



FIRST THURSDAYS OBSERVANCE

These Notes have been drawn from the Pastoral Notes provided in the *ORDO*, the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, and other notes in the *Roman Missal*, for use in the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth. [April 2024]

For centuries, various observances have marked the first Thursday of each month. These have most often been in relation to the Eucharist, the priesthood, and vocations. In this time of our Eucharistic Congress, we are encouraging parishes to mark the first Thursday of each month as a way of raising awareness of the Eucharistic Congress, to pray for a successful Congress, and to foster a Eucharistic lifestyle in our local Church.

You might wish to mark these Thursdays with special times of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. We are also encouraging the use of a Votive Mass in place of the usual daily Mass.

DATES

- Thursday, May 2
- Thursday, June 6
- Thursday, July 4
- Thursday, August 1
- Thursday, September 5
- Thursday, October 3

MASS

- Roman Missal

- We recommend the use of a Votive Mass of the Blessed Sacrament. This is the Mass Setting that will be used for the main Eucharistic Celebration during the Congress on Saturday, October 19. Roman Missal = p. 1324
- You may also use:
 - A Votive Mass of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest (p. 1321),
 - A Votive Mass of the Most Precious Blood (p. 1326),
 - The Mass of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (p. 475).
- Notes:
 - Guidelines for Votive Masses can be found at Roman Missal p. 1317.
 - Please note that May 2 is the Memorial of St. Athanasius, and August 1 is the Memorial of St. Alphonsus Liguori. Ordinarily, a Votive Mass may not replace an Obligatory Memorial, however considering this time of the Eucharistic Congress, Archbishop Dunn has given permission to celebrate a Votive Mass on these two dates. (With the exception of our churches dedicated to St. Alphonsus, for whom August 1 is a Solemnity).

- Readings

- For Votive Masses, may use the readings of the day from the Weekday Lectionary *or* you may choose from corresponding readings in the Blue Lectionary for Ritual and Votive Masses
- For the Mass of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, readings are taken from any year in the Lectionary for Sundays and Solemnities. Only one reading before the Gospel is needed. The Gloria and the Creed are not said.

- Universal Prayer

- A prayer for the congress or relating to the Eucharist might be used.