

# SCHEMA FOR LITURGICAL CATECHESIS

*in preparation for the Implementation of the English Translation of the Third Edition of the Roman Missal  
February – December, 2011*

## **Introduction: How and Why to use this Schema**

The implementation of the English translation of the Third Edition of the *Roman Missal* provides us with an excellent opportunity for liturgical catechesis – an opportunity to explore as a Church the meaning of the Mass: what we do at the Mass and why we do it. This implementation will also present us with the challenge of how to prepare our communities for change and how to explain the changes in the translation of texts for the Mass, especially with those who worship in our churches on a regular basis. At the same time, parish leaders will also need to think about how to present the changes of translation in the Third Edition of the *Roman Missal* to those who do not worship in our churches on a regular basis – those who come to us for weddings and funerals, Christmas and Easter, or at other occasional times.

This *Schema of Liturgical Catechesis* is meant to provide a starting point – some initial reflections – for priests, liturgy committees, faith formation teams, catechists, and other parish leaders in the months leading up to the November 27, 2011, implementation date. For each Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation, themes are taken from the Scripture readings from the Lectionary that could provide for liturgical catechesis in homilies, small group discussions, prayer services, or catechetical sessions. From the First Sunday of Lent through the middle of September, most of the themes are designed for general liturgical catechesis, without direct reference to the Third Edition of the *Roman Missal*. Beginning in the middle of September and continuing through the end of December, the focus shifts to themes that primarily help to prepare for the new translations. Again, these themes are just beginning ideas – they are not exhaustive of possible connections between the Lectionary readings and the liturgy.

A few notes of caution. While liturgical themes are given for every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation, I would not recommend that liturgical catechesis occupy every homily or catechetical session during this time period. Each parish or community will want to decide how best to approach liturgical catechesis for their community, choosing occasional opportunities to catechize on the liturgy. Beginning in fall 2011, a more concentrated and direct effort at catechesis will help to prepare the regular worshipping community for the implementation of the revised translation. Also, the themes included in this guide can inform preaching or catechesis without direct reference to the revised translation. For example, there will need to be catechesis on the revised translation of *pro multis* in the Eucharistic Prayers (from *for all* in our current translation to *for many* in the revised translation). One of the scriptural references for *pro multis* is proclaimed on Good Friday; but that would not be an appropriate time for a catechesis on the revised translation. But knowing the text of the revised translation might inform a brief reflection on Good Friday on the connection Jesus made between himself and the Suffering Servant of Isaiah. Simply making that connection would plant a seed that could be revisited later in the year. On the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, the Second Reading from 1 Peter provides an opportunity to reflect on the truth of the faith that Christ died for all. Once again, this Scripture reading might provide an opportunity to plant a seed of this teaching that could be revisited later in the year during a more direct catechesis on *pro multis*.

I compiled this schema initially for my own use in guiding liturgical catechesis and formation for the Third Edition of the *Roman Missal* in the parish where I serve as pastor. It is my hope that others may find these reflections helpful in their ministry. Again, these are suggestions and starting points – not an exhaustive plan for catechesis or formation. And if anyone has points to add to this schema, please let me know. May God bless your ministry and service of the people of God through the Eucharistic liturgy.

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Liturgical Theme</b>	<b>RM3 Theme</b>
March 13 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent	Gen. 2.7-9, 3.1-7 Ps. 51 Rom. 5.12-19 Mt. 4.1-11	Penitential Rite (Psalm, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading) The Word of God (Gospel) The Lord's Prayer, "lead us not into temptation" (Gospel)	
March 20 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent	Gen. 12.1-4a Ps. 33 2 Tim. 1.8b-10 Mt. 17.1-9	Blessing at end of Mass (1 <sup>st</sup> Reading)	
March 27 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent	Ex. 17.3-7 Ps. 95 Rom. 5.1-2, 5-8 Jn. 4.5-42	Worship "in spirit and truth" (Gospel) Liturgy as a source of living water leading to eternal life (Gospel)	
April 3 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	1 Sam. 16.1b, 6-7, 10-13a Ps. 23 Eph. 5.8-14 Jn. 9.1-41	Not judging by appearance/ hospitality and welcome in the liturgical assembly (1 <sup>st</sup> Reading) Jesus as the Light of the World – symbolism of candles (Gospel)	"I believe" – Creed (Gospel)
April 10 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	Ezek. 37.12-14 Ps. 130 Rom. 8.8-11 Jn. 11.1-45	Jesus (in Eucharist) as source of new life (Gospel) The Paschal Mystery (death and life) at the heart of the liturgy (Gospel)	

April 17 Palm Sunday	Mt. 21.1-11 Isa. 50.4-7 Ps. 22 Phil. 2.6-11 Mt. 26.14-27.66	“Hosanna in the highest” (Procession Gospel) The self-sacrifice of Christ at Calvary and in the Eucharist (Gospel)	
April 21 Holy Thursday	Ex. 12.1-8, 11-14 Ps. 116 1 Cor. 11.23-26 Jn. 13.1-15	Image of the lamb – <i>Lamb of God</i> (1 <sup>st</sup> Reading) Institution Narrative (2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading) The liturgy that has been handed on to us (2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading) Liturgy and Service (Gospel)	
April 22 Good Friday	Isa. 52.13-53.12 Ps. 31 Heb. 4.14-16, 5.7-9 Jn. 18.1-19.42		<i>Pro multis</i> – for many (1 <sup>st</sup> Reading)
April 24 Easter	Acts 10.34a, 37-43 Ps. 118 Col. 3.1-4 <i>or</i> 1 Cor. 5.6b-8 Jn. 20.1-9 <i>or</i> Mt. 28.1-10	Ongoing witness to the death and resurrection: taking the liturgy into the world (1 <sup>st</sup> Reading/Gospel [Mt.]) Renewal of Baptismal Promises/ the responsibility of the baptized in the liturgy	
May 1 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter/ Divine Mercy Sunday	Acts. 2.42-47 Ps. 118 1 Pt. 1.3-9 Jn. 20.19-31	The “Breaking of the Bread” (1 <sup>st</sup> Reading) Sign of Peace (Gospel) The “first day of the week” – Sunday as the Lord’s Day (Gospel)	An “inheritance with your elect”/EP III (2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading)
May 8 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter	Acts 2.14, 22-33 Ps. 16 1 Pt. 1.17-21 Lk. 24.13-35	Reverent conduct in the presence of God (2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading) Lamb of God (2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading) Blood of Christ (2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading) Interpreting Scripture (Gospel) Breaking Bread (Gospel)	
May 15 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	Acts 2.14a, 36-41 Ps. 23 1 Pt. 2.20b-25 Jn. 10.1-10	Baptism for repentance of sins/Creed (1 <sup>st</sup> Reading)	

May 22 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	Acts 6.1-7 Ps. 33 1 Pt. 2.4-9 Jn. 14.1-12	Ministry of deacon/ service (1 <sup>st</sup> Reading) Priesthood of the baptized/ the liturgical assembly (2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading)	
May 29 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	Acts 8.5-8, 14-17 Ps. 66 1 Pt. 3.15-18 Jn. 14.15-21	The Holy Spirit (1 <sup>st</sup> Reading, Gospel) The gesture of laying on of hands (1 <sup>st</sup> Reading)	Christ died for all (2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading)
June 5 (or June 2) Ascension	Acts 1.1-11 Ps. 47 Eph. 1.17-23 Mt. 28.16-20	Mass/Mission “to the ends of the earth” (1 <sup>st</sup> Reading) Pre-gospel Blessing of mind, lips, heart (2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading) Christ is always with us (Gospel) Sign of the Cross (Gospel)	
[June 5 7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	<i>Acts 1.12-14 Ps. 27 1 Pt. 4.13-16 John 17.1-11a</i>	<i>Communal prayer as response to Ascension (1<sup>st</sup> Reading) Heavenly liturgy and earthly liturgy (Gospel)]</i>	
June 12 Pentecost	Acts 2.1-11 Ps. 104 1 Cor. 12.3b-7, 12-13 Jn. 20.19-23	Liturgy in the vernacular/ hearing God’s word in our own language (1 <sup>st</sup> Reading) Variety of ministries (2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading) Unity of the Body of Christ (2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading) Sign of Peace (Gospel)	
June 19 The Most Holy Trinity	Ex. 34.4b-6, 8-9 Dn. 3.52-56 2 Cor. 13.11-13 Jn. 3.16-18	Sign of Peace, “holy kiss” (2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading) Trinitarian Greeting at beginning of Mass (2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading) Mass as worship of the Trinity	
June 26 Corpus Christi	Dt. 8.2-3, 14b-16a Ps. 147 1 Cor. 10.16-17 Jn. 6.51-58	Real Presence (Gospel) Becoming the Body of Christ through the Eucharist we receive (2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading)	
July 3 14 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in OT	Zec. 9.9-10 Ps. 145 Rom. 8.9, 11-13 Mt. 11.25-30	The attitude of prayer: humility (1 <sup>st</sup> Reading) and grateful praise (Gospel)	

July 10 15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in OT	Isa. 55.10-11 Ps. 65 Rom. 8.18-23 Mt. 12.1-23	Listening to the Word of God (1 <sup>st</sup> Reading/ Gospel)	
July 17 16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in OT	Wis. 12.13, 16-19 Ps. 86 Rom. 8.26-27 Mt. 13.24-43	General Intercessions: The Spirit intercedes on our behalf (2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading)	
July 24 17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in OT	1 Kgs. 3.5, 7-12 Ps. 119 Rom. 8.28-30 Mt. 13.44-52	The prayers of the liturgy come from the entire history of the Christian people: brings together “both the new and the old” (Gospel)	
July 31 18 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in OT	Isa. 55.1-3 Ps. 145 Rom. 8.35, 37-39 Mt. 14.13-21	Pattern of taking, blessing, breaking, and sharing: feeding 5000 and Eucharist (Gospel) Blessing of bread and wine at preparation of gifts and altar (Gospel) Eucharist as food that satisfies (Gospel)	
August 7 19 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in OT	1 Kgs. 19.9a, 11-13a Ps. 85 Rom. 9.1-5 Mt. 14.22-33	Hearing God in silence/ Role of silence in the liturgy (1 <sup>st</sup> Reading)	
August 14 20 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in OT	Isa. 56.1, 6-7 Ps. 67 Rom. 11.13-15, 29-32 Mt. 15.21-28	A “house of prayer for all people” (1 <sup>st</sup> Reading) Mercy/Penitential Rite (2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading)	
August 21 21 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in OT	Isa. 22.19-23 Ps. 138 Rom. 11.33-36 Mt. 16.13-20	The Creed: Profession of Faith in God (Gospel)	
August 28 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in OT	Jer. 20.7-9 Ps. 63 Rom. 12.1-2 Mt. 16.21-27	Offering ourselves to God in worship (2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading)	Difference between the thinking of God and the thinking of human beings/ language used to address God (Gospel)
September 4 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in OT	Ezek. 33.7-9 Ps. 95 Rom. 13.8-10 Mt. 18.15-20	“Where two or three are gathered ...”/the presence of Christ in the liturgical assembly (Gospel)	

September 11 24 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in OT	Sir. 27.30-28.9 Ps. 103 Rom. 14.7-9 Mt. 18.21-35	The Lord's Prayer: Forgiveness (1 <sup>st</sup> Reading/Gospel)	
September 18 25 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in OT	Isa. 55.6-9 Ps. 145 Phil. 1.20c-24, 27a Mt. 20.1-16a		Difference between the thinking of God and the thinking of human beings/ language for addressing God (1 <sup>st</sup> Reading)
September 25 26 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in OT	Ezek. 18.25-28 Ps. 25 Phil. 2.1-11 Mt. 21.28-32		Language of humility in addressing God (2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading)
October 2 27 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in OT	Isa. 5.1-7 Ps. 80 Phil. 4.6-9 Mt. 21.33-43	General Intercessions (2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading)	Anxiety (2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading) vs. distress in revised translation of the embolism following the Lord's Prayer
October 9 28 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in OT	Isa. 25.6-10a Ps. 23 Phil. 4.12-14, 19-20 Mt. 22.1-14	Liturgy as Wedding Banquet of the Lamb (Gospel)	<i>Pro multis</i> in Institution Narratives ... personal response to God's invitation of salvation (Gospel) Invitation to communion ... "Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb" (Gospel) and Response ... "Lord, I am not worthy ..."
October 16 29 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in OT	Isa. 45.1, 4-6 Ps. 96 1 Thes. 1.1-5b Mt. 22.15-21		"Rising and setting of the Sun"/EP III (1 <sup>st</sup> Reading) – scriptural allusions in revised translation
October 23 30 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in OT	Ex. 22.20-26 Ps. 18 1 Thes. 1.5c-10 Mt. 22.34-40	The liturgy as the school of love (Gospel)	New dismissal formulas – sounding forth the Word (2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading), proclaiming the love of God and neighbor (Gospel)
October 30 31 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in OT	Mal. 1.14b-2.2b, 8-10 Ps. 131 1 Thes. 2.7b-9, 13 Mt. 23.1-12		Holding to a common faith (1 <sup>st</sup> Reading) – The Creed: I believe

November 1 All Saints	Rev. 7.2-4, 9-14 Ps. 24 1 Jn. 3.1-3 Mt. 5.1-12a	The union of the heavenly liturgy and the earthly liturgy (1 <sup>st</sup> Reading) The communion of saints (Creed)	
November 6 32 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in OT	Wis. 6.12-16 Ps. 63 1 Thes. 4.13-18 Mt. 25.1-13		“We shall always be with the Lord” (2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading) – dialogue of priest and people: “The Lord be with you” – “And with your spirit”
November 13 33 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in OT	Prov. 31.10-13, 19-20, 30-31 Ps. 128 1 Thes. 5.1-6 Mt. 25.14-30		“Stay alert and sober” (2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading) – paying attention to the words we pray
November 20 Christ the King	Ezek. 34.11-12, 15-17 Ps. 23 1 Cor. 15.20-26, 28 Mt. 25.31-46		Welcoming a stranger (Gospel) – final preparation for RM3
November 27 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of RM3	Isa. 63.16b-17, 19b; 64.2-7 Ps. 80 1 Cor. 1.3-9 Mk. 13.33-37		Being formed by the master potter (1 <sup>st</sup> Reading) – the words of the Mass form us and shape us “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ” (2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading) – greeting at beginning of Mass – Scriptural origins of Mass texts Running to meet Christ (Collect)
December 4 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent	Isa. 40.1-5, 9-11 Ps. 85 2 Pt. 3.8-14 Mk. 1.1-8	Focus on Christ in the liturgy (Gospel)	Penitential Act B (Psalm) The relationship between earth and heaven (2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading, Collect, Prayer after Communion)
December 8 Immaculate Conception of Mary	Gen. 3.9-15, 20 Ps. 98 Eph. 1.3-6, 11-12 Lk. 1.26-38	Jesus Christ made present through the coming down of the Holy Spirit (Gospel) – Eucharistic Prayers	“was incarnate of the Virgin Mary” – Creed (Gospel)

December 11 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent	Isa. 61.1-2a, 10-11 Lk. 1.46-54 1 Thes. 5.16-24 Jn. 1.6-8, 19-28	“Pray without ceasing” – the liturgy as part of our constant prayer (2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading, Prayer over the Offerings)	
December 18 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	2 Sam. 7.1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Ps. 89 Rom. 16.25-27 Lk. 1.26-38	Jesus Christ made present through the coming down of the Holy Spirit (Gospel) – Eucharistic Prayers	“was incarnate of the Virgin Mary” – Creed (Gospel, Collect)
December 25 Christmas	Various		“Glory to God in the highest ...” (Lk. 2.14) – Scriptural origins of Mass texts