



# WORSHIP OFFICE

Archdiocese of Newark

## SEPTEMBER 14 - FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS Day of Prayer in Reparation for Sins of Abuse

### Liturgical Resources for Mass

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 14) is observed in the Archdiocese of Newark as a *Day of Prayer in Reparation for Sins of Abuse*.

The following notes are specific to the celebration of Mass on September 14 within the Archdiocese of Newark.

#### MASS TEXTS

The Mass formulary, *The Exaltation of the Holy Cross*, found on September 14 in the "Proper of Saints," *Roman Missal*, is to be used in the celebration of Mass. (Page 804-806 in the Catholic Book edition).

*Note: Funerals may be celebrated on this day.*

#### INTRODUCTION

After the Sign of the Cross and Greeting, the Priest introduces the Mass in these or similar words:

**We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection,  
through whom we are saved and delivered.**

**The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross,  
[which we celebrate today]  
is observed in the Archdiocese of Newark  
as a *Day of Prayer in Reparation for Sins of Abuse*.**

**May the redemptive sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross  
comfort those who have suffered abuse  
particularly by ministers of the Church.**

*See entrance antiphon for Exaltation of the Holy Cross.*

PENITENTIAL ACT

**Brethren (brothers and sisters),  
let us acknowledge our sins,  
and so prepare ourselves to celebrate  
the sacred mysteries.**

A brief pause for silence follows.

Deacon or presider:

**Lord Jesus, you emptied yourself obediently  
accepting death on a cross:**

**Lord, have mercy.**

℟. Lord, have mercy.

**Lord Jesus, through your passion and death  
you have redeemed all suffering:**

**Christ, have mercy.**

℟. Christ, have mercy.

**Lord Jesus, you were lifted up on the cross  
so that we might have eternal life:**

**Lord, have mercy.**

℟. Lord, have mercy.

The absolution by the Priest follows:

**May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life.**

℟. Amen.

GLORIA

The Gloria is sung or said.

The Collect for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross follows.

## READINGS

The Lectionary readings for *The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross* must be used (Lectionary #638).

## HOMILY

A brief homily is given. It should reflect upon the feast and the scriptures, connecting the sufferings of Christ with those abused by ministers of the church.

## UNIVERSAL PRAYER

See below - some or all provided may be used.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Preface, *The victory of the glorious Cross* found in the "Proper of Saints" (September 14), or Preface I of the Passion of the Lord is used with Eucharistic Prayers I, II or III.

## CONCLUDING RITE

The Solemn Blessing of The Passion of the Lord (#5) or an appropriate Prayer Over the People may be used.

**September 14 - Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**  
*Day of Prayer in Reparation for Sins of Abuse*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

Suggested Intercessions – Some or all may be used.

Priest:

**Let us bring our prayers before God,  
asking that the Cross of his Son may redeem our sins  
and heal those abused by ministers of the church.**

Deacon or another suitable minister:

1. For those who have suffered abuse by ministers of the church. May they know beyond any doubt that they are God's sons and daughters, worthy of God's love. We pray:
2. For victims of abuse who have carried the pain of their suffering for many years; for those whose pain caused them to take their own lives; for redemption and healing of all physical, emotional and spiritual scars. We pray:
3. For victims of abuse who reached out as children but were silenced or not believed. May their stories be known and our hearts be opened to respond to the suffering of others. We pray:
4. For victims and survivors who no longer see the church as a home but as a place of tears. May the church become for them once again a place where they are healed and nourished by the Lord. We pray:
5. For the courage and strength to find forgiveness in our hearts for those who have abused the innocent. May we learn to seek justice, not revenge, and lighten our suffering through the power of forgiveness. We pray:
6. For all members of the church who have been scandalized by the crisis of abuse; for those who have become disheartened with the church and her ministers. May they recognize themselves as members of the Body of Christ, standing as witnesses for all that is good in the church. We pray:

Priest:

**Almighty and most gentle God,  
your Son loved children and held them up  
as an example of purity and innocence.  
Hear our prayers this day  
and bring comfort to all who suffer,  
especially those who have been abused  
by ministers of your church.  
Give them healing of body, mind, and spirit.**

**Strengthen the Bishops of your church  
to enact policies to protect the young and the vulnerable.**

**Forgive those who have sinned.  
Heal the broken hearted  
and bring justice to those who have been wronged.**

**We ask this through Christ our Lord..**

**℟ Amen.**