



Office of Worship Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

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<http://www.diocesefwsb.org/diocesan-offices/worship-office/>

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Dear Church Musicians, Lay Liturgical Ministers, et al.,

Please find attached a copy of some liturgical notes, with particular attention given to Christmas. In addition, the Easter Vigil time is provided.

In 2011, Easter (April 24) falls one day from its latest possible date. Although this necessitates a late start time for the Easter Vigil, it is also a good opportunity to teach the faithful about the importance of waiting until darkness to begin the Vigil, since nightfall marked the end of one day and the beginning of the next in the Jewish calendar. This therefore becomes a powerful symbol and observance of sacred time, as we profess that Jesus Christ rose from the dead “on the third day.”

New Translation of the Roman Missal:

As previously communicated, this coming spring the Diocese will host “**Mystical Body, Mystical Voice**,” a day-long program prepared by the Liturgical Institute at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, IL (www.mysticalbodymysticalvoice.org).

As a joint project of the Office of Catechesis and the Office of Worship, we will have “Mystical Body, Mystical Voice” on **Saturday, March 5 at Marian High School in Mishawaka**, and on **Saturday, March 26 at Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne**. So, please take this opportunity to save the date. Registration information will be sent out in the coming months. Although we hope to have enough space to accommodate anyone who wishes to attend, first priority at this program will be given to clergy and parish leaders or staff – particularly catechists, teachers, church musicians, etc.

This program, which is being scheduled in dioceses all across the country, is an excellent catechetical opportunity. It is designed to equip attendees to teach others about the liturgy, using a sacramental theology as the starting point. Our hope is that those who attend will be personally enriched, and then be able to return to their parishes to help catechize their brothers and sisters in a positive and informed fashion during the months prior to the implementation of the new texts. Also included in the registration cost will be a comprehensive book prepared by the Liturgical Institute, which can serve as a manual for conveying the workshop material back to the parishes.

Options are also currently being explored with respect to providing additional guidance in the area of sacred music, in light of the new translation of the Mass. This is a period of great opportunity – but it’s also a time requiring great care, as we seek to ensure that music at Mass can effectively glorify God and sanctify souls in the years to come. We shall keep you apprised of any initiatives the Diocese will be undertaking in the particular area of liturgical music.



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Regarding Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

In light of some questions that have been raised about proper procedure with respect to Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, please note the following two clarifications:

1.) When Extraordinary Ministers Come Forward at Mass

The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* #162 says:

“[Extraordinary ministers] should not approach the altar before the priest has received Communion, and they are always to receive from the hands of the priest celebrant the vessel containing either species of the Most Holy Eucharist for distribution to the faithful.”

Extraordinary ministers should therefore not enter into the sanctuary until the celebrant has received both the Body and Blood of Christ. Extraordinary ministers may, however, come forward during the *Agnus Dei* and discreetly wait outside the sanctuary steps (and if feasible, remain kneeling with the rest of the congregation) until the celebrant has received Holy Communion.

2.) Extraordinary Ministers to the Sick

This is a reminder that extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion to the sick and homebound should not immediately leave the church if they receive a pyx after the distribution of Holy Communion at Mass. Rather, it is appropriate that they remain through the end of Mass to receive the final blessing and be liturgically sent forth with the rest of the assembly. But they then must leave straightaway to the sick or homebound without stopping to socialize with fellow parishioners.

Many thanks for your service to the sacred liturgy.

Sincerely in Christ,

Brian MacMichael

Director, Office of Worship