



DIOCESE OF GREEN BAY

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

April 19, 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Earlier this year our Holy Father, Pope Francis decreed that a new obligatory Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, be inscribed (added) to the General Roman Calendar of the Catholic Church for the Monday following Pentecost Sunday. This feast day will now be celebrated annually, as a Church, beginning this year, on Monday, May 21, 2018. You will find attached an announcement and resources from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and our Office of Divine Worship. This attachment provides the new texts and instructions for the celebration of Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours for the Memorial.

As we continue on our journey of discipleship formation, this new celebration provides us a wonderful opportunity to reflect upon the Blessed Mother's role within the life of the Church, not only in its beginnings following the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, but also ongoing today. In his decree establishing the Memorial, Pope Francis expresses he has added this celebration to the Church's calendar, *"having attentively considered how greatly the promotion of this devotion might encourage the growth of the maternal sense of the Church in the pastors, religious and faithful, as well as a growth of genuine Marian piety."*

Brothers and Sisters, let us turn to Mary under her title, as Mother of the Church, while we continue to grow closer to her son, Jesus Christ, who is *"head of the body, the church."* (Colossians 1:18). If you should have any questions in preparing for this celebration, please contact the Office of Divine Worship via phone at 920-272-8341 or email at [worship@gbdioc.org](mailto:worship@gbdioc.org).

I thank you for embracing this new Memorial in our liturgical calendar, and I pray that God blesses you with His very best in this Eastertide, as I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend David L. Ricken, DD, JCL  
Bishop of Green Bay

mp/dma



## OFFICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP

APRIL 18, 2018

### NEW MEMORIAL OF ‘THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH’ – MONDAY AFTER PENTECOST

In March 2018, a new obligatory **Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church**, was added to the General Roman Calendar. It will be celebrated annually on the Monday after Pentecost. (This year, that falls on Monday, May 21, 2018.)

**The newly-assigned orations and readings vary slightly from the Mass texts as found in the Roman Missal (Votive Masses #10) and the Lectionary for Mass (Volume IV, #1002).** There is also a change for the celebration of the **Liturgy of the Hours**. The Secretariat for Divine Worship of the USCCB has posted the new, printable texts at: <http://www.usccb.org/about/divine-worship/liturgical-calendar/mother-of-the-church.cfm> *(The new Lectionary texts have also been included on the following pages.)*

The new Memorial supersedes the rubric at the end of the Pentecost Mass that suggests that a Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit be celebrated on the Monday after Pentecost.

The title of the memorial was first used by Blessed Pope Paul VI soon after the Second Vatican Council. Mass texts were added to the second edition of the Roman Missal in 1975. Several conferences worldwide have already had the day on their particular calendars. It is now, however, a universal celebration.

Please contact the Office of Divine Worship with any questions at 920-272-8341 or [worship@gbdioc.org](mailto:worship@gbdioc.org).

Monday after Pentecost  
**THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH**  
Memorial

The readings for this memorial are proper.

**FIRST READING**

First Option

*The mother of all the living.*

A reading from the Book of Genesis

3:9-15, 20

After Adam had eaten of the tree,  
the LORD God called to him and asked him, “Where are you?”  
He answered, “I heard you in the garden;  
but I was afraid, because I was naked,  
so I hid myself.”  
Then he asked, “Who told you that you were naked?  
You have eaten, then,  
from the tree of which I had forbidden you to eat!”  
The man replied, “The woman whom you put here with me—  
she gave me fruit from the tree, and so I ate it.”  
The LORD God then asked the woman,  
“Why did you do such a thing?”  
The woman answered, “The serpent tricked me into it, so I ate it.”

Then the LORD God said to the serpent:  
“Because you have done this, you shall be banned  
from all the animals  
and from all the wild creatures;  
On your belly shall you crawl,  
and dirt shall you eat  
all the days of your life.  
I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and hers;  
He will strike at your head,  
while you strike at his heel.”

The man called his wife Eve,  
because she became the mother of all the living.

The word of the Lord.

OR:

Second Option

*All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer  
together with Mary, the mother of Jesus.*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

1:12-14

After Jesus had been taken up to heaven,  
the Apostles returned to Jerusalem  
from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem,  
a sabbath day's journey away.

When they entered the city  
they went to the upper room where they were staying,  
Peter and John and James and Andrew,  
Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew,  
James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot,  
and Judas son of James.

All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer,  
together with some women,  
and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

The word of the Lord.

## **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Psalm 87:1-2, 3 and 5, 6-7

**R.** (3) Glorious things are told of you, O city of God.

His foundation upon the holy mountains  
the LORD loves:  
The gates of Zion,  
more than any dwelling of Jacob.

**R.** Glorious things are told of you, O city of God.

Glorious things are said of you,  
O city of God!  
And of Zion they shall say:  
“One and all were born in her;  
And he who has established her  
is the Most High LORD.”

**R.** Glorious things are told of you, O city of God.

They shall note, when the peoples are enrolled:  
“This man was born there.”  
And all shall sing, in their festive dance:  
“My home is within you.”

**R.** Glorious things are told of you, O city of God.

## **ALLELUIA**

**R.** Alleluia, alleluia.

O happy Virgin, you gave birth to the Lord;  
O blessed mother of the Church,  
you warm our hearts with the Spirit of your Son Jesus Christ.

**R.** Alleluia, alleluia.

## GOSPEL

*Woman, behold your son. Behold your mother.*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

19:25-34

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother  
and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas,  
and Mary of Magdala.

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved,  
he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son."

Then he said to the disciple,  
"Behold, your mother."

And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

After this, aware that everything was now finished,  
in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled,  
Jesus said, "I thirst."

There was a vessel filled with common wine.

So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop  
and put it up to his mouth.

When Jesus had taken the wine, he said,  
"It is finished."

And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit.

Now since it was preparation day,  
in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the sabbath,  
for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one,  
the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken  
and they be taken down.

So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first  
and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus.

But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead,  
they did not break his legs,  
but one soldier thrust his lance into his side,  
and immediately Blood and water flowed out.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church inscribed in the General Roman Calendar by decree of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, February 11, 2018 (Prot. n. 10/18); interim Lectionary texts published by authority of the Committee on Divine Worship, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

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