**Definition:** What is an “Ordo”? By definition, the “Ordo” is an annual Ecclesiastical liturgical calendar containing instructions for the Mass and the Office (daily Breviary) to be celebrated on each day of the year. The “Ordo” is published by the applicable Archdiocese or religious community provincial (leader). As a parish within the Diocese of Colorado Springs, the Our Lady of the Visitation Catholic Church follows the instructions outlined in the Ordo for the Archdiocese of Denver for the Masses in English and Spanish.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this handout or booklet is to help to provide our parish sacristans with a greater understanding of the terms, signs, and symbols contained in the Ordo; which affect the conduct of the Mass (e.g., identify scriptural readings; appropriate color of vestments and altar coverings; Eucharistic Prayers; when is a feast or Mass part optional or obligatory, etc.).

**Applicability:** These instructions are to be implemented by all parish sacristans and takes effect on November 28, 2015. This booklet contains excerpts of actual pages from the 2008 Ordo as examples for further explanation, instruction, and discussion. Questions regarding the Ordo and these instructions are to be addressed to the parish priests for resolution.

**KEY TO ORDO SIGNS AND SYMBOLS**

- **S** = Denotes a Solemnity
  A **Solemnity** in the Roman Catholic Church is a principal holy day in the liturgical calendar, usually commemorating an event in the life of Jesus, his mother Mary, or other important saints

- **F** = Denotes a Feast Day
  The Calendar of Saints is a traditional Christian method of organizing a liturgical year by associating each day with one or more saints (most often the day of their death), and referring to the day as that saint's feast day.

- **M** = Denotes an **Obligatory** Memorial
  Denotes a day on which the Church, by tradition, is obliged to celebrate its Masses in memory (as a memorial) of one or more saints (most often the day of their death).

- **m** = Denotes an **Optional** Memorial
  (celebrated at the Presider’s discretion)
  Denotes a day on which the Church, by tradition, may celebrate its Masses in memory (as a memorial) of one or more saints (most often the day of their death). The decision is delegated to the sole discretion of the presiding priest.

- **Italics** = Indicates whatever is optional (i.e., at the Presider’s discretion)

**Colors**

- Gr = Green
- Wh = White
- Rd = Red
- Vi = Violet/Purple
**13 Wednesday:** Weekday [19]; *Hippolytus, priest, martyr*  
*Pontian, pope, martyr*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gr</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
<th>Pss III</th>
<th>Seasonal wkdy</th>
<th>Sanctoral</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rd</td>
<td>Common of several martyrs or of pastors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>V3R3</th>
<th>MASS</th>
<th>any Mass or of mem</th>
<th>Sugg: 14 Sun; 24 Sun</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RDGS</td>
<td>Prop Pf of Martyrs or Pastors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>415: Ez 9:1-7; 10; 18-22</td>
<td>Ps 113:1-6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt 18:15-20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Denotes the corresponding day of the month and the name(s) of the Saints whose martyrdom may be celebrated/memorialized on this day; at the presider’s discretion. [19] denotes 19th Week in Ordinary Time.

- If the normal daily readings are selected by the celebrant, it denotes the vestment and altar colors are green (Gr) and the prescribed scriptural readings of this day.

- If the Optional Memorial for this day is selected by the celebrant:

  It denotes that the vestment and altar colors are red (Rd) (for a martyr) and the suggested Sunday Mass scriptural readings are the prescribed or suggested readings.

(Pf) Eucharistic Prayer Preface to be used for the Mass is either the normal daily Weekday preface or the Common of several martyrs or of pastors.

---

**14 Thursday:** Maximilian Mary Kolbe, priest, martyr

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>M</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
<th>Pss III</th>
<th>Seasonal wkdy</th>
<th>Sanctoral</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rd</td>
<td>Common of one martyr or of pastors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>V2R2</th>
<th>MASS</th>
<th>Prop Pf of Martyrs or Pastors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NP: Sun I</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>416: Ez 12:1-12</td>
<td>Ps 78:56-59, 61-62</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt 18:21-19:1</td>
<td>see 713-718 or 719-724</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Denotes the corresponding day of the month and the name of the Saint whose martyrdom is celebrated/memorialized on this day.

- Denotes that this is an Obligatory Memorial (M) for that day and denotes the vestment and altar colors are red (Rd) (for a martyr) and the prescribed scriptural readings are of the day (#416 and some alternative or optional readings are recommended, as well).

(Pf) Eucharistic Prayer Preface to be used for the Mass is the “Martyrs or Pastors”.
17 TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Gr HOURS Pss IV Seasonal prop
V1R1 MASS Prop Gl Cr Sun Pf I-VIII
RDGS 118: Is 56:1-6,7 Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8

➢ Denotes the corresponding day of the month and the number of the Sunday in Ordinary Time to be celebrated on this day.

➢ Denotes the vestment and altar colors are green (Gr) and the prescribed scriptural readings of this Sunday.

➢ Denotes that the Gloria (Gl) and the Creed (Cr) are to be included in the Order of the Mass. If the letters “Seq” are also stated between the Gloria and the Creed (normally on Pentecost, Easter, and the Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows), it denotes that the “Sequence” (an ancient sung prayer of the Church) is to be included.

It denotes for the presiding priest that one of the Sunday Eucharistic Prayer Prefaces (Pf) I through VIII are to be used at his discretion.

14 Wednesday: MATTHIAS, APOSTLE
F HOURS Sanctoral prop Common of apostles
Rd MP: prop ant pss Sun I DP: ps Wed II
V1R1 MASS Prop Gl Pf of Apostles I-II
RDGS 564: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26 Ps 113:1-8
Jn 15:9-17

➢ Denotes the corresponding day of the month and the Saint to be celebrated on this mandatory Feast day.

➢ Denotes the vestment and altar colors are red (Rd) and the prescribed scriptural readings of this feast day.

➢ Denotes that the Gloria (Gl) is to be proclaimed in the Mass.

It also denotes for the presiding priest that the prescribed Eucharistic Prayer Prefaces (Pf) Apostles I or II is to be used.
15 Friday: THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY [holy day of obligation (USA)]

Wh HOURS Sanctoral prop Common of BVM DP: prop Ant compl psa EP II of sol NP: Sun II final anthem: Ave, Regina caelorum

MASS Prop (Day) Gl Cr Prop Pf Sol Bl 15

RDGS 622: Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab Ps 45: 10-12, 16 1 Cor 15:20-27 Lk 1:39-56

➢ Denotes the corresponding day of the month and the Solemnity to be celebrated on this day; a prescribed Holy Day of Obligation.

➢ Denotes the vestment and altar colors are white (Wh) and the prescribed scriptural readings of this Solemnity.

➢ Denotes that the Gloria (Gl) and the Creed (Cr) are to be included in the Mass. If the letters “Seq” are also stated between the Gloria and the Creed (normally on Pentecost, Easter, and Our Lady of Sorrows), it denotes that the “Sequence” (an ancient sung prayer of the Church) is to be included.

It also denotes for the presiding priest that Eucharistic Prayer Preface (Pf) for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin is be used.