



DIOCESSE *of* LACROSSE
OFFICE OF SACRED WORSHIP

TELEVISED MASS INSTRUCTIONS

Thank you for agreeing to participate in the Diocese's televised Mass. The Mass for the homebound is an important apostolate to those who are unable to attend Mass in their local parish church. As the many letters of thanks attest, the homebound are very grateful for having the opportunity to view the Mass on Sunday mornings.

Four Masses will be filmed at each filming date; one parish will participate in Masses one and two, another parish in Masses three and four. It is not necessary that a different group from the parish participate in the second of the Masses; the one group should plan on participating in both. In fact, if the entire group can be present for the rehearsal before the filming first of the two Masses, then no rehearsal (or at least a very short one) will be necessary before the second Mass. The schedule for the period of filming is roughly as follows:

5:00	Practice with group one begins
5:30	Filming of Mass 1 begins
6:00	Set-up and instructions for Mass 2
6:15	Filming of Mass 2 begins
6:45	Practice with group two begins
7:15	Filming of Mass 3 begins
7:45	Set-up and instructions for Mass 4
8:00	Filming of Mass 4 begins
8:30	End

All participants—both liturgical ministers and assembly—ought to be present prior to the filming of the first Mass.

Below are some instructions for the individual participants from your parish.

Servers:

- Two servers, boys and/or girls, are needed.
- Servers are to provide their own vesture (alb or cassock and surplice).
- Servers will be given detailed instructions during the rehearsal prior to filming.

Readers:

- Two readers are desired, but one will suffice if necessary.
- The first reader will carry the Book of the Gospels in the entrance procession; if there are two readers, the second reader will also read the petitions (petitions will be provided by the Office of Sacred Worship).
- At the beginning of Mass, the second reader is seated in the nave or other appropriate place in the sanctuary; the first reader carries the Book of the Gospels in the entrance procession (unless there is a deacon), places it flat on the altar, and returns to his or her place next to the second reader.
- After the priest invites those present to join in the Opening Prayer with the words “Let us pray,” the first reader leaves his or her place and approaches the ambo. When all have responded “Amen,” the reading should begin immediately. The reading should be proclaimed slowly, loudly, and prayerfully. After the people have responded to the conclusion “The word of the Lord,” with “Thanks be to God,” the reader returns to his or her place (unless there is only one reader, in which case the readers stays near the ambo during the responsorial psalm).
- After the Responsorial Psalm has begun (but before it is finished), the second reader approaches the ambo. If the psalmist is leading the singing from the ambo, please stand to the side. As soon as the Responsorial Psalm is finished, the second reader proclaims the reading in the manner described above. When the reading is finished, the Lectionary should be placed beneath the top of the ambo, so that the Book of the Gospels may be placed upon it by the priest or deacon.
- During the recitation of the Creed, the second reader approaches the ambo to propose the intercessions. The reader should be familiar with the text of the petitions as well as their location on the ambo before Mass begins. After the priest has introduced the intercessions, the reader proposes the intentions provided. The reader remains at the ambo until the priest has read the closing prayer for the intercessions, and then returns to his or her place.
- Both readers remain in their place for the remainder of Mass; they are not involved in the recession.

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion:

- The extraordinary minister of holy communion should be seated in the sanctuary from the beginning of Mass; he or she may be vested in alb or in other appropriate clothing.
- The extraordinary minister of holy communion should approach the altar to receive communion (with the servers) as the priest begins receiving communion.
- Communion will be offered under both species; the celebrant will distribute the hosts, while the extraordinary minister of holy communion will distribute the Precious Blood from the principal chalice.

Gift Bearers:

- Two or three people are needed.
- Following the Creed, while the priest is introducing the General Intercessions, the gift bearers should move to the gift table located in the center aisle. When the priest finishes the concluding prayer to the intercessions, and the people are responding “Amen,” the gift bearers move to the front of the sanctuary where the priest will receive the offerings. The gift bearers then return to their places.

Choir and Accompanist:

- Musicians are to select their own songs appropriate for the given Sunday; please see the attached sheet for further instructions for musicians.
- Clothing or other vesture should be suitable to the filming and broadcasting of a Sunday Mass.
- The psalm may be sung from the ambo or another suitable place; it should begin immediately after the people have responded “Thanks be to God” following the reading.
- The Gospel Acclamation should begin immediately following the response “Thanks be to God” at the end of the second reading, but it should not be led from the ambo since the priest or deacon will be arriving there to read the gospel.

Assembly:

- The congregation should be at least of 10 people.
- Members of the assembly should dress accordingly for a Sunday Mass.

Rehearsal:

- All of the above participants should be present for a brief rehearsal immediately prior to the filming of the Mass. Filming will not begin until all are comfortable with the role they will perform in the Mass.
- Rehearsal and direction will be led by Fr. Bernard McGarty.

*If you have any questions about the filming, please call Christopher Carstens,
Director of the Office of Sacred Worship, at (608) 791-2674.*