



LITURGICAL ADVISORY + February 9,

2021

Catholic Diocese of Saginaw + Office of Liturgy + 5800 Weiss Street + Saginaw, Michigan 48603-2762

I: Rites of Election:

After consultation with our parish leadership – and review of all the information and circumstances (given the COVID-19 pandemic) – Bishop Gruss has agreed to celebrate two (2) *Rites of Election* at the Cathedral of Mary of the Assumption for all those catechumens who are to be “elected” for the reception of the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at this year’s Easter Vigil (Saturday, April 3rd).

These will take place on Sunday (the 1st Sunday of Lent), February 21st, with one at 2:00 pm and the other at 4:00 pm. The RCIA Steering Committee is meeting today to review and update the materials necessary to prepare for the celebration of these rites and will send to you as soon as they are edited and completed.

NB: Please note that the *Call to Continuing Conversion* with all those baptized Candidates seeking reception into the Catholic Church will NOT take place this year in conjunction with the Rites of Election. This rite will be celebrated at the parish and further information and a sample rite will be provided for each parish in the near future.

In the meantime, please make your plans according to the following:

- 2:00 pm Rite of Election – for all the parishes within the Tri-Cities
- 4:00 pm Rite of Election – for all the parishes outside of the Tri-Cities

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic guidelines and protocols, all attendees MUST wear facial coverings and keep social distancing (at least 6 feet apart) at all times. Assigned (reserved) seating will be necessary (due to limited seating capacity) for the Catechumens, Godparents, pastors, directors of parish life and parish RCIA directors/coordinators. All others may find a seat in the non-reserved areas of the Cathedral.

II: 1st Penance (for Children Preparing for 1st Eucharist):

Bishop Gruss and the Office of Liturgy have gotten several inquiries regarding this year’s celebration of the Rite of Penance for those children preparing to receive it for the first time (also known as 1st Penance). Obviously, since it is mandatory by Canon Law that a child celebrates his/her first reception of the Sacrament of Penance prior to the reception of 1st Eucharist, these liturgies should be scheduled accordingly. The options for celebration of the Rite of Penance are both Rite I – “Rite of

Reconciliation of Individual Penitents” OR Rite II - “Rite of Reconciliation of Several Penitents with Individual Absolution” [see *Rite of Penance* ritual text]. Regardless of the rite chosen to be

celebrated, it is essential to follow all the COVID-19 guidelines and protocols already in place (for any gatherings for worship within the worship spaces of our parish churches). All attendees (especially confessor and penitent) MUST wear facial coverings and keep social distancing (at least 6 feet apart) at all times. Pay particular attention that both the confessor and penitent are not to be confined to a confessional; however, placed in a sequestered location providing for both face-to-face and private confessions (per the choice of the penitent). Please keep in mind the necessity for sanitizing after each and every penitent.

III: Celebration of Lenten Devotions:

Bishop Gruss and the Office of Liturgy have also received numerous questions regarding the parish practice of celebrating Holy Hours/Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Stations of the Cross during Lent this year. With Bishop Gruss’ permission, parishes may resume such devotional practices only if all the COVID-19 guidelines and protocols are strictly followed. Again, all attendees MUST wear facial coverings and keep social distancing (at least 6 feet apart) at all times. Sanitation procedures of the worship space must also be followed.

Moreover, we would highly recommend the use of live-streaming of these parish Lenten devotions – especially for the sake of our homebound. This would likewise be an opportune time for parishes to provide “take home” materials (e.g. Stations of the Cross, Lenten prayers and/or activities, etc.) that could be celebrated by the domestic church.

NB: To date, there have been no changes to the “moratorium” on weekday “Word and Communion” services. Our spiritual and pastoral priority is to provide the celebration of the Eucharist for our parishioners (according to the COVID-19 guidelines and protocols).

IV: Changes to Orations in the Roman Missal III

After consultation with Bishop Gruss, we are sending out “A Change to the Concluding Doxology of the Orations” which we received from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops [USCCB] and/or the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions [FDLC] (kindly see below).

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS Bishops’ Committee on Divine Worship



A CHANGE TO THE CONCLUDING DOXOLOGY OF THE ORATIONS
EFFECTIVE ON ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2021
“One God, for ever and ever” becomes “God, for ever and ever.”

In May of 2020 the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments wrote to the English-speaking Conferences of Bishops regarding the concluding doxology of the Collects in the Roman Missal (which also appear in other liturgical books).

Specifically, the Congregation pointed out that the current translation – which concludes “... in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever” – is incorrect. There is no mention of “one” in the Latin, and “Deus” in the Latin text refers to Christ. Therefore, the correct translation, which is already reflected in the Missal in other languages (including our own USCCB *Misal Romano*) is simply: “[...] in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.” The Cardinal Prefect has pointed out the importance of affirming this Christological truth amid the religious pluralism of today’s world.

A Brief History

English translations of the Missal for use by the faithful prior to the Second Vatican Council reflected the correct translation, as for example the St. Joseph’s Missals of the 1950’s. However, when the post-conciliar texts were published in English, the word “one” was added.

It should be noted that when the translation of the Missal currently in use was in progress, ICEL pointed out the discrepancy to the Congregation in Rome, but was told to retain the use of “one God” in the new translation.

In light of the Congregation’s most recent direction in this matter, the Latin Rite Bishops of the USCCB have voted to amend no. 54 of the U.S. text of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* [GIRM] to reflect the change, and the Congregation has confirmed this decision, as it already has for the Episcopal Conferences of England and Wales, Ireland, and Canada.

When should this change take place?

This change to the concluding doxology of orations is to be implemented **on Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021**. The words “one God, for ever and ever” are simply replaced with “God, for ever and ever.”

Is there a need to purchase a new Missal?

No. It should not be difficult for the celebrant simply to omit the word “one” when offering the prayer. However, publishers are being informed of this change, and any reprints or new editions of the Missal will reflect the new translation. Other publications, such as participation aids for the faithful, will begin to carry the new text as soon as possible. Many of these are printed well in advance, however, so it will take some time for the change to appear.

Does this change apply to other liturgical books, besides the Roman Missal?

Yes. Any time the formula appears in a liturgical book the new translation should be used. Besides the Missal, the Liturgy of the Hours is the book where it is encountered most often. Note that the orations in the current breviary are an older translation than what is found in the Missal, but the final line is the same and the new conclusion is easy to apply.

When should this be communicated to our clergy?

The results were conveyed to the Bishops of the United States in a memo from Archbishop Leonard Blair of the Bishops’ Committee on Divine Worship. The memo was dated February 4, 2021 and is quoted in its entirety above. Your Bishop has certainly already conveyed this information to his presbyterate. Please

share this information widely with all who prepare and celebrate liturgies in your parishes and institutions.

Respectfully edited, augmented and submitted by:

Rita A. Thiron

Mrs. Rita A. Thiron, M.A. + Executive Director + Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions [FDLC]

V: Reminder of Lenten Regulations:

“Fast & Abstinence”

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence. For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards. If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily his Resurrection.

[United States Conference of Catholic Bishops/USCCB © 2021]

VI: Reminder for the Time of Celebrating the Easter Vigil (2021)

(1) The sun sets at 8:05 pm on Saturday, April 3, 2021. Therefore, the starting time for the Easter Vigil 2021 in the Diocese of Saginaw is **NO earlier than 8:30 p.m.**

(2) Additional information for preparation for Lent and preparations for the Sacred Paschal Triduum will be forthcoming.

