



DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE

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**OFFICE OF WORSHIP**

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***“You were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him.”***

***Col 2: 12***

March, 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I have a small plaque in my office that reads “Oh God of second chances and new beginnings, here I am again.” It seems I constantly find myself returning to my God asking for another chance or a “do over.” In the waters of baptism, we were baptized into Christ’s death, died to sin and evil, and began new life in Christ. If I have fallen a bit short of living that new life, the *season of Lent*, provides the opportunity to try again... and again. Through the traditional practices of fasting, almsgiving and prayer, Lent teaches us how to live the love of Christ in an ever more radical way.

Parish leaders who are looking for resources to share with the Christian faithful, can find a variety of excellent materials on the [website](#) for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. This website provides written, audio and video resources to support your Lenten practice, enhance your prayer and embrace your baptismal commitment. You may want to consider praying the “Migrants Way of the Cross” during the normal times you pray the Stations of the Cross in your parish. [Devotions and prayers for families](#), from the book “Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers” can be downloaded and used as bulletin inserts, put in school or PSR folders or uploaded to parish websites.

With this mailing, you will find the annual [Lenten guidelines](#) and the suggested time for the beginning of the Easter Vigil. [Sample reconciliation services](#) and other Lenten and Easter resources, can be found at the [Office of Worship](#) website.

If you have not yet registered for the [Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion](#), please do so as soon as possible. The gathering for catechumens and candidates with Bishop Braxton begins at 1:30 p.m. in the undercroft of the Cathedral. The celebration of the rite begins at 2:00 p.m.

It is ***not too early to register*** for the diocesan *Workshop on The Third Edition of the Roman Missal*. We are only FOUR WEEKS AWAY from the first of five training sessions. [Registration materials](#) are available on the Office of Worship website. The diocesan core team has designed this training day with expert keynote speakers and knowledgeable local facilitators. **The cost of the entire day** – including lunch – **is only**

**\$15.00.** We have intentionally kept the cost of the day at a reasonable amount so parishes could easily send 5, 10 or 20 people. We are grateful for the assistance of grants to help underwrite this day. There will not be another opportunity in our diocese prior to the implementation of the Roman Missal to attend such a workshop. Please consider sending your musicians, catechists, pastoral council members, trustees and other parish leaders to this event. Of course, priests, deacons, parish administrators and parish life coordinators are encouraged to attend with their parish groups. *Thank you for taking the time right now to register and join us for a day of Prayer, Reflection and Catechesis.*

One of the ad hoc committees of the Diocesan Core Team for the Roman Missal was the music committee. It consisted of a small group of area liturgical musicians who had several meetings to discuss the new and revised Mass settings for the *Revised Roman Missal, Third Edition*. In consultation with other musicians in the diocese and abroad, they arrived at a [list of settings and suggestions](#) so that parishes can begin the process of discerning what would work best in their parishes based on the various needs and skills of the Christian faithful. The Core Team and the Office of Worship are grateful for the work of this committee.

In his [Lenten message](#), the Holy Father says that “By immersing ourselves into the death and resurrection of Christ through the Sacrament of Baptism, we are moved to free our hearts every day from the burden of material things, from a self-centered relationship with the ‘world’ that impoverishes us and prevents us from being available and open to God and our neighbor.” As we journey with the catechumens during this time of purification and enlightenment and on to the waters of baptism, may we recall our own baptism and be reminded of God’s great love for us. May our hearts and our minds know that no matter how far we stray, how selfish we’ve been or how many “do overs” we’ve requested, that God has never lost sight of us, has never turned away from us or has never failed to grant us a second chance. How blessed are we....

Blessings on your Lenten journey,

*Sue*