

# RESOURCES FOR CELEBRATING THE EXTRAORDINARY FORM OF THE ROMAN RITE

compiled by Daniel G. Van Slyke, S.T.L., Ph.D.,  
and Fr. Samuel F. Weber, O.S.B.

“The mystery of Christ is so unfathomably rich that it cannot be exhausted by its expression in any single liturgical tradition.” (CCC 1201)

---

## THE MOST HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS

### PRINTED TEXTS

#### *Ordo.*

This is the place to start. An *ordo* is particular to a certain year, so be sure to acquire the current one. It provides all the basic information needed to celebrate the complete liturgy (Mass, Divine Office, processions, days of fast and abstinence, etc.) of any given day. The *ordo* answers any questions the celebrant may have regarding options. Each religious order or congregation has its own *ordo*. For the Roman Rite at the present time, the *ordo* must be borrowed from the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter and adjusted for the particular diocese and parish.

#### *Missale Romanum. Editio typica 1962.*

- *Missale Romanum*. Benziger Brothers' 1962 (USA) edition. \$410 at PCP Books.
- *Missale Romanum*. Editio typica 1962. Editio Typica 1962. Ed. M. Sodi and A. Toniolo. Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2007. [Pax Books](#) \$100.80.
- Other editions are available. They must be dated 1962; earlier Roman Missals are not approved for liturgical use by *Summorum pontificum*.

#### **Chant Books.**

There are five 'levels' of chanting or singing the propers. The proper chants of the Mass are: introit, gradual, alleluia, tract and sequence (where applicable), offertory, and communion chants. These are the appointed Psalms of David to be sung by the clergy for and with the people in the unfolding of the mystery of Christ and the Church in the liturgical year. From the least to most complex 'level,' books providing the chants are listed below. Other books add the Psalm texts that are not given in the books listed below, but that may be need by the cantor or schola.

- *Recto tono* – chanting the propers on one note, without any inflection. All one needs for this is a Missal with the texts. No musical notations are required, although the choir director must indicate where pauses will fall in the text.
- *The Propers of the Mass*, Carlo Rossini – the propers of the Mass in simple Gregorian psalm-tone settings, easily within the reach of a solo cantor or small schola. This is what was done commonly throughout the world at most Masses in most parishes and even religious communities. This is the same style as the propers chanted at Mass this morning. Available on the [Musica Sacra](#) web site.
- *Chants Abreges* – simplified chant patterns easily within the ability of even a small parish. Available on the [Musica Sacra](#) web site.
- *Graduale Romanum* – official chant melodies of the Roman Rite. Under proper direction, introits and communions can be managed in many parish situations. The chants of the gradual often are too complex for most parishes. Available on the [Musica Sacra](#) site.
- Polyphonic settings may also be used – e.g., William Byrd's *Gradualia* (YouTube William Byrd, Gradualia), sung by recusant Catholics hidden in their homes under Queen Elizabeth.

***The Chants of the Church.***

Also available through [Musica Sacra](#). This text contains selections from the *Kyriale* (ordinary chants of the Mass for both priest and congregation), devotional, and processional chants. This practical edition of the most basic chants of the Mass is designed for schools and parishes. It provides Latin texts with interlinear translations in red. *The Chants* does not include texts of the propers. The book enjoyed widespread use in parishes throughout the United States. The congregation often had it in their hands, as well as the schola/choir.

***The Parish Book of Chant: A New Collection of Gregorian Chant. Prepared for the Church Music Association of America. CMAA, 2008.***

This volume includes the order of sung Mass for both Ordinary and Extraordinary Forms of the Roman Rite, along with chants and hymns for occasional and seasonal use with English translations. It is produced as a manual of Gregorian Chant and a liturgical resource for scholas and congregations.

***Liber Brevior.***

Forthcoming from Preserving Christian Publications is the *Liber Brevior* – a slim volume, containing the sung propers of the Mass, such as the Gradual, along with psalm tone settings (a la Rossini) for the more difficult parts in an appendix.

***Rubrics of the Roman Breviary and Missal.***

English translations of the *Rubricae Generales* (General Rubrics of the Roman Missal), *Ritus Servandus* (The Rite to be Observed in the Celebration of the Mass), and *De Defectibus* (On Defects when they Occur in the Celebration of Mass) from the MR1962 are also available in separate booklets.

***Liber Usualis (Missae et Officii). 1962.*** Many editions and versions.

This is not an official liturgical book, but a handbook of everyday practical materials drawn from many different official liturgical books. The *Liber* (as it is commonly called) is a practical combination of the various official liturgical-musical books of the Roman Rite (e.g., *Graduale Romanum*, *Antiphonale Romanum*, *Kyriale*, *Processionale Romanum*, *Ordo Hebdomadae Sanctae*) used for chanting the various parts of the Divine Office and the Most Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament, litanies, processions, and other devotions. It contains only the parts of the Office that would be sung in a parish – that is, for selected days. Various versions are circulating; they were produced also in the various vernacular languages. \$175 at PCP books.

**O’Connell, J. B. *The Celebration of Mass: A Study of the Rubrics of the Roman Missal.* Milwaukee: Bruce, 1964.**

In this comprehensive study of the rubrics of the MR1962, the Rev. John B. O’Connell explains in precise details the laws, principles, gestures, and ceremonies of Low, Sung, and Solemn Mass. At 622 pages, this is a hefty text.

**Schmitz, Walter J. *Learning the Mass: The New Liturgy; Handbook for Priests and Seminarians According to the Latest Decree of the Sacred Congregation of Rites.* Milwaukee: Bruce, 1965.**

This brief and concise practical handbook gives step-by-step instructions in how to offer the Mass according to the rubrics of the MR1962.

## FOR THE SERVERS AT MASS

### ***How to Serve Low Mass and Benediction.***

This small booklet by Rev. William A. O'Brien on how to serve Low Mass is an excellent training tool for altar servers.

### ***Mass Server's Card.***

This pocket-sized card provides the texts to be recited by the server during Mass, along with an interlinear pronunciation guide.

## FOR THE CONGREGATION AT MASS

### ***The Roman Missal (1962).***

- *The Roman Missal (1962)*. [Baronius press](#) has a recent, updated version of the 1962 Roman Missal for use in the USA that bears a post-Vatican II imprimatur. Many other hand-held and pocket Missals for the laity in English or English and Latin were printed in the first six decades of the twentieth century, and any of these would be useful for the faithful.

### ***Latin-English Booklet Missal.***

Produced by the Coalition in Support of Ecclesia Dei, this small red booklet contains the ordinary of the Mass in Latin/English with directions for body postures. The proper of the Mass for a given Sunday or feast may be printed as a one page folded insert (these propers are posted on the web site of [Una Voce of Orange County, CA](#)) and placed in the booklet as an inexpensive way to get started for individuals and congregations.

### ***Know Your Mass.***

An illustrated catechetical guide describing the ceremonies, symbolism, theology of the Mass, and how to assist at the Extraordinary Form of the Mass. Excellent for the laity and for priests new to the overall structure of the Traditional Mass.

## AUDIO-VISUAL AIDS

### ***The Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite: [An Instructional Video for Priests and Seminarians.](#)***

This set of two DVDs demonstrates the offering of Low Mass and Solemn Mass. It is especially useful as a visual reference for the gestures/actions involved. The Priestly Fraternity of St Peter gives this video free to priests and seminarians who request it.

### ***The Prayers of the Holy Mass Recited and Sung.***

A set of two audio CDs containing the full texts of the Mass recited as well as the parts of the Mass which the celebrant must sing during Sung/Solemn Mass. An excellent reference tool for learning the proper pronunciation and memorization of the Latin prayers

### ***The Most Beautiful Thing This Side of Heaven.***

The primary aim of the 52-minute color film is to assist priests to learn or relearn the intricacies of the Traditional Latin Mass.

### ***The Traditional Latin Mass DVD.***

This set of two DVDs demonstrates the offering of Low Mass and Solemn Mass. It is useful as a visual reference for the gestures/actions involved.

### **[YouTube](#)**

Innumerable video clips of Extraordinary Form services are posted on YouTube. Search “Extraordinary Form” or similar topics. For example, check out the Easter Sunday Mass at the Basilica of Our Lady of Sorrows in Chicago, for which then-Msgr Fulton J. Sheen provides commentary. The video exhibits propers of the Mass sung from the *Graduale Romanum* by a schola cantorum of seminarians from Mundelein and the ordinary of the Mass sung by the choir of the basilica in Polyphony.

---

## **THE DIVINE OFFICE**

### ***Breviarium Romanum. 1962.***

This is the basic book containing all texts (no chant) necessary for celebrating the canonical hours. Acquire the 1962 edition in some printing. Baronius Press is presently preparing a Latin-English edition.

### **Other Books.**

In order to chant the Office, several books might be required. On most occasions, the *Antiphonale Romanum* (day hours, excluding matins/night office/nocturns) would suffice.

### ***Diurnale Romanum (Breviarium Romanum).***

The *Diurnale* is a single volume edition of the *Breviarium Romanum* containing all of the canonical hours of the day (hence the nickname) except Matins. It is not a liturgical book strictly speaking, but a popular book that admits of many editions. Often bilingual, it was used by clergy, religious, and laity. The book also provides various devotional items such as litanies, and even excerpts from the *Rituale Romanum* that a priest might need during his day away from the rectory, such as prayers over a dying person.

### ***The Roman Martyrology, In Which Are to be Found the Eulogies of the Saints & Blessed Approved by the Sacred Congregation of Rites up to 1961. Ed. J. B. O’Connell. Westminster: Newman, 1962.***

This is mainly a devotional book, although it is also read at the hour of prime in cathedral chapters, monasteries, and religious communities. The [Roman Martyrology](#) is available online in Latin and English.

### **Hausmann, Bernard A. *Learning the New Breviary*. New York: Benzinger, 1961/2.**

This is how-to explanation of the rubrics of the Extraordinary Form Breviary. Fr. Hausmann, S.J., leads the reader step by step through each of the canonical hours, their contents, and how they are said, all the while providing important tips on how to recite the Divine Office with a correct liturgical spirit.

---

## OTHER SACRAMENTS AND RITES NEEDED BY THE PARISH PRIEST

### ***Rituale Romanum*. 1952/1953.**

- The *Rituale Romanum* is the basic book providing all the rites outside of the Mass and Divine Office that the parish priest and his congregation need, including baptism, marriage, penance, and blessings. It is available in numerous editions, including:
- *Rituale Romanum* Editio typica 1952. Ed. Manlio Sodi and Alessandro Toniolo. Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2008. \$96.81 at Pax Books

### **Weller, Philip T. *The Roman Ritual*. 3 vol. Milwaukee: Bruce, 1946.**

Fr. Weller's classic and widely-used three-volume Latin and English version of the 1953RR for use in the United States has been reprinted.

### ***The New Sanctuary Manual 1961*. Compiled by Maurice B. Kennedy. Fort Collins: Roman Catholic Books, 1961.**

Provides Latin and English texts of the rites commonly used by the priest other than the Mass: baptism, confirmation, marriage, funerals, litanies, devotions, blessings, etc. Beware that this book uses the *Psalterium Pianum*, the short-lived Cicerconian Latin translation from the Hebrew.

---

## COMMENTARIES/TEACHING AIDS

Many others could be listed, but these are the best and most complete liturgical and spiritual formation guides for those praying the Mass and Divine Office in the Extraordinary Form. Guéranger and Parsch explain the words, symbols, and actions of the Mass in order to enable fruitful participation.

**Parsch, Pius.** *The Church's Year of Grace*. 5 vols. Trans. Daniel Francis Coogan, Jr., and Rudolph Kraus. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1953-1959. This is a great source for homiletic material.

**Guéranger, Prosper.** *The Liturgical Year*. 11 vols. Trans. Laurence Shepherd. Dublin: Duffy, 1868-1883.

---

## ONLINE RESOURCES

### [The Coalition Ecclesia Dei](#)

The Coalition Ecclesia Dei started as a resource for those seeking the Indult Mass of the 1962 Missal. It continues to offer resources for the celebration of the Extraordinary Form, including audio-visual aids, books, and articles.

### [Fraternity Publishing](#)

In addition to other publications, the online book store of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter provides a page of liturgical books that are regularly used in the celebration of the Extraordinary Form. Also check out the "[How to Say Mass in the Extraordinary Form Training Kits](#)."

### [Musica Sacra](#)

The remarkable web site of the Church Music Association of America provides numerous full-text Adobe files of chant books for both the Ordinary and the Extraordinary Form.

### [Neri Publications](#)

Neri Publications offers essential liturgical books for the Extraordinary Form at relatively good prices.

### [Preserving Christian Publications](#)

The online book store of Preserving Christian Publications has developed a page of books on the Extraordinary Form.

### [Sancta Missa](#)

The Canons Regular of St. John Cantius have developed an online "Tutorial on the Extraordinary Form of the Mass" providing many resources. For the discerning priest or seminarian, there is a wealth of info there, although the sheer quantity of information may be daunting for beginners.

### [Angelus Press](#)

This site offers a wealth of resources on the Extraordinary Form, including valuable reprints of materials in common use before 1965. Beware, however, of schismatic content.

Thank you to Brian T. Austin, FSSP, for consultation on producing this guide.