February 2018 - SSPX Ordo Notices

*Society of Saint Pius X 🟏 Regina Coeli House*

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**Note:** This document is for the purpose of apostolate planning and offers a collection of practical advice and announcements. Items may be included in priory and church bulletins if desired; simply copy and paste these announcements into your weekly/monthly bulletin. We tried to make this list as complete as possible. Please let us know if we are missing something. Going forward it will be updated every 20th of the month and uploaded to the online ordo.

**Make Ashes:** The blessed palms from last year’s Palm Sunday will be needed to make ashes for Ash Wednesday. Announce to the faithful that they should bring them in from their homes during Septuagesima time, depositing them in the vestibule or at the sacristy door, and there will be more than enough palms for the sacristans or clergy to make the ashes. Burn the palms in a metal pan, then sift the ashes through a kitchen sieve, which renders the very fine ash powder, and place this in a liturgical container. This is preferable to ordering industrial ashes from a supplier; it is unclear what those are even made of, although it is certain that they are *not* made from the palms blessed in the Traditional rite at last year’s Palm Sunday Mass.

**Order Palms:** In early February, order palms for Palm Sunday. The suppliers generally have a very early cutoff date for pre-ordering, as they must make arrangements for the amount they need. Palms cannot be ordered at the last minute as they are procured and shipped from semi-tropical and tropical farms. Palm Sunday this year is March 25 (the Annunciation is transferred to April 9).

**Septuagesima:** February begins in the time of Septuagesima this year. Consult the seasonal notes in the online Ordo by clicking on the Season icon at the bottom of the page. The color of the season is violet, but it is nevertheless permitted to play the organ and use flowers on the altar during this season. By custom, relics also remain on the gradines during this season.

**Candlemas:** February 2. The blessing of candles and the procession take place. The blessed candles of Candlemas are taken by the faithful to their homes, therefore extra candles may well be blessed during the ceremony and set out in the vestibule afterward. Likewise, it may be announced to the faithful that they may bring in extra candles from home to be blessed at the ceremony. The candles are a sacramental burned in times of distress, such as during illness, difficult births, hurricanes, and other calamities, and are burned furthermore around the bedside of the dying. In some places the boxes of candles for the altar are blessed also at the Candlemas ceremony, although these can be blessed with the normal candle blessing found in the Ritual whenever they are received from the church supplier. Altar candles must be at least 51% beeswax, but the other candles blessed for devotional use on Candlemas may be of any substance (*e.g.,* beeswax, soy, stearin).

**Taking of the Cassock and Tonsure:** Saint Thomas Aquinas Seminary holds the ceremony on Candlemas day. The clergy and faithful should be encouraged to pray for the new clerics and for those seminarians taking the cassock.

**St. Blaise:** Blessing of Throats on February 3 and the Sunday following. Only candles blessed with the proper form given in the Ritual for the blessing of candles on the feast of St. Blaise may be used to give the blessing of throats. The candles are joined with a red ribbon so that they form a cross. Once the candles are blessed, they may be stored in the sacristy and used for the blessing of throats each year. It is not necessary to re-bless St. Blaise candles each year. The blessing of throats with these blessed candles may be done also on other days of the year, such as on the following Sunday for the benefit of the faithful who were not able to attend Mass on St. Blaise’s day. A red stole is used. The form is: *Per intercessionem Sancti Blasii, Episcopi et Martyris, liberet te Deus a malo gutturis et a quolibet alio malo. In nomine Patris + et Filii, et Spiritus Sancti. Amen.*

**Quinquagesima:** February 11. 160th Anniversary of Lourdes. Announce Ash Wednesday to the faithful: (1) Schedules for Mass and Stations; (2) Fasting regulations, *i.e*., that Ash Wednesday is *de jure* a day of fast and abstinence and the following Friday is *de jure* a day of abstinence; see fasting note below; (3) St. Valentine’s Day concurrence; (4) Penance.

**Lent:** Consult the seasonal notes in the online ordo by clicking on the Season icon. On the 13th the sanctuary should be scaled down from Septuagesima to Lenten mode, changing out the better altar appointments to those which are more sober. Flowers are removed.

**Ash Wednesday:** February 14. (1) Ashes are imposed; for the benefit of those who are not able to receive them on Ash Wednesday, they may be imposed also on another day, which is frequently done on the following Sunday, February 18; (2) For those faithful who celebrate St. Valentine’s Day in some special way, such as a romantic dinner out, they should be advised that Ash Wednesday is a day of *penance*, and that it would be more fitting for them to celebrate the day early, such as on Fat Tuesday or Fat Monday. They will also beat the crowds…

**Fasting and Abstinence:** (1) *Traditional rules:* The last regulations issued in the USA before the conciliar reform were in 1956, and are these for the Lenten season, still observed by custom *(de more)* if not by law *(de jure):*Fasting (ages 21-59) is observed on all of the weekdays and Saturdays of Lent. Abstinence (ages 7+) is observed on Ash Wednesday, Fridays of Lent, and Holy Saturday, with partial abstinence observed on Ember Wednesday and Ember Saturday; (2) *Current rules:* The current regulations strictly oblige *de jure* fast for ages 18-59 on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and abstinence for ages 14+ on these two days and the other Fridays of Lent. They also require under pain of sin that Lent be observed as a time of penance (CIC 1250), and they enjoin abstinence from meat on all Fridays of the year unless superseded by a solemnity; this abstinence may be commuted to some other penance on all Fridays of the year with approval of the local Ordinaries (CIC 1253); (3) *Houses of the Society:* Consult the 1997 Regulations, Chapter One.

**Penance:** The faithful should be encouraged to take up some Lenten mortifications, and it is a common practice to give up something specific for Lent. Likewise they should add some additional spiritual practices during the season. “During these days, therefore, let us add something to the usual amount of our service, special prayers, abstinence from food and drink, that each one offer to God ‘with the joy of the Holy Ghost’, of his own accord, something above his prescribed measure; namely, let him withdraw from his body somewhat of food, drink, sleep, speech, merriment, and with the gladness of spiritual desire await holy Easter” *(Regula S. Benedicti)*.

**Stations of the Cross:** During Lent, it is customary that the *Via Crucis* be held, especially on Fridays. Announce the Stations schedule to the faithful, and that there is a plenary indulgence for making them. The faithful should be encouraged to privately make the Stations themselves at other times also, especially during Lent. There are no prayers strictly prescribed for this, although there are many manuals with prayers and meditations which may be used.

**Lenten reading:** Lent is a great opportunity to encourage the faithful to take up some good spiritual reading, to suggest some specific titles available in the chapel bookstore, and to suggest that the faithful consult the Angelus Press catalog or website to choose some good books for Lent, for themselves and their children.

**Ember Days:** Sunday, February 18, announce that the following Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday are the Ember Days of Lent (February 21, 22, and 24).

**Plan ahead for Holy Week:** Lent is the time to review the Holy Week rubrics and ensure that the servers are assigned to their positions for the Holy Week and Easter ceremonies, that their parents are committed to having their sons present at the assigned times for liturgical practices and the ceremonies themselves, and that the servers are provided with notes and good training so that they may fulfill their respective roles *digne, attente, ac devote*. It is important to ensure that they receive not only the necessary technical skills for Holy Week, but also a solid spiritual formation in the supernatural grandeur of the sacred ceremonies, which allows them to grow in the knowledge and spirit of the Faith. It will also be beneficial to post the Holy Week schedule for the faithful *early*, a few weeks in advance, so that they may plan accordingly.

**Chrismal Mass:** March 29 at STAS. It is held at an early hour so that priests may more easily be able to participate before flying back to their chapels for the evening Mass *in Cena Domini*. All priests are encouraged to assist. Also, make sure the sacristy has your order for Holy Oils. Contact Rev. Mr. Samuel Fabula at sacristy@stas.org.

**Funerals and Weddings:** Funerals are not permitted on the Sundays of Lent, nor during the Sacred Triduum. Lent is a closed time for the nuptial blessing, until Easter Sunday inclusive. Marriages may still be contracted, but with greater sobriety, the nuptial blessing being imparted at a later time.

**District:** Feb 5-9, Priors’ Meeting; Feb 26-Mar 1, Priests’ Meeting. Also: has the copy of your Sacramental Register been sent in?

**Local observances**

**Veneta:** February 15. The first class feast of the Dedication of the Cathedral (of Portland-in-Oregon) is transferred from February 14th to the 15th. At Vespers of Ash Wednesday, commemoration of the Dedication. On February 15th, Mass and Office of the Dedication, from the common (with Gloria and Credo). Priests assigned to Veneta observe the feast in private recitation of the breviary regardless of location.

**La Salette:** February 12. Collect for the Ordinary after that of the day, under one conclusion *(…famulum tuum Daniel… Ecclesiae Peoriensis…)*

**Dickinson:** February 28. Collect for the Ordinary after that of the day, under one conclusion *(…famulum tuum Daniel… Ecclesiae Galvestoniensis…)*

**Looking ahead**

March 11: Laetare Sunday, Daylight savings begins

March 16: Minor Orders in Virginia

March 17: Sitientes, Subdiaconate in Virginia

March 19: Feast of Saint Joseph (Monday)

April 15: District collection for Good Shepherd Sunday

**Prayers for the General Chapter:** From July 11 to 21, 2018, the fourth General Chapter of the Society will take place in Ecône. The Superior General has prescribed prayers that are to be recited daily in all the houses of the SSPX for six months before the beginning of the Chapter: the recitation of the *Veni Sancte Spiritus* to ask the Holy Ghost for enlightenment, and the invocation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and St. Pius X to obtain their protection and intercession. The faithful are invited to join in these prayers.

*Come Holy Ghost, fill the hearts of Thy faithful, and kindle in them the fire of Thy love. V. Send forth Thy Spirit, and they shall be created; R. And Thou shalt renew the face of the earth. Let Us Pray: O God, Who didst instruct the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Ghost, grant that by the same Spirit we may be always truly wise, and ever rejoice in His consolation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen. Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us who have recourse to thee. St. Pius X, pray for us.*

**SSPX Necrology**

February 11: Abbé Alois Kocher (1996), Swiss

February 11: Clerics Jean Baptiste Després, Mickaël Sabak, and Raymond Guérin (2009, avalanche at Lac de Cleuson), French

February 18: Pater Bruno Isenmann (2007), German

February 25: Frère Michel Senecal (1995), French

