



DIOCESE OF BUFFALO
OFFICE OF WORSHIP

**Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest
The Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion**

The following rite is for emergencies only, i.e. when a priest does not arrive to celebrate a scheduled Mass.

It is not to be used on weekdays or to plan in advance for the absence of a priest (i.e. for a pastor's day off or due to lack of available scheduled clergy. (Often referred to as "Communion Services" this rite is not meant as a replacement for scheduled Masses and should not be celebrated on a regular basis.)

In place of the priest, a trained, commissioned Eucharistic Minister or acolyte may celebrate the following rite. (A deacon may celebrate the rite as well, but what follows is adapted for a lay, non-ordained minister.)

The celebration begins without a procession. There is no entrance antiphon or hymn, but instrumental music may be played.

When all have taken their place, the leader of prayer (hereafter “minister”) stands at a place *other than behind the altar or at the chair designated for the priest*, but stands at a central place, facing the gathered assembly, and then begins the celebration with the following introduction:

**We gather here to celebrate the Lord’s Day.
Sunday has been called the Lord’s Day because it was on this day
that Jesus conquered sin and death and rose to new life.**

**Unfortunately, we are not able to celebrate the Mass today
because we do not have a priest.**

**Let us be united in the spirit of Christ
with the Church around the world
and celebrate our redemption
in Christ’s suffering, Death, and Resurrection.**

Sign of the Cross & Greeting — All Stand

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

**Grace and peace to you from God our Father
and from the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Blessed be God for ever.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

Opening Prayer

Minister: Let us pray.

All present pray in silence for a short time. Then, with hands extended, the minister says the prayer that follows, according to the proper time of the year.

Please choose from the options given on pages 4-8.

Opening Prayer — Ordinary Time and Feasts/Solemnities

**Praise to you, O God, our Father,
for you give us this first day of the week to restore our hope,
to refresh our spirits,
and inspire us for works of mercy, charity, and apostolic service.**

**On this day that belongs to you, we recall in faith that day when
Christ rose from the dead; and with great fervor we look forward to
the future of Christ's return.**

**May our gathering this Sabbath day lead us to a deeper solidarity of
faith and a profound sense of gratitude for the grace of our Baptism.**

**May our prayer lead us to a love for the poor,
a greater respect for the dignity of human life,
and the liberation of the oppressed.**

**As we remember the Resurrection of your Christ,
may we receive the life-giving breath of the Holy Spirit,
so that we might be effective witnesses of the Gospel.**

**To you belong all glory and honor and power
both now and forever. *Amen.***

Opening Prayer — Advent

Blessed are you, Father, Holy and Divine Creator.

**All creation comes from your hand;
the entire universe bears the imprint of your goodness.**

**You call us not only to inhabit the earth,
but also to build it and thus become your co-workers.**

**You give us a Sabbath day of rest
when men and women everywhere raise their song to you
and become the voice of all creation.**

**What you accomplished in creation
and wrought for your people in the Exodus
has found its fullest expression in Christ's death and Resurrection.**

**And so we remember on this first day of the week
the salvation which you have given us in baptism
and which has made us a new creation in Christ.**

**In these Advent days when we prepare for the coming of the Lord in
glory and the celebration of his birth into the human family,
we pray, O God, that you would remove from our hearts
whatever might hinder us from receiving Christ with joy.**

**We praise you, Almighty God and Father, for there is no greater
power that saves and no greater love and mercy,
than that which comes from you
through your Son, Jesus Christ,
in communion with the Holy Spirit, both now and forever. *Amen.***

Opening Prayer — Christmas

Blessed are you, Father, Holy and Divine Creator.

**All creation comes from your hand;
the entire universe bears the imprint of your goodness.**

**You call us not only to inhabit the earth,
but also to build it and thus become your co-workers.**

**You give us a Sabbath day of rest
when men and women everywhere raise their song to you
and become the voice of all creation.**

**What you accomplished in creation
and wrought for your people in the Exodus
has found its fullest expression in Christ's death and Resurrection.**

**And so we remember on this first day of the week
the salvation which you have given us in baptism
and which has made us a new creation in Christ.**

**We give you glory, O God in the highest, for the new light that has
dawned upon the world. In Jesus, Emmanuel, we see your love
revealed before our eyes and stand in awe before the mysterious
marriage between heaven and earth.**

**We praise you, Almighty God and Father, for there is no greater
power that saves and no greater love and mercy,
than that which comes from you
through your Son, Jesus Christ,
in communion with the Holy Spirit, both now and forever. *Amen.***

Opening Prayer — Lent

Blessed are you, Father, Holy and Divine Creator.

**All creation comes from your hand;
the entire universe bears the imprint of your goodness.**

**You call us not only to inhabit the earth,
but also to build it and thus become your co-workers.**

**You give us a Sabbath day of rest
when men and women everywhere raise their song to you
and become the voice of all creation.**

**What you accomplished in creation
and wrought for your people in the Exodus
has found its fullest expression in Christ's death and Resurrection.**

**And so we remember on this first day of the week
the salvation which you have given us in baptism
and which has made us a new creation in Christ.**

**Acknowledging our sins, we pray, O God, for the gift of true
repentance and genuine conversion. Renew the grace of our baptism
within us and inspire us to express our love for you in our service of
others.**

**We praise you, Almighty God and Father, for there is no greater
power that saves and no greater love and mercy,
than that which comes from you
through your Son, Jesus Christ,
in communion with the Holy Spirit, both now and forever. *Amen.***

Opening Prayer — Easter

Blessed are you, Father, Holy and Divine Creator.

**All creation comes from your hand;
the entire universe bears the imprint of your goodness.**

**You call us not only to inhabit the earth,
but also to build it and thus become your co-workers.**

**You give us a Sabbath day of rest
when men and women everywhere raise their song to you
and become the voice of all creation.**

**What you accomplished in creation
and wrought for your people in the Exodus
has found its fullest expression in Christ's death and Resurrection.**

**And so we remember on this first day of the week
the salvation which you have given us in baptism
and which has made us a new creation in Christ.**

**The Good News of Easter fills our hearts with joy as we remember
Christ's victory over sin and death. In him, who offered his life on
the Cross, a broken world has been renewed and the promise of
eternal life made sure.**

**We praise you, Almighty God and Father, for there is no greater
power that saves and no greater love and mercy,
than that which comes from you
through your Son, Jesus Christ,
in communion with the Holy Spirit, both now and forever. *Amen.***

The Liturgy of the Word

The readings and the Psalm are those assigned by the *Lectionary for Mass* for the particular Sunday. A reader other than the minister should proclaim the readings/psalm. (The psalm may be sung.)

The Gospel Acclamation is sung before the proclamation of the Gospel. However, a lay minister omits the greeting (“The Lord be with you...”) and instead proceeds directly to “A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to...”

Reflection on the Readings — The pastor may prepare ahead of time a seasonal reflection to be read by the minister. A period of sacred silence should follow. (A reflection is not required; only deacons are delegated to preach.)

Dismissal of Catechumens (if applicable)

**Catechumens, go in peace,
and may the Lord remain with you always.**

The Profession of Faith follows using either the Nicene or Apostles’ Creed.

Prayers of the Faithful — Introduction

**In faith and humility,
let us offer our needs to the God of compassion.**

Prayers of the Faithful — Conclusion

**O God, our refuge and our strength, hear the prayers of your Church,
for you yourself are the source of all devotion, and grant, we pray,
that what we ask in faith we may truly obtain. Through Christ our
Lord. *Amen.***

Communion Rite

The minister goes to the place where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved, genuflects, takes the ciborium containing the Body of the lord, and places it on the altar.

The Lord's Prayer — The minister returns to their chair and invites all present:

**The Father provides us with food for eternal life.
Let us pray for nourishment and strength.**

(All)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

Invitation to Communion — The minister then goes to the altar and genuflects. Taking the host, the minister raises it slightly over the vessel or ciborium, and facing the people, says:

**Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.**

(All)

**Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

Communion — The minister reverently consumes the Body of Christ and other extraordinary ministers, if needed, distribute the Eucharist to the congregation as usual.

Act of Thanksgiving — The minister invites all to an Act of Thanksgiving, in which the faithful praise the glory and mercy of God. This can be done by the use of a psalm, a canticle, hymn, a litany of praise, or a prayer.

Announcements (if any)

Invitation to Pray for Vocations to the Priesthood

Mindful of the Lord’s word, “Ask the Master of the harvest to send out laborers for the harvest,” let us pray for an increase of vocations to the priesthood.

May our prayer hasten the day when we will be able to take part in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist every Sunday.

Dismissal — Made with no greeting (The Lord be with you...) and no gesture.

**May the Lord bless us,
protect us from all evil,
and bring us to everlasting life. *Amen.***

Sign of Peace

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

A song, instrumental music or choral anthem of the day may conclude the celebration.