

Sunday and Feast Day Liturgical Notes for Priests and Deacons

Suggestions for Leading Worship



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RE: Liturgical Suggestions for the Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica – Cycle A

Sunday date: November 8-9, 2008

Dear Fathers and Deacons,

An Overview...

This feast began in Rome to commemorate the anniversary of the dedication of the bishop of Rome's cathedral, on land owned by the Laterani family, in 324 A.D. Honored as the episcopal seat of the pope as Bishop of Rome, it is the "mother and head of all churches of Rome and the world." With this in mind, however, the prayers of the liturgy stress the present Church, built of "living stones."

Faith Sharing Questions...

1. How do you understand the word "Church"? What is your experience of Church that shapes your understanding?
2. What does your local parish mean to you? Has this changed over time?

Some Other Considerations as You Prepare...

1. The prayers in the *Missal* are to be taken from the Common of a Dedication of a Church, Outside the Dedicated Church.
2. Consider using the Rite of Sprinkling today, or if you use the Penitential Rite here are some sample texts: “You are the source of our salvation and the cause of our joy; You are the living stone, the foundation of all believers; You are the stone rejected by the builder that has become the cornerstone.”
3. Use the second preface for the Dedication of a Church (Outside the Dedicated Church) in which the heart of the preface is not so much about the sacredness of a place but the holiness of our lives.
4. Use the Blessing for the Dedication of a Church, with the modification recalling the dedication of the pope’s Cathedral of St. John Lateran in Rome.

Looking Ahead...

1. There remains only two more weeks until Advent begins a new liturgical year, using Cycle B of the Sunday *Lectionary* and Year I of the weekday *Lectionary*.
2. Thanksgiving, the Solemnity of Christ the King, the First Sunday of Advent, and the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception are all approaching.
3. If you have purchased lector books for your regular readers, alert them to the need to prepare Cycle B readings beginning with the First Sunday of Advent.

Sample Intercessory Prayers for the Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

Priest: We offer our prayers as the Church to the Creator of all the world...

Deacon (or other reader if there is no deacon):

1. For the Church, built upon the foundation of Christ the cornerstone; may she remain faithful in aiding the salvation of the world; we pray to the Lord...
2. For this local parish; may we live in faithful discipleship with one another in ministry, service and prayer, we pray to the Lord...
3. For our newly-elected President and Vice-President; for all others newly-elected to public office in our country, state and local community; may these men and women serve us directed by the Holy Spirit's wisdom, we pray to the Lord...
4. For all who suffer in mind, body or spirit; for their healing and hope, we pray to the Lord...
5. For all who have died, [particularly those whose names are written in our Book of Remembrance]; may they rest in eternal peace, we pray to the Lord...
6. In peace and silence, we offer our needs to the Father.

[pause; the presider alone concludes]

Priest: Help us, O God,
to deepen our trust in your love
so that in all our needs we will turn to you.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.