

Red Wednesday in Canada—Celebration of a Mass (2024)

The following are suggestions for celebrating a Mass for the intention of Christian martyrs, taken from the Roman Missal (3rd 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, in 2024, the focus of the Mass in memory of persecuted Christians, to be held on Wednesday, November 20 at the Basilica, Mary, Queen of the World Cathedral in Montreal, is in solidarity with displaced people and refugees. Indeed, it often happens that people who experience religious discrimination and persecution are forced to leave their country. (See the suggested readings for this year on page 2 of this document).

On the other hand, depending on the pastoral objectives of your parish, group, community, etc., the sub-theme of your Mass may vary.

Mass in Time of war and civil disturbance (Page 1288)

One can also select the Mass for persecuted Christians.

Mass for persecuted Christians (Page 1271)

Also a possibility is the **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)

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**).

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).

Suggested readings for 2024

1st Reading: Deut. 10:17-19 - “God loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing.” Psalm:

Ps 120 (121) - R/ Help will come to me from the Lord who made heaven and earth. 2nd

Reading: Heb 13:1-3, 14-16 - “Do not neglect hospitality to strangers.”

Proclamation of the Gospel: 2 Cor 1:3b-4a - *Blessed be the Father of tenderness, the God from whom comes all comfort.*

Gospel: Mt 25:31-40: “Whenever you do it to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you’ve done it to me.”

The spirit of liturgical hymns



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

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).

Oregon Catholic Press:

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

GIA Music (Publications, Inc.'s Sacred 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