



DIOCESE OF ALTOONA-JOHNSTOWN

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December 4, 2018

MEMO

TO: Clergy

FROM: Monsignor Robert C. Mazur

CONCERNING: (1) January 17-18, 2019 and January 22, 2019
(2) Dates of Ecumenical Services
(3) Week of Christian Unity
(4) Easter Vigil 2019
(5) Winter Ordinary Time Bulletin Liturgical Inserts

(1) Thursday, January 17, 2019 - Prayer at Altoona Cathedral

On Thursday, January 17, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona, there will be a prayer service for the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision of *Roe vs. Wade* (1973). There will be a blessing for the pilgrims attending the March For Life in Washington, D.C. the next day, **Friday, January 18**. All are welcome to participate in this prayer. All who have a respect for life from conception to natural death are welcome to join our brothers and sisters at the Altoona Cathedral.

Tuesday, January 22, 2019 - Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

The anniversary of the Supreme Court decision, *Roe vs. Wade* is January 22, 1973. On Tuesday, January 22, 2019 all dioceses in the United States of America will observe a Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. The Roman Missal contains a special Mass under the options for Various Occasions entitled, "For Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life", #48 both A and B would be appropriate selections. Also, the Eucharistic Prayer for Use in Masses for Various Needs IV (contained within the Roman Missal) would be an appropriate selection for Mass. There are a variety of readings suggested in the ORDO. White or violet vestments are worn for this particular Mass.

Prayer on January 22 - RESPECT for LIFE

God our Creator, we give thanks to you, who alone have the power to impart the breath of life as you form each of us in our mother's womb; grant, we pray, that we, whom you have made stewards of creation, may remain faithful to this sacred trust and constant in safeguarding the dignity of every human life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Possible Petition for the weekend of January 19/20 for Universal Prayer:

*That the Church continue to proclaim the value of life,
and that we give each person the dignity that is theirs, we pray to the Lord...*

(2) **Dates of Ecumenical Services**

Clergy are asked to vest in alb and white (anniversary) stole. Below are copy-ready bulletin inserts.

On Sunday, January 20, 2019, Bishop Michael Rhyne of the Lutheran tradition will host an ecumenical service at Saint James Lutheran Church, 525 Mifflin Street, Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. The service begins at 3:00 P.M. Bishop Mark Bartchak will be in attendance. All are invited to participate in this prayer.

On Sunday, January 27, 2019, Bishop Gregory of Nyssa of the Orthodox tradition will host an ecumenical service at Christ the Saviour Cathedral, 300 Garfield Street, Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The service begins at 3:00 P.M. Bishop Mark Bartchak will be in attendance. All are invited to participate in this prayer.

Clergy are encouraged to participate in these two prayer services for Christian unity. Invite members of your faith community to join in this prayer. You may place the appropriate boxed announcement in your bulletin to inform your people.

(3) **Week of Christian Unity**

Parishes are encouraged to sponsor, along with other Christian churches, Prayer Services for Christian Unity. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins on Friday, January 18, and concludes on Friday, January 25. The Book of Blessings, numbers 553 through 573, is a great resource for such an ecumenical service.

The Graymoor Ecumenical and Interreligious Institute suggests *Justice, Only Justice, You Shall Pursue* (Deuteronomy 16:20) as the theme for the Week of Christian Unity 2019. A sample prayer service and information are available at: www.geii.org

Possible Petition for Sundays, January 13 and 20, for the Universal Prayer:

*That the Christian Family seek the unity that Christ won for all
through his death and resurrection, we pray to the Lord...*

(4) **Easter Vigil 2019**

Saturday, April 20th, sunset is at 7:58 PM Daylight Saving Time. The Easter Vigil is to begin no earlier than **8:30 PM Daylight Saving Time** on **April 20, 2019**.

(5) **Bulletin Inserts**

The liturgical inserts for Winter Ordinary Time will review the devotion of *Eucharistic Adoration* in the life of the church. You are asked to place these inserts in your weekly bulletin for the liturgical catechesis of our people. Thank you.

WINTER ORDINARY TIME 2019

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**EUCCHARISTIC
ADORATION**

Liturgical Reflection...

This liturgical year the weekly inserts will review the practice of Eucharistic Adoration in the life of the church. Many clergy and laity have found this devotion to be strengthening in their spiritual lives. Parishes are encouraged to set regular hours for the solemn Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament allowing time for quiet prayer and reflection. Reverence before the Blessed Sacrament is a clear and practiced tradition in our Catholic faith. In the hectic, busy schedules of life, Eucharistic Adoration gives an opportunity to pause and be still before the divine Presence. Believers take time to make visits to the Blessed Sacrament in a church and to attend scheduled times of Eucharistic Adoration.

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Liturgical Reflection...

Tuesday, January 22, all dioceses in the United States of America are observing a Day of Prayer for the **Legal Protection of Unborn Children**. January 22 is the day of the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision, *Roe vs. Wade* (1973), the Church in America prays for the violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion, and of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee to the right to life. Members of the Diocese are encouraged to go to Mass on this day, pray the rosary, the chaplet of Divine Mercy, fast and abstain, and join the Altoona-Johnstown family in praying the following:

O God, who adorn creation with splendor and beauty, and fashion human lives in your image and likeness, awaken in every heart reverence for the work of your hands, and renew among your people a readiness to nurture and sustain your precious gift of human life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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**EUCCHARISTIC
ADORATION**

Liturgical Reflection...

For several centuries, the traditional Forty Hours Devotion has been celebrated in parishes as a time of renewal and prayer. In the early 1500s at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Milan, Italy, Forty Hours Devotion began probably as a commemoration of the forty hours that Christ's body lay in the tomb between his death and resurrection. By the 1700s the form of the devotion was codified for the churches of Rome. Forty Hours Devotion was first approved for the diocese of Baltimore in 1857 and extended to all the dioceses of the United States in 1868. The Second Vatican Council encouraged the practice of solemn annual exposition in every parish.

Order for the Solemn Exposition of the Holy Eucharist, 1993, Introduction, Number 1.

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WINTER ORDINARY TIME 2019

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EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Liturgical Reflection...

The primary and original reason for reservation of the Eucharist outside Mass is the administration of viaticum. The secondary ends are the giving of communion to the sick and the adoration of our Lord Jesus Christ present in the Sacrament. The reservation of the Sacrament for the sick lead to the praiseworthy practice of adoring the heavenly Food that is reserved in churches. This cult of adoration has a sound and firm foundation, especially since faith in the real presence of the Lord has as its natural consequence the outward, public manifestation of belief in the real presence of the Lord found in the consecrated elements.

Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside Mass, 1975, Number 5.

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EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Liturgical Reflection...

The celebration of the Eucharist is the center of the entire Christian life, both for the Church universal and in each faith community. The Eucharist contains the church's entire spiritual wealth, that is, Christ himself. He is our Passover and living bread. The celebration of the Eucharist in the sacrifice of the Mass is truly the origin and purpose of the worship that is shown to the Eucharist outside Mass. Reserved in the tabernacle, Christ is truly Emmanuel, God with us. Day and night he is in our midst; full of grace and truth, he dwells among us.

Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside Mass, 1975, Numbers 1 and 2.

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EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Liturgical Reflection...

In the celebration of the Mass the chief ways in which Christ is present in his Church emerge clearly one after the other. First, Christ is present in the very assembly of the faithful who has gathered in his name. Next, he is present in his word, sacred scripture, proclaimed and broken open. Also, he is present in the person of the ordained minister. Finally, and above all, Christ is present in the Eucharistic elements of his very Body and Blood. In a way that is completely unique, the whole and entire Christ, God and man, is substantially and permanently present in the Blessed Sacrament.

Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside Mass, 1975, Number 6.

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EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Liturgical Reflection...

The solemn exposition of the Holy Eucharist offers the opportunity to the people of God for prayerful reflection on their call to a deeper devotion to the Eucharist. And this deep reverence and devotion challenge believers to a more faithful living of the Christian life. Eucharistic Adoration provides God's people with an opportunity to become more aware of Christ's presence with his people. Adoration also invites the faithful to a spiritual communion with the Lord Jesus. Prayer before the reserved Sacrament helps focus attention on the Eucharistic Lord who feeds our hungers and quenches our thirsts.

Order for the Solemn Exposition of the Holy Eucharist, 1993, Number 3.

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