



Committee on Divine Worship

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MEMORANDUM

To: All Bishops
From: Most Rev. Leonard P. Blair, Archbishop of Hartford
Chairman, USCCB Committee on Divine Worship
Date: August 5, 2021
Re: Liturgical celebration of Blessed Michael McGivney

As you are aware, Fr. Michael McGivney, a priest of the Archdiocese of Hartford and Founder of the Knights of Columbus, was beatified on October 31, 2020. His feast day has been assigned to August 13.

According to the law and custom of the Church, a Blessed may be venerated publicly and celebrated liturgically *only* where permitted by law. While in the past some Blesseds have been inscribed on our national calendar, in more recent years the Holy See has indicated that Blesseds should be inscribed only in local diocesan calendars. Accordingly, Blessed Michael McGivney is now inscribed in the calendar of the Archdiocese of Hartford, but not in our national liturgical calendar.

However, in a letter dated September 25, 2020 (Prot. N. 436/20) to Mr. Carl Anderson, the Supreme Knight at the time, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments wrote as follows:

it will be possible for gatherings of Knights to celebrate a votive Mass in honor of Fr. McGivney with the permission of the local ordinary and respecting the rules of precedence laid out in the Table of Liturgical Days.

In addition to the Table of Liturgical Days, I would also refer you to the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, which discusses the rules for Votive Masses in Chapter VIII, part I, and especially at nos. 375 and 376.

The proper Collect and Lectionary citations for Blessed Michael are attached (the Knights of Columbus also plan to distribute the liturgical texts to their chaplains). Should you decide to approve requests to celebrate this votive Mass in your diocese – on August 13 or on any other day when a votive Mass is permitted – then these liturgical materials can be shared with your priests.

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS FOR
BLESSED MICHAEL MCGIVNEY, PRIEST

Roman Missal

August 13

Blessed Michael McGivney, Priest

From the Common of Pastors: For One Pastor.

Collect

God of eternal mercy,
who set your Priest Blessed Michael in the Church
to comfort the suffering and the weary, the lonely and the oppressed
with works of charity and a gentle heart,
grant that, through his intercession,
we too may become vessels of mercy in our day
and so enter into our heavenly inheritance.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Lectionary

August 13

Blessed Michael McGivney, Priest

From the Common of Pastors, or:

First Reading – Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13 *[no. 722–8]*

Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 110:1, 2, 3, 4 *[no. 721–7]*

Gospel Acclamation – Luke 4:18 *[no. 723–4]*

Gospel – Matthew 5:1-12a *[no. 742–1]*

[Citations from the Commons of the Lectionary for Mass, available in vol. II, III, or IV]