



## ODW Bulletin

October 2019

### Office of Divine Worship

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### Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (*Region IV*)

### National Association of Pastoral Musicians (*Arlington Chapter*)

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## “APERUIT ILLIS” - APOSTOLIC LETTER ISSUED *motu proprio* BY THE SUPREME PONTIFF FRANCIS INSTITUTING THE SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD (30 SEP 2019)

September 30, 2019 marked the inauguration of the 1600<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Saint Jerome, who died on this date in 420. Jerome is most well known for his Latin translation of the Holy Bible, known today as the *Vetus Latina*. Jerome’s translation is important for its corrections to the existing Latin translation of the New Testament and his work in translating the Old Testament directly from Hebrew into Latin. After the work of translation, Jerome contributed greatly to the Church through his commentaries on Scripture. In his *Commentary on the Book of Isaiah*, Jerome famously says, “Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ.” In this context and on the very memorial of St. Jerome, Pope Francis promulgated “*Aperuit Illis*”, the Apostolic Letter issued *motu proprio* instituting the *Sunday of the Word of God*.

### ✠ Sunday of the Word of God ✠

*Third Sunday in Ordinary Time*

(2020 - January 26<sup>th</sup>)

The Holy Father opens the letter with the appearance of Jesus to his disciples in Jerusalem after his Resurrection: “He opened their minds (*Aperuit illis*) to understand the Scriptures” (Luke 24:45). Thus, Francis situates Sacred Scripture within the life of the risen Lord and within the life of the Church. Francis draws these together, teaching with clarity:

*The relationship between the Risen Lord, the community of believers and sacred Scripture is essential to our identity as Christians. Without the Lord who opens our minds to them, it is impossible to understand the Scriptures in depth. Yet the contrary is equally true: without the Scriptures, the events of the mission of Jesus and of his Church in this world would remain incomprehensible. (no. 1)*

After providing pastoral, theological, and spiritual background for establishing the *Sunday of the Word of God*, Francis declares that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is to be the *Sunday of the Word*

of God, “devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the word of God” (no. 3). He then notes that this time of year is ecumenically valuable because Catholics are called to strengthen our bonds with the Jewish people and to participate with other Christians in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity from January 18<sup>th</sup> to January 25<sup>th</sup>.

For the remainder of this rich letter, the Holy Father examines the relationship of Scripture to...

- † *the People of God* (“The Bible is the book of the Lord’s people,” no. 4),
- † *Pastors, especially the importance of the homily* (no. 5),
- † *Catechists* (no. 5),
- † *faith in Christ* (“faith comes from hearing, and what is heard is based on the word of Christ,” nos. 6-7),
- † *the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist* (“the unbreakable bond between Sacred Scripture and the Eucharist,” no. 8),
- † *its purpose* (“which is our salvation”), *spiritual meaning, and incarnational principle* (no. 9),
- † *the work of the Holy Spirit in its human writing and interpretation* (nos. 10-12),
- † *the exercise of charity and mercy flowing from transformation through listening to God’s word* (“to listen to sacred Scripture and then to practice mercy: this is the great challenge before us in life,” nos. 13-14), and
- † *the Mother of the Lord, who “believed in the fulfillment of what the Lord had spoken to her”* (no. 15).

Throughout the *motu proprio*, Pope Francis offers suggestions for the solemn observance of the *Sunday of the Word of God* and for deepening our faith in Christ through Scripture:

- † *recommitting to have constant recourse to Sacred Scripture as the Word given to us in the Spirit for our salvation* (nos. 6-7,9-12);
- † *reading, appreciating, and praying with Sacred Scripture, especially through the practice of “lectio divina”* (see enclosure) (no. 3);
- † *at the Eucharist on the Sunday of the Word of God, enthroning the sacred text* (e.g., *the Book of the Gospels on the altar*), *highlighting the proclamation of the word and the homily, and the blessing of Readers* (see *Book of Blessings, chap. 61.I*) (no. 3);
- † *practicing charity and mercy* (no. 13);
- † *connecting Parish activities with the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>* (no. 3);
- † *fostering and promoting the ministry of Readers* (no. 3);
- † *fostering and promoting the ministry of Catechists* (no. 5);
- † *reading and appropriating anew the documents of the Second Vatican Council, especially the Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation “Dei Verbum”, as well as Church teaching flowing from the council such as Benedict XVI’s “Verbum Domini” and Francis’ “Evangelii Gaudium” and “Aperuit Illis”* (nos. 2, 5);
- † *revitalizing practices of preparing for and delivering homilies* (no. 5);
- † *praying to the saints, especially the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Jerome* (no. 15).

**Apostolic Letter “Aperuit Illis”:** [http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/motu\\_proprio/documents/papa-francesco-motu-proprio-20190930\\_aperuit-illis.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/motu_proprio/documents/papa-francesco-motu-proprio-20190930_aperuit-illis.html)

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## CATECHESIS on BLESSINGS during COMMUNION

In order to assist pastoral ministers with the implementation of the *Norms for the Celebration of the Eucharist*, *Norms for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion*, and *Norms for Servers*, this month’s bulletin includes a catechesis on blessings during Communion.

The Diocese of Arlington’s *Norms for the Celebration of the Eucharist* treats blessings during Communion. The *Norms* discourages clergy from giving blessings during Communion because liturgical blessings within Mass are properly an act of the Priest or Bishop and because the proper place of blessing individuals present at Mass is the final blessing. The *Norms* prohibits lay persons from blessing within Mass because liturgical blessings are reserved to ordained ministers whenever they are present. The *Norms* also discourages gestures that could be confused with blessings,

especially the laying on of hands, which has its own sacramental significance.

A more detailed, one-page catechesis is enclosed. It may be used at the discretion of each Pastor in a manner most suitable to the parish, such as a bulletin insert or catechetical instruction.

**Diocesan Liturgical Norms:** [www.arlingtondiocese.org/diocesanliturgicalcommission](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/diocesanliturgicalcommission)

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## NPM FALL LITURGY DAY

✠ **Saturday, November 9, 2019** ✠  
*Saint Bernadette Catholic Church (Springfield)*

On August 6<sup>th</sup> Bishop Burbidge issued new liturgical norms for the Diocese of Arlington. Come learn what they are and how they affect the singing Church in Arlington. (*flier enclosed*)

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## CONFIRMATIONS *in the* DIOCESE of ARLINGTON

**Confirmations for Parishes:** Liturgy forms are due on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month in the month prior to the scheduled Confirmation. Drafts of the program are due on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**Confirmation according to the Extraordinary Form:** Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm, Cathedral of Saint Thomas More. Candidates and Sponsors, please check in: Msgr. Burke Hall, 6:00pm.

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## LITURGY WORKSHOPS: FOSTERING PARTICIPATION *in* SACRED LITURGY

The Liturgy Workshops, presented by the Office of Divine Worship of the Diocese of Arlington, provide formation for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (required for new ministers), Readers, and all the faithful. Remaining workshops in Fall 2019 will be offered as follows:

- ✠ Sat, Oct 05 • 10a (EMHC) | 12p (Presentation) | 1:30p (Reader) • St James (Falls Church)
- ✠ Sat, Oct 19 • 10a (EMHC) | 12p (Presentation) | 1:30p (Reader) • St Veronica (Chantilly)

**More Information:** [www.arlingtondiocese.org/liturgyworkshops](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/liturgyworkshops)

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## NOTES *on the* LITURGICAL YEAR: OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2019

**October 5, 2019:** The optional memorial of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos is observed on this day in the United States. The proper texts in English are available on the USCCB's website at <http://www.usccb.org/about/divine-worship/liturgical-calendar/blessed-francis-xavier-seelos.cfm>.

**October 11, 2019:** The optional memorial of Saint John XXIII, Pope, is observed on this day. English translations of the proper texts prepared by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy have been approved by the USCCB (2018) but are awaiting confirmation from the Holy See. In the interim, for English celebrations the prayers are to be taken from the *Common of Pastors: For a Pope*. Aside from the readings of the day, the readings may be taken from the *Common of Pastors: For a Pope* or from no. 655A of the *Lectionary for Mass Supplement* (Ez 34:11-15, Ps 23, Jn 10:14, Jn 21:15-17). The Liturgy of the Hours follows the Psalmody of the day, with other elements from the Psalter of the day or the *Common of Pastors: For a Pope*.

*(continued on page 4)*

[ **NOTES** on the **LITURGICAL YEAR**, continued from page 3 ]

**October 22, 2019:** The optional memorial of Saint John Paul II, Pope, is observed on this day. The proper texts in Latin, English, and Spanish are available on the USCCB’s website at <http://www.usccb.org/about/divine-worship/liturgical-calendar/saint-john-paul-ii.cfm>.

**November 1-3, 2019:** Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup> is the Solemnity of All Saints, a holy day of obligation in the U.S. Evening Prayer I of the Solemnity is prayed on the evening of Thurs, Oct 31<sup>st</sup>, and Evening Prayer II of the Solemnity is prayed on the evening of Fri, Nov 1<sup>st</sup>. Sat, Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> is All Souls’ Day. On Sat evening, Evening Prayer I of the 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time is prayed; however, if Evening Prayer is celebrated with the people, then Evening Prayer II of the Office of the Dead may be used. In the Diocese of Arlington, Masses celebrated after 4:00pm on Sat, Nov 1<sup>st</sup> are for the 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time.

**November 17, 2019:** Since 2016, the Thirty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time has been observed by the Catholic Church as the “World Day of the Poor.”

**November 28, 2019:** The United States of America observes Thanksgiving on the fourth Thursday of November. On this same day, the Diocese of Arlington observes a diocesan “Day of Prayer for the Harvest and Fruits of the Earth.” For Masses, the proper of the day is used. The Order for the Blessing of Food on Thanksgiving Day may be celebrated (*Book of Blessings*, nos. 1755-1780; *Catholic Household Book of Blessings and Prayers*, nos. 177-179 and 312-314).

Full notes on the Liturgical Year for 2019 can be found at [www.arlingtondiocese.org/liturgicalyear](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/liturgicalyear).

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## **DIVINE WORSHIP NEWS** from the **VATICAN**, **USCCB**, **FDLC**, & **NPM**

On September 27, 2019, the [Vatican] Office for Liturgical Celebrations announced the details for the Ordinary Public Consistory for the Creation of New Cardinals: Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 4:00pm (10:00am EDT), St. Peter’s Basilica. The same office announced the celebration of Holy Mass for the opening of the Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops for the Pan-Amazon Region: Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am (4:00am EDT), St. Peter’s Basilica.

On September 29, 2019—26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time—the Church observed the 105<sup>th</sup> World Day of Migrants and Refugees. In his homily at St. Peter’s Basilica, Pope Francis explained:

*[the World Day of Migrants and Refugees] is about all those in existential peripheries who, together with migrants and refugees, are victims of the throwaway culture,*

and he expounded on the Scriptures of the day, saying:

*God gave this holy commandment [to love God and to love our neighbor] to his people and sealed it with the blood of his Son Jesus, to be a source of blessing for all mankind.*

On September 30, 2019—memorial of Saint Jerome—Pope Francis issued the Apostolic Letter *motu proprio* entitled “*Aperuit Illis*”, instituting the Sunday of the Word of God. By the letter, the Supreme Pontiff establishes the *Sunday of the Word of God* on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time.

On October 3, 2019, the [Vatican] Office for Liturgical Celebrations announced the details for the Mass for the Canonization of Blesseds John Henry Newman, Giuseppina Vannini, Mariam Thresia Chiramel Mankidiyan, Dulce Lopes Pontes, and Marguerite Bays: Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 10:15am (4:00am EDT), St. Peter’s Basilica.