



2025 Liturgy Letter
April 30, 2025

Dear Father, Deacon and Parishioners,

During our 2024 Fall Study Days, the priests of the archdiocese received ongoing formation on the sacred liturgy with a series of presentations and discussions facilitated by Fr. Paul Turner, who serves as the director for the Office of Divine Worship for the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph. By means of this letter, I wish to highlight certain principles highlighted during those days and call for their implementation throughout the archdiocese. At the same time, I want to call to mind my earlier letter on liturgical norms issued February 2, 2023, and request that we continue to work toward the full implementation of these liturgical norms which exist to foster the unity of our liturgical expression and strengthen the bond of the Mystical Body in our local Church. The contents of this letter and the policies and guidelines which will be associated with this letter are the result of consultation and discussion with the Liturgy Office, the Liturgical Commission and the presbyterate.

1. Nothing should ever be placed on the altar except those things prescribed for the celebration of the sacred liturgy, and only at the proper times. The chalice, ciboria, cruets and the Roman Missal should be kept at the credence table until the preparation of the altar (GIRM nn. 117,118).
2. A genuflection is made by bending the right knee to the ground. The practice of the “double genuflection,” bending both knees to the ground when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed was abrogated. Within the liturgy, our attention should be on the altar rather than the tabernacle. Thus, genuflecting to the tabernacle within liturgical celebrations is reserved only to those who are required to minister at the tabernacle.
3. The celebrant presides over the Introductory Rites and the Liturgy of the Word from the Chair, not from the altar (GIRM n. 50).
4. When the priest says “Let us pray” before the Collect, a period of silence should be observed so that the priest and people may become aware of being in God’s presence and may call to mind their intentions (GIRM 54). This is the proper time for all to recall their personal intentions rather than at the conclusion of the Universal Prayer which are the General Intercessions for the whole Church.
5. At least one corporal is needed for the celebration of Mass (GIRM n. 73). Care should be taken that the folding and unfolding of the corporal is carried out so that the practical function of the corporal is preserved, namely, that the corporal is to be folded in on itself to protect any remaining particles of the Blessed Sacrament.
6. During the preparation of the chalice, a sign of the cross is not made over the wine nor the water.
7. For the dismissal at the end of Mass, one of the four formulas must be used without alteration. The imperative “Go” is of vital importance.
 - a. Go forth the Mass is ended.

- b. Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.
- c. Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.
- d. Go in peace.

8. In Solemn Masses without a deacon, a concelebrating priest should assume the role of the deacon while wearing the vestments proper to the priest (GIRM n. 208). The following duties should be assigned to the priest acting as a deacon. They highlight the difference between presiding roles and ministerial roles.

- a. Carrying the book of Gospels in the entrance procession.
- b. Sitting beside the presider.
- c. Proclaiming the Gospel.
- d. Preparing the Altar.
- e. Elevating the chalice.
- f. Purifying the vessels.

9. Whenever Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament follows the celebration of Mass, the following is observed:

- a. A new host is consecrated for the monstrance, highlighting the connection between the Mass and the extended period of adoration before the exposed Blessed Sacrament.
- b. The consecrated host is exposed in the monstrance immediately following the distribution of Holy Communion.
- c. The priest then prays the prayer after Communion.
- d. Then, omitting the concluding rites of the Mass, he incenses the Blessed Sacrament while an appropriate hymn is sung.
- e. During the extended period of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, clergy and faithful may come and go depending on the length of the exposition. Periods of communal prayer should be planned for and should include prayers, hymns, readings of sacred scripture, and even a homily to foster the devotion and communal prayer of the faithful. The laity may be well formed to lead these times of communal prayer.
- f. Benediction should be given only after a suitably long period of time has passed, and it is normally connected to the concluding rites and the reposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

10. In addition to this letter, three separate documents will be issued to provide catechesis and guidance on the norms to be observed in the following celebrations:

- a. Policy for the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to the Homebound
- b. Policy and Procedures for Lay/Deacon Led Liturgies of the Word and Holy Communion
- c. Pastoral Guidelines on the Healing Ministry of the Church

Your support is needed to ensure that these norms can be effectively implemented by the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, Sunday, June 22, 2025.

Sincerely in Christ,



†Brian Joseph Dunn
Archbishop of Halifax-Yarmouth