



## LITURGY BYTES *for* (LENTEN SEASON)

- The *Gloria* is not sung during Sunday liturgies (*GIRM* 53, *SL* 148).
- The *Alleluia* is replaced by alternate acclamations with their proper verse, as found in the *Lectionary for Mass* (*GIRM* 62, *SL* 163). Examples of alternate acclamations include: *Praise and honor to you, Lord Jesus Christ!* or *Glory to You, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!*
- The **Holy Water Fonts** are emptied after the Mass of the Lord's Supper until they are refilled with water blessed at the Easter Vigil; they should not be emptied prior to Holy Thursday. The following letter from the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments rejects this practice. Note the strong bias (reason 1) against inventing practices not called for in the liturgical law. Forcibly rejected is the argument used by some to justify

their abuses that "It is not forbidden, so I can do it." In reality, no one may do in that liturgy that which is not prescribed by the Church, specifically the Apostolic See, who alone has authority over it (SC 22, canon 838).

- The removing of Holy Water from the fonts during the season of Lent is not permitted, in particular, for two reasons:
  1. The liturgical legislation in force does not foresee this innovation, which in addition to being *praeter legem* (*outside of the law*) is contrary to a balanced understanding of the season of Lent, which though truly being a season of penance, is also a season rich in the symbolism of water and baptism, constantly evoked in liturgical texts.
  2. The encouragement of the Church that the faithful avail themselves frequently of her sacraments and sacramentals is to be understood to apply also to the season of Lent. The "fast" and "abstinence" which the faithful embrace in this season does not extend to abstaining from the sacraments or sacramentals of the Church. The practice of the Church has been to empty the Holy Water fonts on the days of the Sacred Triduum in preparation of the blessing of the water at the Easter Vigil, and it corresponds to those days on which the Eucharist is not celebrated (i.e., Good Friday and Holy Saturday).