



Office of the Bishop
Diocese of Saint Cloud

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February 11, 2021

Dear Pastor,

Blessings to you on this feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes. I have a few updates this week regarding liturgical matters:

- As you know, since mid-January, parish choirs and vocal ensembles have been allowed to return to rehearsals under certain guidelines. **I am now allowing the return of choirs and vocal ensembles to ministry at Mass beginning on the First Sunday of Lent, Feb. 21.** Please see the attached document drafted in consultation with our Office of Worship for the current protocols that must be observed for rehearsals and at Mass. Congregational singing, however, remains prohibited until further notice.
- **A change is being made to the concluding doxology of orations** at the direction of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments. Effective, Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021, the conclusion to the doxology of the orations is to omit the word "one." The words "one God, for ever and ever" are simply replaced with "God, for ever and ever." More details can be found in the upcoming newsletter from the Office of Worship as well as the attached "Note on a change to the translation of Collect prayers."
- I am currently finalizing **guidelines for the liturgies of Holy Week.** You will receive these directives in the near future.
- Regarding the season of Lent, the usual **penitential regulations** apply. However, if a person is ill for any reason or taking care of someone who is, they are dispensed from Lenten disciplines and sacrifices. The illness and care a person is providing are their Lenten sacrifice. Please ensure your parishioners are aware of this.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Donald J. Kettler
Bishop, Diocese of Saint Cloud