



FROM THE OFFICE OF WORSHIP...

NOTES FOR NOVEMBER 2011

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Twelve-Month Planning Calendar For Leadership and Ministries

General Suggestions

Specific Suggestions

December 2011

- ✘ Reinforce the value of the Mass through homilies, catechesis, and other parish ministries.
- ✘ Begin effort to welcome people back to church.

- ✘ Have a hot chocolate and cookie social after the Sunday Masses or on a weeknight, as an opportunity for parishioners to ask questions about the changes in the Liturgy.
- ✘ Prepare a special bulletin insert or handout about the changes to distribute at the Christmas Masses.
- ✘ Before Christmas, have a special meeting with the ushers and ministers of hospitality to discuss the changes and to prepare them to answer questions from people who may be new to the parish or returning to the practice of the faith.

Almighty and merciful God,
may no earthly undertaking hinder those
who set out in haste to meet your Son,
but may our learning of heavenly wisdom
gain us admittance to his company.

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

~ *Collect, Second Sunday of Advent*

Exploring the Biblical Allusions in the Order of Mass: Nicene Creed

Excerpt from Bishops' Committee on Divine Worship Newsletter, October 2011.

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The Creed is a Symbol, a representation or a summary of the whole Bible, and indeed of our whole faith. The number of scriptural allusions presented here could have been greatly expanded, but this provides a glimpse of the scriptural foundations of the faith. This Symbol is professed near the end of the Liturgy of the Word in order to stand forth as the summary or interpretive key for understanding the Bible. It is placed before the Liturgy of the Eucharist, because it is the Symbol of Faith, and so it is the criterion for Communion. Before we can claim to be in communion with the Church, we need to be in communion with the Symbol of the Church's faith. This is the reason, then, why the catechumens are dismissed from the Eucharist before the profession of faith in the Creed: because they are still on their way to full Communion with the Church.

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pon-
tius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Fa-
ther.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the
giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the
Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

"In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen 1:1). "Our Father" (Mt 6:9).

"The visible and the invisible" (Col 1:16). *See also Ex 6:3, Dt 6:4, Rom 10:10, Eph 4:6, and 1 Jn 4:15.*

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish, but might have eternal life" (Jn 3:16).

"The LORD is my light and my salvation" (Ps 27:1). *See also Mt 14:33, 16:16, and 17:2, Jn 1:2, 8:12, and 17:1-5, Acts 11:17, and Rom 10:9.*

"The Father and I are one" (Jn 10:30).

"[God] spoke to us through a son... through whom he created the universe" (Heb 1:2).

"For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world" (Jn 6:33). *See also 1 Tim 2:4.*

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you" (Lk 1:35).

"And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (Jn 1:14).

"Then Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified" (Jn 19:16).

"Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last" (Mk 15:37). *See also Mk 8:31, Mk 15:25, Lk 23:53, 1 Cor 15:3.*

"He was buried... he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures" (1 Cor 15:4).

"You will see 'the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power' and 'coming on the clouds of heaven'" (Mt 26:64). *See also Dan 7:13, Mk 16:19, and Acts 7:55.*

"He is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead" (Acts 10:42). *See also 2 Tim 4:1.*

"Now the Lord is the Spirit" (2 Cor 3:17). "But the Spirit gives life" (2 Cor 3:6). *See also Jn 14:26.*

"When the Advocate comes whom I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of truth that proceeds from the Father" (Jn 15:26).

"Human beings moved by the Holy Spirit spoke under the influence of God" (2 Pt 1:21). *See also 1 Cor 3:18.*

Exploring the Biblical Allusions in the Order of Mass: Nicene Creed *(continued)*

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

"You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church" (Mt 16:18). See also Mk 16:15, Acts 2:38, Eph 4:5, and 1 Pt 2:5, 9.

"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins" (Acts 2:38).

"I know he will rise in the resurrection on the last day" (Jn 11:24).

"Amen! Come Lord Jesus!" (Rev 22:20). See also Mk 10:29-30, 1 Cor 15:12-49, and Eph 4:5.

EPs for Masses with Children Now Available from USCCB

The text of the three Eucharistic Prayers for children, adapted for interim use with the third edition of the *Roman Missal*.

These prayers will help children to participate more fully in the Mass. Accompanied by an Introduction explaining their use, these Eucharistic Prayers include the revised translations of the Preface Dialogue, Sanctus, words of institution, Memorial Acclamations, and Concluding Doxology.

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Book of Blessings and the Christmas Season

While the official liturgical season that is Christmas is relatively short, there are several liturgical blessings particular to the season that are good to recognize and celebrate. The *Book of Blessings (BB)* and *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers (HB)* provide the content.

Blessing of Nativity: BB, chapter 48; HB, pg. 78 — Probably the most obvious blessing is the blessing the nativity scene or manger, either at the parish or at home. Chapter 48 of BB provides the Order for blessing the nativity either in or out of Mass. It would seem to make sense that the nativity be blessed only once over the course of the Christmas liturgies, ideally at the first Mass of Christmas Eve or prior to it. The shorter form found in BB is the same as what is found in HB for blessing the home nativity.

Blessing Tree: BB, chapter 49; HB, pg. 78 — Both BB and HB also provide a blessing for the Christmas tree (BB, chapter 49; HB, pg. 78). Trees set up in the church are not blessed in the context of Mass. At home or at church, the blessing may be celebrated during Liturgy of the Hours or a liturgy of the Word.

Blessing of Family: BB, chapter 1 (62-67) — The Feast of the Holy Family is an appropriate time to recognize the sacredness of the family and ask for God's special blessing upon them. BB chapter 1 (nos. 62-67) would be most useful for this.

Ongoing (or First-Time) *Missal* Catechesis

In spite of our best efforts, there are going to be members of our parishes who have walked into Mass the first Sunday of Advent and in upcoming days who will hear the revised texts and say:

- "What's with all the changes?"
- "Why wasn't I told about this?"
- "And also with the Spirit that is with you?"
- "Consubstantial?"

It would be naïve to think that everyone who comes to Mass has been fully prepared for (or perhaps even knows anything about) the revisions begun last week. Some may have seen information provided by the parish and overlooked it. Others may have read it a while ago and just need a refresher. And there will be some who will be learning of it for the first time.

All of the materials that have been sent out by the Office of Worship over the past months to help prepare for the implementation of the *Roman Missal* remain available on the diocesan website under "Liturgy and Worship (Roman Missal Resources)," and will remain there for the foreseeable future. Some pieces that may be useful over the next several weeks include:

- "Bulletin pieces" - Short pieces of liturgical catechesis that can be used as filler in bulletins and newsletters
- "Changes in the People's Parts" - A series of bulletin inserts that explains the major changes to the people's parts
- "Order of Mass Pew Card/Booklet with Chants" - Resources with the revised texts of the people available to be printed
- Chanting Resources - For priests and other ministers looking for assistance in chanting their parts of the Mass
- "Evansville Recommendations" - Suggested resources list with materials that could be used at any time of year

In addition, the ICEL DVD-ROM resource *Become One Body One Spirit in Christ* has numerous resources and tools that can be used far beyond the immediate implementation catechesis.

Also, keep an eye on the "Navigating the *Roman Missal*" tab on the "Liturgy and Worship" page. Seasonal guides to the revised *Missal* will be posted there over the upcoming months.

The *Missal* is here, but the work goes on. Many thanks for your help in making it possible.

The *Missal* and Helping Christmas Visitors

A few suggestions to help visitors and guests who may be experiencing the revised *Missal* texts for the first time at Christmas:

- Explore the possibility of a special worship aid for the Christmas Masses. ICEL freely gives permission to reproduce the *Missal* texts for one-time special event worship aids like this.
- Check with the publishers of other liturgical music to for their requirements to reproduce. Many will give permission for free or for a minimal expense for programs like this.
- Have greeters passing out worship aids and/or showing people where to find the texts they need in missalettes/hymnals
- Make a brief announcement before the Masses to encourage use of any worship aids
- Incorporate some of the revised texts into the homily