

Celebration of the Liturgy of the Word on Sundays in an emergency situation

“By tradition handed down from the apostles which took its origin from the very day of Christ’s resurrection, the Church celebrates the paschal mystery every eighth day; with good reason this, then, bears the name of the Lord’s Day” (*Sacrosanctum Concilium 106*). The Sunday celebration of the Mass is central to the life of the Church and each parish, and it is the Church’s desire that Mass is celebrated every Sunday in every parish.

The Archdiocese of Detroit has been blessed with enough priests and vocations to make the celebration of holy Mass a weekly reality in its parishes. However, occasionally a situation arises that makes the celebration of Mass impossible; for example, an unplanned emergency, illness of an assigned priest, a storm or severe travel emergency.

In case of any of the above emergency situations a Celebration of the Liturgy of the Word may be used provided the following policies are followed:

- The Celebration of the Liturgy of the Word may only be used in actual emergencies and not for convenience.
- If it is known beforehand that no priest will be available to preside at Mass, the parish should inform parishioners in a timely manner and invite them to celebrate Mass at one of the neighboring parishes.
- The Celebration of the Liturgy of the Word may be used only on the Lord’s Day including the Saturday Vigil Mass. It is not to be used for weekday celebrations.
- When the emergency becomes apparent, the schedule of Masses at nearby parishes should be shared with the gathered congregation. Those present should be invited to celebrate Mass at one of those parishes or to remain for a Celebration of the Liturgy of the Word with those present.
- In the absence of a priest, it would be best for a deacon to lead the celebration. If no deacon is available, the celebration may be led by a trained lay person.
- The leader should be assisted by other ministers, e.g., lectors, cantors, musicians, and servers.
- Deacons should wear vesture proper to their order. Lay leaders should wear an alb.
- Distribution of Holy Communion is not allowed at a Celebration of the Liturgy of the Word in the Archdiocese of Detroit.
- Care should be taken to make sure that there is no confusion between this celebration and the celebration of Mass. The parish needs to do ongoing formation on the mystery of the Eucharist and the celebration of Mass.
- If more than one Mass is affected by the absence of a priest, the Celebration of the Liturgy of the Word may be repeated at the same worship site.
- A staff person from the parish needs to inform the regional bishop that this service has taken place. Contact information for the Bishops can be found at <http://www.aod.org/>

This Sunday *Celebration of the Liturgy of the Word* may only be used in emergencies and not for convenience.

Script to be Read in an Emergency When a Priest is not Available to Celebrate Mass

I am sorry to inform you that due to circumstances beyond our control, there is no priest to celebrate Mass today.

In this emergency situation, I encourage you to attend Mass at one of the following:

Parish

Mass Times

If it is impossible for you to attend another Mass because of distance or your schedule, I invite you to stay and pray together with our Sunday community as we celebrate the Liturgy of the Word, remembering that Christ is present when the Church prays and sings and when His holy Word is proclaimed.

While a Liturgy of the Word can never replace Sunday Mass, in an emergency situation such as this it will fulfill your obligation. Blessed John Paul II in his Apostolic Letter *Dies Domini* (*Day of the Lord*) calls for Sunday to be "protected" and states, "In situations where the Eucharist cannot be celebrated, the Church recommends that the Sunday assembly come together even without a priest."

Celebration of the Liturgy of the Word in an Emergency Situation

Introductory Rites

Introduction

The celebration begins **without** a procession of liturgical ministers. As the liturgical assembly and ministers gather at their place, instrumental music may be played. When all have taken their place a gathering hymn may be sung. The deacon or lay leader of prayer stands at a central place, other than behind the altar or at the chair for the priest, and facing the gathered assembly begins the celebration with the following introduction:

Leader:

We gather here to celebrate the Lord's Day.

Sunday has been called the Lord's Day because it was on this day that Jesus conquered sin and death and rose to new life.

Unfortunately, we are not able to celebrate the Mass today because we do not have a priest.

Let us be united in the spirit of Christ with the Church around the world and celebrate our redemption in Christ's suffering, death and resurrection.

Please stand

All stand and the deacon or lay leader of prayer, making the sign of the cross, sings or says:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All make the sign of the cross and reply:

Amen.

Greeting

The deacon or lay leader of prayer greets those present in the following words, taken from sacred Scripture.

Leader:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

All respond:

And with your spirit.

Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us pray.

All present pray in silence for a short time. Then the deacon or lay leader of prayer, with hands extended, says the prayer. At the end of the prayer, the liturgical assembly responds:

Amen.

Ordinary Time

God of all creation,
we gather on this first day of the week
made holy by the resurrection of Christ, your Son.
In the waters of baptism we were buried with him
so that we might also rise with him
and so share his victory over sin and death.
You have transformed our lives into the living stones
that form your Church with Christ as the foundation stone.
Strengthen this community's bond of communion and peace
and deepen our solidarity with your Church throughout the world.
Rekindle within us this Sabbath day the vision of your kingdom
so that our daily concerns and labor
may find their proper perspective.
Fill our homes with the spirit of the Gospel and give us the grace
to see the true face of the people with whom we live.
In a world torn by sin and division
make us instruments of reconciliation and mercy.
We raise our voices in praise and thanksgiving to you, O God.
May we who celebrate Christ's resurrection this day
share in his eternal glory where he lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

For Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter

Blessed are you, Father, Holy and Divine Creator.
All creation comes from your hand;
the entire universe bears the imprint of your goodness.
You call us not only to inhabit the earth,
but also to build it and thus become your co-workers.
You give us a Sabbath day of rest
when men and women everywhere raise their song to you
and become the voice of all creation.
What you accomplished in creation and wrought for your people
in the Exodus
has found its fullest expression in Christ's death and resurrection.
And so we remember on this first day of the week
The salvation which you have given us in baptism
and which has made us a new creation in Christ.

Add the appropriate insert from the choices below. Then pray the end of the prayer on p. 8

Advent Insert

In these Advent days when we prepare for the coming of the Lord in glory and the celebration of his birth into the human family, we pray, O God, that you would remove from our hearts whatever might hinder us from receiving Christ with joy.

Christmas Insert

We give you glory, O God in the highest, for the new light that has dawned upon the world.
In Jesus, Emmanuel,
we see your love revealed before our eyes
and stand in awe before the mysterious marriage between heaven and earth.

Lent Insert

Acknowledging our sins, we pray, O God,
for the gift of true repentance and genuine conversion.
Renew the grace of our baptism within us
and inspire us to express our love for you in our service
of others.

Easter Insert

The good news of Easter fills our hearts with joy
as we remember Christ's victory over sin and death.
In him, who offered his life on the cross,
a broken world has been renewed
and the promise of eternal life made sure.

Continue the prayer saying:

We praise you, Almighty God and Father,
for there is no greater power that saves
and no greater love and mercy,
than that which comes from you
through your Son, Jesus Christ,
in communion with the Holy Spirit, both now and forever.

Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

SIT

The readings and the psalm are those assigned in the Lectionary for Mass for that particular Sunday.

First Reading

A reader other than the leader of prayer proclaims the first reading.

Responsorial Psalm

After the first reading, the psalm assigned in the Lectionary is sung. If necessary, one of the common seasonal psalms found in the Lectionary (no. 174) may be chosen. If not sung, the reader proclaims the verses of the psalm and, as a rule, the people say the response. When only the refrain is used by the people during the responsorial psalm, it is preferable that the refrain be sung.

Second Reading

A reader other than the leader of prayer proclaims the second reading.

STAND Gospel Acclamation

The Gospel acclamation given in the Lectionary is sung before the proclamation of the Gospel .

Gospel

A deacon proclaims the Gospel in the usual manner. However, a layperson omits the greeting, “The Lord be with you” and proceeds to “A reading from the holy Gospel according to N.”

SIT Period of Silence

Leader: Let us take time to reflect silently on the Word of God we have just heard.

STAND Dismissal of Catechumens / ELECT

If catechumens are present, they may be dismissed at this point by use of the following:

Leader: Catechumens, please come forward with your catechist.

Leader gives the Lectionary to the catechist and says:

My dear friends, this community now sends you forth to reflect more deeply upon

the Word of God which you have shared with us today. Be assured of our loving support and prayers for you. We look forward to the day when you will share fully in the Lord's Table.

Catechist leads catechumens in procession to their assigned place for dismissal.

STAND Profession of Faith

Leader: Let us stand and profess our faith.

The profession of faith is recited. Either the Nicene or Apostles' Creed may be used.

Nicene Creed

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,

ALL BOW

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius 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 Father.
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.
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.

B

Instead of the Nicene Creed, especially during Lent and Easter Time, the baptismal Symbol of the Roman Church, known as the Apostles' Creed, may be used.

Apostles' Creed

ALL BOW

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.

Amen.

Prayer of the Faithful

The Prayer of the faithful is said or sung.

The deacon or lay leader of prayer introduces the Prayer of the Faithful, inviting the liturgical assembly to pray. Another minister sings or recites the intentions.

Leader: With faith in God's promises, let us now present our needs and petitions.

The petitions are then proclaimed by an assisting minister. The assembly sings or says its response.

The leader of prayer concludes the intercessions with the following prayer.

Leader:

God of love,
our refuge and our strength,
hear the prayers of your Church,
and grant us today
what we ask of you in faith.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

STAND

Act of Thanksgiving

The deacon or lay leader of prayer invites all to an Act of Thanksgiving, in which the faithful praise the glory and mercy of God. This can be done by the use of a psalm, a canticle, a hymn, a litany of praise, or a prayer.

Leader: Together let us offer our prayer of Thanksgiving.

The following is an option you may use.

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name



1. Ho - ly God, we praise thy name:
2. Hark! the loud ce - les - tial hymn
3. Lo! the ap - os - tolic train
4. Ho - ly Fa - ther, Ho - ly Son.



Lord of all. we bow be - fore thee!,
An - gel choirs a - bove are rais - ing!
Join, the sa - cred name to hal - low;
Ho - ly Spir - it. Three we name thee:



All on earth thy scep - ter claim,
Cher - u - bim and Ser - a - phim,
Proph - ets swell the loud re - frain,
While in es - sence on - ly One,



All in heav'n a - bove a - dore thee;
In un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing,
And the white robed mar - tyrs fol - low;
Un - di - vid - ed God we claim thee;



In - fi - nite thy vast do - main,
Fill the heav'ns with sweet ac - cord;
And from morn to set of sun,
And a - dor - ing bend the knee,

Repeat ad lib.



Ev - er - last - ing is thy reign,
"Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!"
Through the Church the song goes on,
While we own the mys - ter - y,

Concluding Rite

Leader: Please be seated.

The ushers will now take up the collection. This collection is a liturgical gesture that each of us offers ourselves through Christ, with him and in him in loving service to our brothers and sisters.

The collection is taken up and brought to an appropriate place.

Leader: Listen now to the announcements.

Invitation to Pray for Vocations to the Priesthood

STAND

Leader: Please stand

The deacon or lay leader of prayer says in these or similar words:

Mindful of the Lord's word, "Ask the Master of the harvest to send out laborers for the harvest," let us pray for an increase of vocations to the priesthood. May our prayer hasten the day when we will be able to take part in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist every Sunday.

Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life

Leader: By water and the Holy Spirit we have become children of God,
therefore we pray:

Lord Jesus, as You once called the first disciples to make them fishers of men,
let your sweet invitation continue to resound:
Come, follow Me!

Give young men and women the grace of responding quickly to Your voice.
Support our bishops, priests, and consecrated people in their apostolic labor.
Grant perseverance to our seminarians and to all those who are carrying out the ideal of a life totally consecrated to Your service.

Mary, Mother of the Church, the model of every vocation, help us to say "Yes" to the Lord Who calls us to cooperate in the divine plan of salvation.

We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.

Blessing

STAND

The leader of prayer who is a deacon says:

The Lord be with you.

All respond:

And with your spirit.

He blesses the people using the following blessing:

May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son + and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

A leader of prayer who is a layperson, while signing him/herself with the sign of the cross says:

May the Lord bless us,
protect us from all evil
and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen

Sign of Peace

The deacon or lay leader of prayer may invite the people to exchange the sign of peace in these words:

Leader: Let us offer each other a sign of peace.
All exchange an appropriate sign of peace.

A song, instrumental music or choral anthem of the day may conclude the celebration.

Pastoral Notes

- A staff person from the parish needs to inform the regional bishop that this service has taken place. Contact information for the Bishops can be found at <http://www.aod.org/>.

Pastoral Notes

For information go online:
www.aod.org

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