

OFFICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP OFFICE
ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK
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Memorandum

To: All Priests
From: Office of Divine Worship
Re: **May 21, 2018 — Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Mother of the Church**
Date: May 4, 2018

Pope Francis has decreed that a new Obligatory Memorial of the **Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church**, should be inscribed in the General Roman Calendar. This Memorial is celebrated every year on the **Monday after Pentecost, beginning May 21, 2018**. (see attached decree issued February 11, 2018, by the Congregation of Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments) Attachments are included for the Votive Mass texts and proper readings.

Below are the proper liturgical texts for the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church:

ROMAN MISSAL

A full Mass formulary — including Collect, Prayer over the Offerings, Preface, Prayer after Communion, and Entrance and Communion Antiphons — is already included within the *Roman Missal*. White vestments are worn.

From the Votive Masses: 10. Blessed Virgin Mary, B. Our Lady, Mother of the Church.

LECTIONARY FOR MASS

A set of proper (i.e. mandatory) readings has been assigned for this new memorial. Since the precise verses and acclamation are not found together in any one place in the *Lectionary for Mass*, the USCCB Secretariat of Divine Worship has prepared a PDF resource of the readings to facilitate their use. (*see attached*)

572A — The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church (Memorial)

The readings for this memorial are proper.

First Reading — Genesis 3:9-15, 20

The mother of all the living.

or: Acts 1:12-14

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

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

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

Gospel Acclamation

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.

Gospel — John 19:25-34

Behold, your Son. Behold, your mother.

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

An English version of the proper texts for the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church will be included in the *Liturgy of the Hours, Second Edition*, after translation by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy, approval by the USCCB, and confirmation by the Holy See.

Office of Readings, Morning Prayer, and Evening Prayer

Psalmody of the day. Other elements from the Psalter of the day or the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, except for the following:

Prayer

O God, Father of mercies,

whose Only Begotten Son, as he hung upon the Cross,

chose the Blessed Virgin Mary, his Mother,

to be our Mother also,

grant, we pray, that with her loving help

your Church may be more fruitful day by day

and, exulting in the holiness of her children,

may draw to her embrace all the families of the peoples.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever.