

MEMO

TO: Clergy

FROM: Monsignor Robert Mazur

DATE: November 2, 2010

CONCERNING: Enclosures: Advent and Christmas Season Mailing

- (1) Advent and The New Liturgical Year 2011
- (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 2011
- (12) Universal Prayer for All Unborn Human Life
- (13) Bulletin Inserts

(1) **ADVENT and THE NEW LITURGICAL YEAR 2011**
Liturgical Books for this Liturgical Year

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

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

December 8, 2010, falls on a Wednesday 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, **Wednesday, December 8, 2010, is a holy day of obligation for the faithful in the United States**. The Tuesday evening Mass of December 7 will be the Vigil Mass of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

January 1, 2011, falls on a Saturday 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 removed. Therefore, **Saturday, January 1, 2011, is NOT a holy day of obligation for the faithful in the United States**.

(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:

Wednesday, December 8, 2010, **Immaculate Conception**, Holy Day of Obligation
Saturday, December 25, 2010, **Christmas**, Holy Day of Obligation
Saturday, January 1, 2011, **Mary, Mother of God**, NOT a Holy Day of Obligation
Thursday, June 2, 2011, **Ascension Thursday**, Holy Day of Obligation
Monday, August 15, 2011, **Assumption**, NOT a Holy Day of Obligation
Tuesday, November 1, 2011, **All Saints**, Holy Day of Obligation

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

Saturday, January 1, 2011 - Diocesan Day of Prayer for World Justice and Peace
Saturday, January 22, 2011 - Day of Penance in the United States of America
Tuesday, March 1, 2011 - Diocesan Day of Penance and Renewal - Anniversary of
Prince Gallitzin being named Pastor of St. Michael Church in Loretto
Friday, May 27, 2011 - Mary, Mother of the Church, Patroness of the Diocese
Monday, September 5, 2011 - Diocesan Day of Prayer for Human Rights and Equality
Thursday, November 24, 2011 - 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 1st 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 1st 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 24th) is chanted by the deacon or cantor after the homily on the Solemnity of Epiphany (Sunday, January 2nd).

(10) DIOCESAN LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES:

Bishop will gather with his priests on the following dates in Lent 2011:

Monday, April 11, Saint John Gualbert Cathedral, Johnstown

Penance Service at 6:30 PM.

Tuesday, April 12, Good Shepherd Parish, State College

Penance Service at 7:00 PM.

Wednesday, April 13, Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona

Penance Service at 6:30 PM.

(11) TIME OF THE EASTER VIGIL:

The **Easter Vigil** on **Saturday, April 23, 2011**, will begin no earlier than **8:30 PM, Daylight Saving Time.**

(12) UNIVERSAL PRAYER FOR ALL UNBORN HUMAN LIFE:

On **Saturday, November 27, 2010**, at Saint Peter's Basilica, the Pope will celebrate a "Vigil for all Unborn Human Life". The Holy Father has requested that all Diocesan Bishops preside in a like celebration involving the faithful in their parishes. Bishop Joseph has directed the following for the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. The Vigil Mass on Saturday, November 27, 2010, the First Sunday of Advent, is to be for the intention of all unborn life. The gathered community should pray the rosary either before or after this Mass for this special intention of the Holy Father and the Universal Church.

The following intention is to be part of the General Intercessions for this Mass: **For the dignity of all human life, especially the unborn, we pray to the Lord...**

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Our special prayer this day will unite us with the Bishop of Rome and the Church throughout the world.

(13) BULLETIN INSERTS:

The bulletin inserts for this year will again discuss and explain the upcoming Roman Missal. The newly revised Missal will be promulgated Advent of 2011. 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 for your cooperation with this request.

ADVENT - CHRISTMAS, 2010

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Liturgical Reflection...

**ROMAN
MISSAL**

A new liturgical year begins. Exactly one year today (Advent 2011) English-speaking Roman Catholics will be using the newly revised Roman Missal. There will be no changes in the way Mass is celebrated. All changes will be in the translation of the prayers at Mass. The prayers prayed by the priest - Opening Prayer, Prayer over the Gifts, and Prayer after Communion, along with the Eucharistic Prayers – will receive a new translation that more closely follows the Latin text issued by Rome. The prayers prayed by the Faithful – I Confess, Glory to God, Creed, along with other prayers – will receive a translation that more closely follows the Latin text.

2010, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 South Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648.

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Liturgical Reflection...

**ROMAN
MISSAL**

What is the Roman Missal? This is the official book of worship for the Roman Catholic Church. This Missal contains the prayers and actions of the priest and people at Mass. English-speaking Catholics have been waiting for this revised Roman Missal for the past several years. Rome has approved all the prayers to be contained in the Missal. And on the First Sunday of Advent, 2011, all dioceses in the United States of America will implement the new translations contained in the Roman Missal. All musical compositions will reflect the new translations voted by our bishops and approved by Rome.

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HOLY DAY



Liturgical Reflection...

This Wednesday, December 8th, is a Holy Day of Obligation in our country. 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 Saint Anne’s womb. Check the Mass schedule and plan to participate at Mass on this feast of our nation’s patroness.

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ADVENT - CHRISTMAS, 2010

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ROMAN MISSAL

Liturgical Reflection...

Why the need for the third edition of the Roman Missal? Among other things the third edition contains prayers for the celebration of recently canonized saints, additional prefaces to the Eucharistic Prayers, and additional Masses for Various Needs and Occasions. All of these will be new to the Roman Missal, the official book of worship for the Catholic world. American Catholics will pray these new prayers with the promulgation of the Roman Missal in Advent of 2011.

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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 this time next year. 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. All other countries have been praying the third edition of the Roman Missal for several years.

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Liturgical Reflection...

This is the day when the Church commemorates the birth of the Son of God. 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 this Christmas day!

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ADVENT - CHRISTMAS, 2010

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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 with the assistance of linguistic scholars. The revised Roman Missal will direct the Church family to raise our hearts and voices in joyful praise of God.

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Liturgical Reflection...

This Saturday, January 1st, is the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. This is NOT a holy day of obligation in the United States of America. Catholics are encouraged to participate at Mass on this day. Following the advisement 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, all your people have been given one common origin. Bring us together peacefully into one family. And keep us united in your love. 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.

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ADVENT - CHRISTMAS, 2010

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ROMAN MISSAL

Liturgical Reflection...

Today is the Epiphany of the newborn Child of God. Jesus Christ is Lord of all peoples. The newly revised Roman Missal will give witness to the universality of the Catholic faith. The new translations will more closely reflect the original Latin texts that are prayed throughout the world in a multitude of languages. As we gather at Mass to profess a common faith in our one Lord, the newly revised Roman Missal will beautifully profess the unity of faith in one Lord and God.

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ROMAN MISSAL

Liturgical Reflection...

Today is the Baptism of the Lord and this is the conclusion of the Christmas Season. Throughout the new year the Diocesan Liturgy Office will discuss the revised Roman Missal. When the new Missal is promulgated in Advent of 2011, the Mass will remain the same. However, the words we pray will sound different. English-speaking Catholics have been asked to follow the Latin text more closely in translation as have the other countries of the world. Our common baptism invites us to profess our common faith in unity with all believers throughout the world.

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