holy Day of Obligation. Catholics are expected to participate at Mass on this day. This is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the patroness of the United States. Catholic faith proclaims that Mary was immaculate, free from the stain of Adam's sin, from the moment of her conception. She who was to bear the eternal Son of God was immaculate in her mother Anne's womb. Check the Mass schedule and plan to participate at Mass on this feast of our nation's patroness.

2009, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 124 Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648.

## ADVENT - CHRISTMAS, 2009

D  
e  
c  
e  
m  
b  
e  
r

# ROMAN MISSAL

### *Liturgical Reflection...*

This Advent Sunday is named *Gaudete* Sunday. This word translated from Latin into English means *Rejoice*. The tone of this Sunday's Mass is joyful expectation for the Lord's birth and second coming. English-speaking Catholics are preparing for the third edition of the Roman Missal. Once there is the approval by the Holy See with the consensus of the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops, the third edition of the Roman Missal will become available. It is important that we be prepared for the new translations to be contained in this Missal.

2009, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 124 Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648.

13

D  
e  
c  
e  
m  
b  
e  
r

# ROMAN MISSAL

### *Liturgical Reflection...*

This is the final Sunday of Advent and the last days of the Advent Season. We are preparing for the coming of Christ in our lives. The Diocesan Liturgy Office will be giving information on the upcoming Roman Missal to be promulgated in our country. The new Missal will reflect the English translation of the Latin text contained in the third edition of the Roman Missal. The countries to be issued the forthcoming English translations are: the United States of America, Australia, Canada, England and Wales, India, Ireland, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Scotland, and South Africa.

2009, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 124 Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648.

20

D  
e  
c  
e  
m  
b  
e  
r  
25



### *Liturgical Reflection...*

This is the day when the Church holds most sacred the memorial of Christ's birth. The Prince of Peace has appeared on the earth. Lights are strung on pine trees and around the inside and outside of our homes these winter days. Darkness is shattered and the newborn Child brings light into our lives. The Incarnate Word dwells among us and now begins the great revelation of our salvation in the Son of God, Jesus, our Savior and Lord. A holy, blessed, peace-filled Christmas to all on this Christmas day!

2009, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 124 Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648.

## ADVENT - CHRISTMAS, 2009

D  
e  
c  
e  
m  
b  
e  
r  
  
27

# ROMAN MISSAL

### *Liturgical Reflection...*

Family life is rooted in the love of God. Today the Holy Family - Jesus, Mary and Joseph - model family living for us. The Church family is preparing for the new translation of the Roman Missal. While the ritual parts of the Mass will remain the same, many prayers at Mass will be newly translated. Years of study and review have taken place by our bishops and linguists. The newly revised Roman Missal, once approved by the Holy See, will be given to the People of God. As the family of believers, we will raise our hearts and voices in joyful praise of God.

2009, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 124 Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648.

J  
a  
n  
u  
a  
r  
y  
  
1

# HOLY DAY

### *Liturgical Reflection...*

This Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, is the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. This is a holy day of obligation in the United States of America. All Catholics are to participate at Mass on this day. Following the encouragement of Pope Paul VI and his successors, our Diocese names this a Day of Prayer for World Justice and Peace. As the new civil calendar begins, we pray for peace throughout the world. Please join the Local Church in praying the following prayer this New Year's Day.



**God of power, mercy and peace, destroy war and banish violence from our midst. You have revealed to us that those who work for peace will be called your sons and daughters. This new year help us to work without ceasing for that justice which brings true and lasting peace. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

2010, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 124 Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648.

## ADVENT - CHRISTMAS, 2009

J  
a  
n  
u  
a  
r  
y  
3

# ROMAN MISSAL

### *Liturgical Reflection...*

Today is the Epiphany of the Lord. Jesus Christ has appeared as the Light to all the nations. Catholics throughout the world gather to give praise and thanks to God this day. How we pray and what we pray is found in the Roman Missal. In the United States of America we await the new Roman Missal to be promulgated in the future. Many of the prayers at Mass will receive a new translation. And, so, believers will need to open their minds and hearts to hear and learn some new words to familiar prayers.

2010, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 124 Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648.

J  
a  
n  
u  
a  
r  
y  
10

# ROMAN MISSAL

### *Liturgical Reflection...*

Today is the Baptism of the Lord and this is the conclusion of the Christmas Season. Throughout this new year the Diocesan Liturgy Office will discuss the revised Roman Missal. The new English translations of the Latin texts will more closely reflect the words of the prayers in the Roman Missal issued by Rome. Priests and deacons, along with the Faithful, will need to learn new words and phrases to the familiar parts of the Mass. The Mass parts remain the same; the translations will be different at times.

2010, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 124 Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648.

