



Aid to the
Church in Need
ACN CANADA

Red Wednesday - Celebration of a Mass (2026)

The following are suggestions for celebrating a Mass in memory of Christian martyrs, taken from the Roman Missal, English translation according to the third typical edition (2021), for use in Canada.

According to the Liturgical Guidelines from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB), liturgy can be adapted to suit the time of year, the region of the country, and the congregation that will participate.

In 2026, we once again propose that the Mass celebrated in memory of persecuted Christians focus on devotion to **the Most Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ** (RM, p. 1326). The Precious Blood of Jesus is shed out of love for us and as the ultimate gift for our salvation. Similarly, in today's world, many witnesses to the faith continue to lay down their lives for Christ (see the suggested readings for this year on page 2 of this document).

However, depending on the pastoral objectives of your parish, group, or community, the sub-theme of your Mass may vary.

Mass in Time of War or Civil Disturbance (p. 1288)

One can also select the **Mass for Persecuted Christians (p. 1271)**.

Another is the **Mass for Refugees and Exiles (p. 1290)**, considering that these situations of displacement can also lead to martyrdom.

Elsewhere in the Missal:

Preface I of Holy Martyrs (pp. 578–579) and Preface II of Holy Martyrs (pp. 580–581)

Eucharistic Prayer III (p. 626)

All Saints (p. 661)

Examples for the Universal Prayer

In **Appendix V** of the Roman Missal, one can draw inspiration from the Universal Prayer of Lent (Lent I & II, pp. 1455–1456) and the Weekdays of Holy Week (p. 1457).

Liturgy of the Word

1 Maccabees 2:49-52, 57-64 – “*None of those who put their trust in God will lack strength.*” (Lect. p. 498)

Acts 4:1-5, 18-21 – “*We cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard.*” (Lect. p. 501)

Suggested Readings, Preface, and Eucharistic Prayer for 2026

Votive Mass 7: *The Most Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ* (RM, pp. 1326–1327)

Readings from the Lectionary for Ritual and Votive Masses

First Reading: Revelation 7:9-14: “*...they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*” (**Lect. p. 792**)

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 40 – *R/ Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.* (**Lect. p. 793**)

Second Reading: 1 John 5:4-8 – “*There are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood.*” (**Lect. p. 795**)

Gospel: John 19:31-37 – “*One of the soldiers pierced his side, and blood and water came out.*” (**Lect. p. 798**)

Preface I of the Passion of the Lord (RM, The Order of Mass, p. 530)

Eucharistic Prayer I (RM, p. 611)

The spirit of liturgical hymns

Look for hymns that will encourage meditation on the mystery of Christian martyrdom, a true paradox. By typing the words *Christian martyrs* into a search engine, you will find several sources where you can download sheet music for songs specific to this liturgy (free or at low cost). Here are a few examples.

Oregon Catholic Press (OCP):

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

GIA 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 sponsored by the Coptic Orthodox Church of St. Mark,
Jersey City, NJ:**

https://tasbeha.org/hymn_library/cat/274

