

Tridentine Community News

September 7, 2025 – Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

The Divine Office – Part 4

The Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary

An abridged version of the Divine Office that has become particularly popular among laypeople is the *Officium Parvum Beatae Mariae Virginis*, or Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Its advantage is that it is shorter and easier to pray than the full Office. Its disadvantage is that there is not as much variety over time in the text of the prayers.

The Little Office contains all of the hours of the full Office. Only Matins varies daily; apart from seasonal differences in Advent, Christmastide, and Eastertide, the text of the other hours is the same every day. It is this very lack of variation that makes for a small, easily portable prayer book, along with the comfort of formulas that become familiar over time.

Certain religious orders, including the Norbertines, the Carthusians, and the Cistericans, had their own versions of the Little Office which, in some cases was prayed in addition to, and not instead of, the Divine Office. Occasionally you may find books meant for those orders' variations of the Little Office, but the mainstream version is the standard Roman Rite edition.

Praying the Little Office is associated with a variety of graces, including the Sabbatine Privilege, which was the subject of our July 3, 2016 column. Notably, praying the Little Office is enriched with a Partial Indulgence.

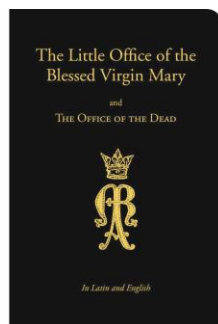
Extraordinary Form

Baronius Press has issued a Latin/English edition of the Extraordinary Form Little Office based on the 1961 Breviary. On the plus side, this book includes hierarchical English translations from the Douay Rheims bible. It also includes Gregorian Chant notation for those interested in chanting the Office. On the minus side, the Latin text does not employ accent marks, sometimes making it challenging to read. Be sure to order the 2011 (third) edition [or a later edition, if it exists], as it corrects some typos found in the first two editions. More information

about this book is here: <https://www.baronius.com/little-office-of-the-blessed-virgin-mary.html>

Angelus Press has also published a version of the 1961 Little Office, albeit without the chant notation and marker ribbons of the Baronius edition:

<https://angeluspress.org/products/little-office-of-the-blessed-virgin-mary>



Angelus Press also publishes a tutorial guide entitled *Living the Little Office: Reflections on the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary*. See: <https://angeluspress.org/products/living-the-little-office>

We caution you against using the Little Office published by St. Bonaventure Publications, as it is based upon the 1904 Breviary, which is not the edition to be used for the Extraordinary Form today.

iPieta is an app for Android and iOS which contains a “public domain” version of the Little Office. We assume but are not certain that this is an Extraordinary Form Little Office. Likewise, we cannot determine if it is the 1961 edition.

Comprehensive tutorials on praying the Little Office are available at:

<https://www.boston-catholic-journal.com/little-office-of-the-blessed-virgin-mary.htm>

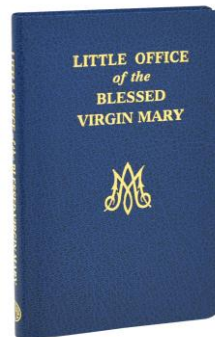
(includes audio samples in Latin and English)



and at: <https://www.lobvm.com/>

Ordinary Form

The Little Office was never revised by Rome after Vatican II. As a result, there is no official Vatican Latin version for the Ordinary Form. All public Latin celebrations of the Little Office must therefore continue to use the Extraordinary Form.



However, in 1988 Fr. John Rotelle, OSA, published an edition approved for use in the dioceses of the United States by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, which updated the Little Office to conform to the new Liturgy of the Hours. Only (modern) English is provided. See: <https://www.catholicbookpublishing.com/product/111>

Tridentine Masses This Coming Week

Tue. 09/09 7:00 PM: Low Requiem Mass at *St. Benedict/Holy Name of Mary, Windsor* (Daily Mass for the Dead)