

Liturgical Options for the  
**National Day of Penance**  
**Thursday, January 22, 2009**

Diocese of Madison  
Office of Worship

According to the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (no. 373):

In all the dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 (or January 23, when January 22 falls on a Sunday) shall be observed as a particular day of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion, and of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life. The Mass "For Peace and Justice" (no. 21 of the "Masses for Various Needs") should be celebrated with violet vestments as an appropriate liturgical observance for this day.

The *Ordo* prepared for use in the United States by the USCCB Secretariat for the Liturgy states:

**Thursday, January 22, 2009**

**Saint Vincent, deacon & martyr and National Day of Penance**

On this anniversary of the Supreme Court decision, *Roe vs. Wade* (1973), this day shall be observed in all dioceses of the United States as a particular day of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion, and of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life (GIRM 373). The Mass "For Peace and Justice" (no. 22) from the "Masses for Various Needs and Occasions" should be celebrated with violet vestments.

*Readings may be taken from No. 314 of the Lectionary, or any readings from the Mass "For Peace and Justice," Lectionary for Ritual Masses, vol IV, nos. 887-891*

Additional liturgical resources are available at:

**USCCB Pro-Life Secretariat web page:**

<http://www.usccb.org/prolife>