



# Office for Divine Worship Newsletter

Website for the Office for Divine Worship:

[www.eriercd.org/bishop/worship.html](http://www.eriercd.org/bishop/worship.html)

Contact information:

Phone: 814-824-1270

Email: [worship@eriercd.org](mailto:worship@eriercd.org)

Rev. Matthew Kujawinski,  
Director

[mjkujawinski@eriercd.org](mailto:mjkujawinski@eriercd.org)

Maripat Grant,  
Coordinator

[mgrant@eriercd.org](mailto:mgrant@eriercd.org)

## Bishop Persico Issues Jubilee Indulgence Decree

The indulgence, a priceless gift of divine mercy, is one of the special ‘signs’ of the Jubilee Year. On Wednesday, November 27, 2024, Bishop Persico issued a decree outlining the requirements for the reception of indulgences related to the Jubilee Year 2025 in the Diocese of Erie. All the ‘truly repentant’ faithful, moved by a spirit of charity, who, purified through the sacrament of penance and refreshed by Holy Communion, will be able to obtain the indulgence by undertaking spiritual activities as outlined in the attached decree.

## 2025 Calendar Notes

In a notification dated December 8, 1998, of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments (Prot. n. 2671/98/L), the Obligatory Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary becomes an Optional Memorial in years when it conflicts with another Obligatory Memorial. Therefore, Saturday, June 28 is a weekday in Ordinary Time, as well as the Optional Memorials of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Irenaeus, Bishop, Martyr, and Doctor of the Church.

Saturday, November 1 is the Solemnity of All Saints. In accord with the complimentary norm to canon 1246 §2 confirmed for the Dioceses of the United States of America, because it is a Saturday, this year the obligation to attend Mass on this date is abrogated.

### Inside this issue:

Day of Prayer for the Protection of Unborn Children	2
Missal Addition - Jan. 23	2
Jubilee of Armed Forces	2
Jubilee of Artists	2
Jubilee of Deacons	3
January Liturgical Calendar	3-4
Jubilee 2025 Information	5
Colds and Flu	6
Workshops for Liturgical Ministers	6
Time for Vigil and Anticipated Masses	6
Time of Easter Vigil	6
Copyrights	6

## Sunday of the Word of God

“He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.” (Lk 24:45)

Sunday of the Word of God is observed on the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Sunday between January 21-27). For resources and information please see:

<https://www.usccb.org/committees/divine-worship/sunday-word-god>.

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity (DPCU) is pleased to publish the texts for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025. In the northern hemisphere, the Week of Prayer traditionally takes place from January 18 to 25, while in the southern hemisphere, where January is often a holiday period, churches often celebrate the Week of Prayer around Pentecost.

The theme of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025 is based on a text from the Gospel of John: "Do you believe this?" (John 11:26). The prayers and reflections have been prepared by the brothers and sisters of the monastic community of Bose in northern Italy. As usual, an international team appointed jointly by the DPCU and the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches worked with the authors to finalize the materials.

The year 2025 will mark the 1,700th anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council. This commemoration provides a unique opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the common faith of Christians as expressed in the Creed formulated at that Council. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025 is an invitation to draw on this common heritage and to enter more deeply into the faith that unites all Christians. For resources visit:

[2025 EN WPCU.pdf](#)

## Day of Prayer for the Protection of Unborn Children

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM), no. 373, designates January 22 as a particular day of prayer and penance, called the "Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children":

In all the Dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 (or January 23, when January 22 falls on a Sunday) shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion. The liturgical celebrations for this day may be the Mass "For Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life" (no. 48/1 of the Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions), celebrated with white vestments, or the Mass "For the Preservation of Peace and Justice" (no. 30 of the Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions), celebrated with violet vestments.

For more resources and information please see:

<https://www.usccb.org/committees/pro-life-activities/january-roe-events/january-22-day-of-prayer>

## Missal Addition for January 23

### Saint Marianne Cope

On July 10, 2013, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments confirmed the inscription of Saint Marianne Cope, Virgin, into the Proper Calendar for the Dioceses of the United States of America. Her proper liturgical texts in English and Spanish were confirmed the following day.

Saint Marianne Cope is celebrated every year as an Optional Memorial on January 23. This is also the date of the Optional Memorial of Saint Vincent, Deacon and Martyr, which was transferred from January 22 in order to allow for the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. (In years when the Day of Prayer is transferred to January 23, the liturgical celebrations of both Saint Vincent and Saint Marianne Cope are omitted.)

#### *Collect*

O God, who called us to serve your Son  
in the least of our brothers and sisters,  
grant, we pray, that by the example and intercession  
of the Virgin Saint Marianne Cope,  
we may burn with love for you and for those who suffer.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

## Jubilee of the Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel

The Jubilee of the Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel will be held from Saturday, February 8 to Sunday, February 9, 2025. Recently, Pope Francis addressed participants in the 64th International Military Pilgrimage at the French Marian Shrine of Lourdes. Entrusting to God's mercy all of their comrades-in-arms who died serving their countries and defending peace, Pope Francis urged Catholic members of the military to let their faith inform their service: "The world needs you, especially at this dark moment in our history. We need men and women of faith who are capable of putting weapons at the service of peace and brotherhood."

The Pope also emphasized the need for quiet time for spiritual discernment that will allow military personnel to reaffirm with hope their vocation in prayer: "This spiritual pause at Lourdes is a time to rethink your military vocation from the perspective of faith, and of the love that every Christian must cultivate towards his brother, even his enemy." For more information visit: [https://www.usccb.org/resources/Jubilee2025\\_Armed%20Forces%20Police%20Security.pdf](https://www.usccb.org/resources/Jubilee2025_Armed%20Forces%20Police%20Security.pdf)

## Jubilee of Artists

The Jubilee of Artists will be held from Sunday, February 16 to Tuesday, February 18, 2025. Individual artists and groups of artists are invited to journey on the "way of beauty," the *via pulchritudinis*, to encounter Jesus Christ, "the image (icon) of the invisible God" (Col 1:15). Jesus is the sure foundation of Christian hope, the one who reveals God's love to all people.

This resource is offered to artists as well as those who support and inspire artists. It is also offered to anyone who finds in the arts a place where personal inspiration, joy, and hope abound. Anyone who is led to encounter God through beauty, expressed in the arts and crafts across cultures, is welcome to explore this resource in preparation for the Jubilee of Artists found at: [Jubilee of Artists USCCB Resource Packet \(English\)](#)

## Jubilee of Deacons

The Jubilee of Deacons will be held from Friday, February 21, to Sunday, February 23, 2025; however, these resources can be used for engaging and celebrating deacons at any time throughout the Jubilee Year. For more information visit: [Jubilee2025 Deacons.pdf](#)

## January 2025 Liturgical Calendar

### January 1: Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

*Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord*

- Although today is New Year's Day, the solemnity may not be replaced with the Mass "For Civil Needs: At the Beginning of the Civil Year".
- Vestments: White
- Gloria is sung or said.
- Creed is recited.
- Preface 1 of the Blessed Virgin Mary is used.
- Solemn Blessing #2, 3, or 15.

### World Day of Prayer for Peace

Every year on January 1, the Holy Father marks the World Day of Peace with a special message inviting all people to reflect on the important work of building peace. World Day of Peace is primarily a Catholic feast day dedicated to universal peace on the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. It began in 1967 when Pope Paul VI announced that the world needs to be sensitized and oriented for peace and understanding,

For more information, see:

<https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/war-and-peace/world-day-of-peace>

### January 2: Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church, Memorial (white)

### January 3: Christmas Weekday

*Optional Memorial of the Most Holy Name of Jesus (white)*

### January 4: Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious, Memorial (white)

### January 5: Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

If an anticipated Mass is celebrated, the Mass prayer "At the Vigil Mass" is used.

A Vigil Mass is celebrated before or after the First Vespers of the Epiphany.

- The readings for the Epiphany will be the same as the Mass during the Day
- Vestments: White
- The *Gloria* is sung or said.
- Creed is recited.
- Preface of the Epiphany is used.
- Solemn Blessing #4 may be used.
- On Epiphany Sunday, there is an ancient custom of announcing the dates of the movable feasts for the coming year. This Epiphany Proclamation may take place after the Gospel, or within or after the homily. See the Roman Missal, Appendix I: The Announcement of Easter and the Moveable Feasts.
- The Christmas decorations in the church remain until after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

## **January 2025 Liturgical Calendar, cont'd.**

### January 12: Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

- The Christmas Season concludes after this feast.
- The Christmas decorations in the church are removed after this celebration.
- The *Gloria* is sung with splendor.
- The Creed is said.
- Christmas Solemn Blessing # 4 or 9 may be used.
- Solemn Blessing for the Nativity of the Lord may be used to unify the days of the octave.

### January 13: Ordinary Time begins

### January 17: Saint Anthony, Abbot, Memorial (white)

- The Gloria is sung or said.
- Solemn Blessing for the Nativity of the Lord may be used to unify the days of the octave.

### January 19: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

### January 21: Saint Agnes, Virgin and Martyr, Memorial (red)

### January 22

#### *Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children*

On this day, all dioceses of the United States shall observe a "day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion" (GIRM, 373.)

- Refer to the Lectionary for Mass: Supplement (LS) #516A; readings for the Day of Prayer may be taken from the Masses for Various Needs, III (In Public Circumstances, #26A), For Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life (#947A-947E, LS), or For Public Needs: 14. For Peace and Justice (#887-891, Lectionary for Mass).
- If using the Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions: For Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life, wear white vestments.
- If using the Mass for the Preservation of Peace and Justice, wear violet vestments.
- Prayer over the People #23 may be used.

### January 24: Saint Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church, Memorial (white)

### January 25: Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle, Feast

- Prayers are proper and found in the Proper of Saints.
- Vestments: White
- Gloria is sung or said.
- Creed is not said.
- Use Preface I of the Apostles.

### January 26: Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

*Word of God Sunday, 2025*

### January 28: Saint Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church, Memorial (white)

### January 31: Saint John Bosco, Priest, Memorial (white)

## Jubilee 2025 Information

### Places of Jubilee Pilgrimage in the Jubilee Year

Every Jubilee celebration has aspects of pilgrimage. The sites of pilgrimage are the holy doors of the four papal basilicas in Rome. In the dioceses of the world, Pope Francis has designated the cathedral church as a place of pilgrimage. In the Diocese of Erie, Bishop Persico has designated Saint Leo Magnus Church in Ridgway as a secondary place of pilgrimage.

### Mass “For the Holy Year”

The Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments confirmed three new Mass formularies, “For the Holy Year.” These Masses may be celebrated whenever special celebrations are held during the Jubilee, except on solemnities, Sundays and feasts, during Holy Week and the Easter Triduum, days within the Octaves of the Nativity and of Easter, Advent weekdays from December 17 to December 24 inclusive, the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls’ Day), and Ash Wednesday. The proper readings provided may only be used in Ordinary Time; during the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter, the usual daily readings are required. In addition to the Mass prayers and readings, the Dicastery also provides five samples for the Penitential Act, and four invitations, responses, and concluding orations for the Universal Prayer. These liturgical resources are available in the attachment to this newsletter and at: <https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/the-mass/votive-masses-and-various-needs/mass-for-the-holy-year>.

In light of the Jubilee’s theme, “Pilgrims of Hope,” the prayers naturally stress the themes of pilgrimage and hope. Incorporated into Christ, the faithful are a Body of believers, filled with hope. They look forward to the Lord’s coming in the present and at the end of the ages, an expectation which gives them an eternal vision and moves them to make pilgrimage to God and neighbor. The titles of the Prefaces underline the Christocentric meaning of the Jubilee Year: “Christ, our sole hope,” (Form A); “Christ, our true hope,” (Form B); and “Christ, God and man, the Savior of all” (Form C).

The readings provided for this Mass are nearly identical to those of the annual Chrism Mass (Lectionary for Mass, no. 260): Isaiah 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9; Psalm 89:21-22, 25 and 27; and Luke 4:16-21. In Isaiah, the prophet declares that he has been anointed by the Lord “to announce a year of favor,” and, in the Psalm, God speaks about his servant David: “with my holy oil [I have] anointed him.” These passages culminate in the Gospel passage from Luke, where Christ, at the beginning of his public ministry, reads the prophecy of Isaiah (61:1-2) and declares it fulfilled: “The Lord has sent me to announce a year of favor.” In addition to these selections, there is one additional option for the First Reading, Romans 5:5-11, whose verse 5 opens the Bull of Indiction: “Hope does not disappoint.”

### Jubilee Logo

Individuals and organizations may download the Jubilee logo in high resolution and the main languages at: <https://drive.cloud.va/index.php/s/4Bl5PEuIciBeRGt#/pdfviewer>

Since the logo is subject to copyright, its use is intended for pastoral and non-profit purposes only. Such use is to be linked to the following pastoral and ecclesial initiatives with no commercial purposes:

- Place the trademark on materials related to the Jubilee, such as: pamphlets, postcards, brochures, posters, outlines, banners, websites and other media;
- Place branding on pastoral materials to be used for spiritual preparation for the Jubilee;
- Place trademark on promotional materials related to the Jubilee, particularly on posters, banners, T-shirts, hats, mugs, and other materials and media; not for commercial use.

### Jubilee Website:

<https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html> The Jubilee Masses can also be found at the end of this newsletter.

### Jubilee Hymn

“Pilgrims of Hope” is the Jubilee 2025 hymn. Prepared by Pierangelo Sequeri, set to music by Francesco Meneghello, the hymn intercepts the many themes of the Holy Year: creation, fraternity, God’s tenderness and hope.

The English translation, recording and music can be found at: <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025/inno-giubileo-2025.html>.

## Colds and Flu

People feeling ill should avoid receiving Communion from the chalice. Priests are encouraged to use good pastoral common sense to calm the fears of the faithful during cold and flu season. An example of this might include reminding the faithful not to receive the Precious Blood if they are ill.

## Workshops for Liturgical Ministers

If any parish or institution would like a workshop for liturgical ministers, especially Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion or lectors, please contact the Office for Divine Worship. If a parish or institution conducts its own workshop for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, please remember to present candidates for this ministry to the Bishop when they are deemed prepared by the pastor or chaplain of said institution.

The following resource is available from the Liturgical Institute at Mundelein for the formation of parish liturgical ministers: <https://liturgy.teachable.com/p/instructions-for-liturgical-ministers>.

## Time for Vigil and Anticipated Masses

The time for Vigil Masses and Anticipated Masses in the Diocese of Erie is no earlier than 4:00 pm. This applies to Holy Days of Obligation as well, including Christmas.

## Time of the Easter Vigil

The Easter Vigil is the first Mass of Easter Sunday and not in any way to be considered an Anticipated Mass for Easter Sunday. This is why the discipline of the Church insists that it should not begin before nightfall in any circumstance. It may be helpful to know that sunset, according to a variety of models, occurs approximately at 8:06 pm on April 19, 2025. This information is provided at this time to assist with calendar planning for 2024-2025. In general, given the variable date for Easter, it seems best to schedule the Easter Vigil each year for 8:30 pm or later.

## Copyrights

According to the United States Copyright Office, if you reproduce, distribute, publicly display, or derive a new piece from a copyrighted work without the permission of the copyright owner, you may have infringed on copyright. That could include putting a poem or song on your website, printing an essay or column in your bulletin, or even streaming a service on your website, Facebook or YouTube that includes the performance of hymns from a hymnal you have purchased. The safest thing a church can do is only to use copyrighted materials when you have the express written permission of the copyright owner. This is generally accomplished by purchasing the appropriate license. The majority of parishes use OneLicense.net.

In worship aids:

- To license the readings for a worship aid, parishes can contact: Mary Elizabeth Sperry at [msperry@uscgb.org](mailto:msperry@uscgb.org). If you need any other clarification, please call the Office for Divine Worship at 814-824-1271.
- For reprinting excerpts of the Roman Missal in a worship aid, credit is given to the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL).

On screens:

- The Committee on Divine Worship does not permit projecting readings and liturgical texts on screens during the liturgy. The bishops believe that since people spend much time on screens, the Sacred Liturgy should be a prayerful break from that. They also think screens distract from the liturgy itself.



## DECREE

### OUTLINING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE RECEPTION OF INDULGENCES RELATED TO THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025 IN THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

A Plenary Indulgence may be received in the Diocese of Erie by doing the following during the period from December 29, 2024 through December 31, 2025:

At least once during the Holy Year:

- Receive sacramental confession and absolution
- Receive Holy Communion

And, while striving to be free from attachment to sin, carry out any of the following:

Make a pilgrimage visit, whether individually or as a group (family, parish, co-workers, etc.), to either St. Peter Cathedral, Erie, or St. Leo Magnus Church, Ridgway, and while visiting those sites take time for prayer specifically for the intentions of the Holy Father.

Those who are truly repentant of sin, but who cannot participate in diocesan pilgrimages, can receive the Jubilee Indulgence by prayerfully reciting the Our Father and any approved version of the Profession of Faith (Creed), and also praying for the intentions of the Holy Father. Those who are homebound due to age, illness, imprisonment, etc., may also offer up their suffering as a prayer for others and/or for the poor souls in purgatory.

Visit for an appropriate amount of time family members, neighbors or friends who are in need (such as the sick, lonely elderly people, the disabled, prisoners, etc.) This visit is to be made with a vibrant awareness of Christ's presence in these persons in need.

Carry out personal acts of penance for an entire day (particularly Fridays), such as:

- Abstain from eating meat
- Abstain from futile distractions (such as entertainment, social media, etc.)
- Abstain from unnecessary consumption of food or drink (fasting)



Carry out significant acts of charity such as:

- Contribute to the poor
- Support the homeless, the orphan, the migrant or alien, etc.
- Contribute a significant amount of one's free time to worthy volunteer activities in support of human life and dignity

During the Jubilee Year an individual may receive one Plenary Indulgence per day, and may apply that indulgence to themselves or to a deceased person.

Given at the Chancery  
of the Diocese of Erie  
on this 27th day of November, 2024

*+Lawrence T. Persico*

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL  
Bishop of Erie

*Christopher J. Singer*

The Reverend Christopher J. Singer, JCL  
Chancellor