

## DIGITAL PRAYER RESOURCE

For a limited time during this crisis, the faithful, particularly those who are ill or at high risk if exposed to the coronavirus, may have access to morning and evening prayer as well as the Mass texts and readings by accessing this digital resource:

[www.giveusthisday.org/Digital](http://www.giveusthisday.org/Digital)

## COPYRIGHT PERMISSIONS IN LIGHT OF THE CORONAVIRUS

### PERMISSION TO USE THE READINGS AND PRAYERS FROM THE ROMAN MISSAL FOR LIVESTREAMED LITURGY:

Mary Sperry who oversees copyright permissions from the USCCB has issued the following notice:

In light of the health precautions that may become necessary in the coming days and weeks, the USCCB, CCD, and ICEL are waiving any need to request permission to use readings or Mass prayers in a livestreamed liturgy. This applies to both English and Spanish readings and orations.

### PERMISSION TO USE MUSIC FOR LIVESTREAMED LITURGY:

**ONELICENSE** has offered the following for their subscribers and for those who are using music covered by their license for livestream purposes during the coronavirus:

ONE LICENSE is able to provide two different gratis license options valid through April 15, 2020.

A ONE LICENSE Reprint License grants churches, schools, religious communities, retreat centers, and other worshiping bodies permission to reprint or project music for their congregations from any of our Member Publishers. A ONE LICENSE Podcast / Streaming License grants permission to podcast or stream religious services that contain music from our Member Publishers. For new customers or for existing customers who do not already have a Podcast / Streaming License, ONE LICENSE is able to offer a one-month gratis license, **valid through April 15, 2020**.

Additionally, their team has launched a blog post with helpful tips on navigating community worship during this extraordinary time. This post aims to educate our License Holders on the benefits of using projection screens, tablets, and other personal devices to limit the use of shared worship materials.

For more information, go to [www.onelicense.net](http://www.onelicense.net)

## OTHER MUSIC PUBLISHERS

The broadcast of music requires different licensing than parishes have for the reproduction of music for worship aids. At this time, please contact the following publishers directly if you use their resources to learn the implications of livestreaming their music.

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## Guidelines for Televising the Liturgy

*The following guidelines were approved by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops at its November 1996 plenary meeting. These guidelines are offered as a resource for diocesan bishops and communication and liturgy personnel entrusted with the televising of liturgies.*

*(Note: This text was updated in January 2014 to conform citations of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal [GIRM] to the edition found in the Roman Missal, Third Edition, as well as to insert two citations from Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship [2007] that match updated guidelines of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.)*

### Introduction

The Church at worship is God's priestly people called together and united with Christ in a sacred work through which God is glorified and we are made holy (cf. *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, [SC] #7). In the eucharistic assembly, in the proclamation of the Word, and in the celebration of the sacraments, God is present in our midst. The *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* reminds us that "all who are made children of God by faith and baptism should come together to praise God in the midst of his Church, to take part in the sacrifice, and to eat the Lord's Supper" (SC, #10).

Yet being a part of the Sunday worshiping assembly is not always possible for all members of the community. Some people have been hospitalized, home-bound, or imprisoned and do not have the opportunity to be physically present with a regular worshiping community. For this reason, many dioceses telecast the Mass and other liturgies as a way of reaching out to those who cannot be physically present for the community's celebration of the eucharist. The televised Mass is never a substitute for the Church's pastoral care for the sick in the form of visits by parish ministers who share the Scriptures and bring Communion, nor is it ever a substitute for the Sunday Mass celebrated within a parish faith community each week. However, televising the Mass is a ministry by which the Church uses modern technology to bring the Lord's healing and comfort to those who cannot physically participate in the liturgical life of the local Church and who often experience a sense of isolation from the parish and its regular forms of prayer and worship. In addition, many regard televised liturgies as a means of evangelization, of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ and promoting the Church's worship via modern means of communication (cf. *Inter Mirifica*, #14).

The *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* clearly articulated the primary importance of the faithful's "full, conscious, and active participation" which is called for "by the very nature of the Liturgy" and which is their "right and duty" by reason of their baptism (SC, #14). As members of the worshiping assembly, we are called to join the offering of ourselves with the offering of Christ. Thus, our participation in the eucharist involves both internal and external expression including, but not limited to, an attitude of prayer and attention, physical movement, sentiments of praise and adoration, and joining in the sung and recited responses.

Telecasts, by their very nature, attempt to connect people and places that are physically separated. While there may be a tendency for the medium of television, with its inherent lack of physical interaction, to lead people to more passive roles as spectators, some elements of the telecasts can engage the viewers as participants. Although the televised Mass is not a substitute for participation in

the actual celebration of the Church's liturgy, it does provide an opportunity for those unable to be physically present 1) to identify with a worshipping community, 2) to hear the Word of God, 3) and to be moved to expressions of praise and thanksgiving.

Diocesan liturgists and communication specialists who work to provide the televising of the Sunday Liturgy offer a special service, often under very difficult conditions. It takes special skills and pastoral sensitivity to produce a televised celebration of the Mass that is liturgically sound, given the limits imposed by the medium itself and the difficulties often associated with the availability of air time and the funding of such broadcasts.

The *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* notes that "Radio and television broadcasts of sacred rites must be marked by discretion and dignity, under the leadership and direction of a competent person appointed for this office by the bishops. This is especially important when the service to be broadcast is the Mass" (SC, #20).

In many instances, the Church does not have complete control over the televising of the liturgy. The Church is a guest in an environment not its own and constraints (length of air time, time of telecast, setting, etc.) are often imposed that are less than ideal. In addition, dioceses and religious groups are finding it very difficult even to be able to purchase air time for a telecast at an hour that is reasonable for viewers who are sick or elderly. For these reasons, a joint Task Force representing the Committee on Communications and the Committee on the Liturgy of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops developed the following considerations to assist bishops and to guide those who are responsible for televising the liturgy.

### **Principles**

The first requirement for good telecast liturgies is good liturgical celebration. When the Mass or other liturgies are televised, those responsible for the planning, production, and celebration must make every effort to respect basic liturgical principles, including:

- giving careful attention to the modes of Christ's presence in the liturgy, e.g., the Word, the eucharistic bread and wine, the assembly, the priest (SC, #7);
- following the directives of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM)*;
- the full, conscious, and active participation of the faithful;
- the integrity of the liturgical year;
- a homily addressed to the assembly, while taking into account those who watch on television (GIRM, #65);
- the appropriate use of trained liturgical ministers;
- the use of live liturgical music that fits the celebration;
- a sense of noble simplicity;
- the good use of liturgical space;
- an unhurried, reverent pace;

- an awareness of and visual contact with the viewing congregation;
- notification to the viewers when the Mass is pre-recorded.

## **Models**

There are a number of models that may be used when the Mass is televised. Each model will be further enhanced if texts for the liturgy to be celebrated -- including scripture readings and music -- are made available to viewers of the televised Mass, and if local parishes arrange for communion to be taken to the viewers of the televised Mass so that their reception of communion coincides with the end of the televised Mass.

### **Live Telecast**

Ideally, the Mass is telecast "live," in real time, as it is celebrated. Here, the viewer is able to join in the prayer of a worshipping community as the liturgy is celebrated. The liturgical days and seasons are respected and the worship setting as well as an actual praying community help the viewer to participate with an attitude of prayerful attention and internal participation.

### **Delayed Telecast**

A second model is that of taping the Sunday Mass as it takes place in a local community and telecasting it at a later time that same day. This model is less than ideal because the telecast is separated from the actual celebration of the liturgy. However, it respects the nature of the liturgy and the liturgical season when it is celebrated (and telecast) on the actual liturgical day and allows those who watch and pray to identify with an actual community in its worship. This form of telecast is more difficult for dioceses and television stations because of the short time between taping and telecast and the limited number of personnel available on the weekend.

### **Pre-recorded Telecast**

A third model is that of pre-recording the liturgy for broadcast at a later date. While we understand that some dioceses may not be able to use either of the first two models, using the third model will require greater care to be able to overcome the following limitations of this model:

- The liturgy that is pre-recorded is often celebrated outside the liturgical day or season (e.g., taping "Christmas morning Mass" on Monday of the fourth week of Advent).
- The assembly is not a community which regularly gathers for the celebration of the liturgy. Often it is a group of people who gather together specifically for the purpose of televising the liturgy.
- Time constraints that are placed on the liturgy often control the flow of the liturgy (limiting the number of readings, length of homily, choices of music and other options) rather than allowing the liturgy to flow at an unhurried pace.
- Editing the liturgy by cutting out particular elements of the Mass, or by using special effects to enhance the liturgy artificially (e.g., superimposing a crucifix on the host during the elevation, the incorporation of outside images), should not be done.

- The studio format and techniques may be distracting for those gathered to celebrate the eucharist in that setting and may make the priest and other ministers appear to be actors rather than leaders of public worship.

## **Guidelines**

Given the communal nature of liturgical prayer, it may, at times, be preferable to televise some forms of prayer other than the eucharist, such as Morning or Evening Prayer, a Liturgy of the Word, or Scripture services. However, when a liturgy (especially the Sunday Mass) is to be televised, the following guidelines are suggested:

### **1. Responsibility of the Diocesan Bishop**

The bishop of a diocese in which a televised Mass is produced has the responsibility to see that liturgical law is carefully observed, especially regarding the liturgical feasts and seasons, the use of approved liturgical texts and translations of Scripture, proper vesture, and ministers fulfilling their proper roles in the liturgy. Since these telecasts often cross diocesan lines, collegial responsibility should be exercised by the bishops involved (*SC, #22 and Inter Mirifica, #20*).

### **2. Live vs. Pre-recorded Celebrations**

Whenever possible, the liturgy should be telecast live. When this is not possible, consideration may be given to pre-recording the liturgy. A liturgy that is pre-recorded for delayed telecast should be taped as it is celebrated in a local worshiping community and then be telecast at a later time on the same day. Only when neither of these options is possible, should the liturgy be taped in advance in a setting other than a regularly scheduled liturgy celebrated by a local worshiping community. In order to reflect the integrity of the liturgical year, a pre-recorded liturgy should be taped on a date as close as possible to the date of the actual telecast. In order to preserve the sacred character of the liturgical celebration, only one liturgy should be recorded on a given day with the same group of people.

### **3. Time Constraints**

The celebration of the liturgy should not be rushed, nor should elements of the liturgy be omitted. Those responsible for planning, production, and presiding need to be sensitive to the requirements of the liturgy as well as the time constraints of television. For the integrity of the liturgy, those who produce the televised liturgy should be discouraged from editing out parts of the Mass (e.g., the Gloria, one of the readings). Planning and the careful choice of options can help to keep the celebration within the particular time frame.

### **4. The Assembly**

No other single factor affects the liturgy as much as the attitude, style, and bearing of the celebrant (*Music in Catholic Worship, #21; see Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship [2007], #18*). Therefore, the priest who is to preside at a televised liturgy should be carefully chosen and properly prepared. Since the liturgy is the work of Christ and the work of God's people, the televised Mass should always be celebrated within a living community of God's people whose presence reveals the full, conscious and active participation of the faithful. Even when the liturgy to be televised is taped apart from a regularly scheduled parish liturgy, there should always be a group of people who participate in the liturgy as fully as possible by their prayer, song, and presence.

## 5. **The Word**

Whenever possible, the Word of God should be proclaimed in its entirety. When time is a concern, the short forms in the *Lectionary* may be used. Since the homily is an integral part of the liturgy and necessary for the nurturing of the Christian life, there should always be a homily for the televised Sunday Mass (*GIRM*, #65). The homilist needs to be sensitive to the needs of the gathered assembly and of those who will be viewing the telecast.

## 6. **Music**

Music is very important in televising liturgical celebrations. The televised Mass, especially on Sunday, should normally include the sung acclamations; i.e., Alleluia, Holy, Holy, Memorial Acclamation, Great Amen. Ideally, the responsorial psalm should also be sung. Other appropriate songs may be sung as time permits. Additional musical selections should correspond to their placement in the liturgy and not simply be used as occasions for performance. The use of pre-recorded music, even to accompany the congregation's singing, is not appropriate for the liturgy (*Music in Catholic Worship*, #54 and *Liturgical Music Today*, #60; see *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship* [2007], #93).

## 7. **Liturgical Environment**

When using a setting other than a church or chapel, every effort should be made to create an environment which is fitting and conducive to the celebration of the liturgy (*GIRM*, #288). Provision should be made for proper vesture, worthy vessels, appropriate liturgical furniture, suitable musical instruments, and an arrangement of the liturgical space that encourages a reverent posture and attitude of the participants.

## **Conclusion**

The purpose of these guidelines is to assist the bishops in their role of overseeing both the celebration and the telecast of the church's liturgy. In addition, the principles will be helpful for those most directly involved with the preparation and televising of the Mass. As noted earlier, the telecast of the Sunday Mass offers a unique challenge to liturgists and communication personnel. Limited access to air time, the constraints of time and personnel, and the resources needed for a telecast that is liturgically and technically effective create special difficulties for those who provide this pastoral service. We are grateful to liturgists and communication experts who collaboratively utilize their skills to make effective use of the medium of television to help people connect with the Church's worship.

Much more could be said and greater specificity could be given in these guidelines. The guidelines are intentionally limited, however, to allow as much latitude as possible for the local bishop in overseeing the telecasting of the liturgy. These guidelines are provided for bishops to use as the basis for their important work of overseeing the celebration of the liturgy in their dioceses.