

Dear servants of the liturgy,

Welcome Bishop Amos, our new Chief Liturgist! Thank you, Bishop Franklin, for your years of service to the Church and to our diocese!

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

THE U.S. BISHOPS' COMMITTEE ON PASTORAL PRACTICES

This committee of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops has been studying the question of fostering greater attendance at Sunday Mass. After wide consultation, they have published a number of suggestions that parishes can implement. I will reprint one of the nine suggestions in each issue of the *LiturgyNotes*:

#4 Provide opportunities for adult education. Consider implementing a commercially available program for adult faith formation (e.g. *Why Catholic?*). Adult faith formation can also be accomplished by means of a pastoral letter from the pastor, parish missions, retreats, and days of reflection, preaching, the provision of weekly reflections that connect the gospel to everyday life, a “4 Minute Catechesis” at the end of Mass, promotion of stewardship as a way of life, and the publication of a bulletin insert highlighting “Important Reasons for Going to Mass on Sunday.”

LITURGY EVALUATION TOOLS & LITURGY FORMATION SURVEY

Two helpful instruments can be found on the diocesan website at:
<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/ddo-offices/page7.html#other.docs>.

The formation survey can be found on the diocesan website at
<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/ddo-offices/page7.html#other.docs>. Just click on “liturgy survey” – available in both PDF and Word formats.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CONTINUING FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

RCIA: Beginnings and Beyond

A Beginnings and Beyond conference will be held in the diocese July 19-22, 2007 at St. John Vianney Parish in Bettendorf. Registration material will be available shortly...but reserve those dates!

LITURGY PREPARATION

A NOTE ON POSTURE

During most of the year, we make a profound bow during the Proclamation of Faith while speaking the words: “by the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man.” During all the Masses of Christmas, we genuflect at this time—highlighting the awesome mystery of the Incarnation.

PROCLAMATION OF THE NATIVITY AND OF THE DATE OF EASTER

At the **Midnight Mass of Christmas**, it is traditional to proclaim the Birth of Christ after the greeting and introduction. The proclamation then leads directly into the Gloria. Details may be found in LTP’s *Sourcebook for Sundays and Seasons 2007*, pages 40-41. Likewise, on the **Solemnity of the Epiphany**, it is traditional to proclaim the Date of Easter, either after the homily or after the prayer after communion. See the *Sourcebook*, pp.42-3.

JANUARY 1: MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Because January 1 falls on a Monday, it is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year. For those who pray the Liturgy of the Hours, evening prayer the night before will be Evening Prayer I for the Solemnity, *not* Evening Prayer II for Sunday.

INTERCESSIONS

Below please find three intercessions for each Sunday of the month. The first is an “intercession for life” provided by the USCCB. The second is an intercession for vocations, courtesy of the vocations office. Finally, there is an intercession written by a member of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission and inspired by the readings of the day. Please use and/or adapt them as you see fit.

Dec. 3rd 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

For women haunted by the memory of abortion: that God might grant his Church the grace to heal and support them; we pray to the Lord.

For all the religious serving the needs of the sick and elderly in our diocese, that they may be blessed for their efforts and supported by our prayer;

For the members of our parish, that we will demonstrate a spirit of compassion and love to those who are in need;

Dec. 10th 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

For all newborn babies: that they may teach us the consummate beauty and value of every human life:

For our holy father, Pope Benedict, that his efforts to call youth to their Christian vocation would bear fruit;

For children, especially those who are victims of violence, neglect, or abandonment;

Dec 17th 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

That as we prepare to receive the Newborn Christ God may give us the grace to recall our responsibility to protect and sustain the life of every child;

For all preachers and teachers of the Church, and for those who listen to and learn the Word of God from them;

For peace in our world, and for an end to violence, terrorism, and war;

Dec 24th 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

For children who are lost, abused, or homeless: that the joy of the coming Christmas Season may give us the strength and the wisdom to love and protect them;

For all who support the work of vocation promotion through their prayers, suffering, and good works;

That as Christmas draws near, we may be filled with hope and joy;

Dec 31st THE HOLY FAMILY

For those who, like Simeon and Anna, have grown old: that we may treasure their lives and rejoice in their presence;

For all children of the world, that they may all know the love of Jesus in their lifetime;

That endangered cultures be respected and the native peoples be preserved from harm;

LITURGICAL CALENDAR: 2007

Advent	First Sunday of Advent	Dec 2, 2006	Sunday Lectionary Cycle C Weekday Lectionary Year I
	Immaculate Conception	Dec 8, 2006	Holy Day of Obligation
Christmastime	Christmas	Dec 25, 2006	Holy Day of Obligation Proclamation of the Nativity See <i>Sourcebook</i> pp.40-1
	Mary, Mother of God Epiphany	Jan 1, 2007 Jan 7	Holy Day obligation abrogated. Proclamation of Date of Easter See <i>Sourcebook</i> pp.42-3
Lent	Ash Wednesday	Feb 21	
	First Sunday of Lent	Feb 25	Rite of Election (Davenport)
	Second Sunday of Lent	March 4	Penitential Rite for Candidates Rite of Election (Ottumwa)
	Third Sunday of Lent	March 11	First Scrutiny of the Elect*
	Fourth Sunday of Lent	March 18	Second Scrutiny of the Elect*
	Fifth Sunday of Lent	March 25	Third Scrutiny of the Elect*
	Chrism Mass	March 27	
	Palm Sunday	April 1	
	*If the Scrutinies are celebrated, the Cycle A readings and the prayer texts for the Ritual Mass are used.		
Triduum	The Sacred Triduum is celebrated April 5-8. The Easter Vigil can begin no earlier than 8:30 p.m. on the night of April 7.		
Easterime	Second Sunday of Easter	April 15	Divine Mercy Sunday
	Ascension of the Lord	May 20	Replaces 7 th Sunday of Easter
	Pentecost	May 27	The Paschal Candle remains in the sanctuary next to the ambo until the conclusion of Evening Prayer II
Ordinary Time	Anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Amos	June 7 (Thurs)	Ranks as a Feast in the diocese
	Assumption of the BVM	Aug 15 (Wed)	Holy Day of Obligation
	All Saints	Nov 1 (Thurs)	Holy Day of Obligation
	Anniversary of the Dedication of the Cathedral	Nov 15 (Thurs)	Solemnity at the Cathedral; Feast for the Diocese
	Christ the King	Nov 25	

Parishes are also reminded that the Anniversary of Dedication of their church and the title of a particular church are celebrated as Solemnities for that community, superseding Sundays in Ordinary Time. Please refer to the "Table of Liturgical Days According to Their Order of Precedence" and the *Norms Governing Liturgical Calendars* for details.