

## **Red Wednesday in Canada—Celebration of a Mass (2023)**

**The following are suggestions for celebrating a Mass for the intention of Christian martyrs, taken from the Roman Missal (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition - 2011) for use in Canada.**

According to the Liturgical Guidelines from the CCCB, liturgy can be adapted to suit the time of year, the region of the country, and the congregation that will participate.

For instance, this year, the focus of the Mass in memory of persecuted Christians, to be held on Wednesday, November 15 at the Mary Queen of the World Cathedral in Montreal, will be *the Mass in Time of war and civil disturbance*, as such conflicts are sources of martyrdom for many people, including Christians.

### **31. Mass in Time of war and civil disturbance (Page 1288)**

One can also select the Mass for persecuted Christians.

### **19. Mass for persecuted Christians (Page 1271)**

Also a possibility is the **32. Mass for Refugees and Exiles (Page 1290)**, considering that these situations of uprooting can also lead to martyrdom.

Elsewhere in the Missal:

**Preface I of the Holy Martyrs (Page 578)**

**Preface II of the Holy Martyrs (Page 580)**

**Commons of Martyrs**

**A. For Several Martyrs (Page 1038)**

**B. For One Martyr (Page 1048)**

**Eucharistic Prayer III (Page 626)**

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**Universal Prayers**

In the **Appendix** of the Roman Missal, one can find inspiration in the universal prayers for the Lenten periods (**page 1456**) and for Holy Week (**page 1457**).

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## **Liturgy of the Word**

Here are some suggestions:

First reading:

**Book of the Martyrs of Israel** (2, 49–52.57-64) OR  
**Book of the Acts of the Apostles** (4, 1–5.18-21)

**Psalm: 27, 9:**

Do not hide your face from me...

**Gospel:**

Matthew (5:1–12a).

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## **The spirit of liturgical hymns**

Seeking out hymns that will encourage meditation on the mystery of Christian martyrdom, which in itself is a real paradox.

In fact, there is the suffering experienced by persecuted Christians—a cry of pain that rises up to God—but also the fact that being a martyr, despite the pain it brings, represents a victory over darkness, which is a real source of consolation and an example for all Christians to follow.

If you type the words *Christian martyrs* into a search engine, you'll find a number of sources where you can download sheet music for this liturgy (free or at low cost).

Here are just a few options for you. You can also use keywords such as *Martyrs*, *Passion of Christ*, *The Faith of the Martyrs*, *Hope and Joy in the Resurrection*, etc. If you find other resources that could be helpful to us and everyone in Canada to honour the memory of Christian martyrs, please let us know: [com@acn-canada.org](mailto:com@acn-canada.org).

**Oregon Catholic Press:**

<https://www.ocp.org/en-us/songs/16055/blessed-feasts-of-blessed-martyrs>

**GIA Music:**

<https://www.giamusic.com/store/resource/blessed-feasts-of-blessed-martyrs-theres-a-wideness-in-gods-mercy-print-g5125>

**Spiritual hymns and praises of the Coptic Orthodox Church:**

[https://tasbeha.org/hymn\\_library/cat/274](https://tasbeha.org/hymn_library/cat/274)