

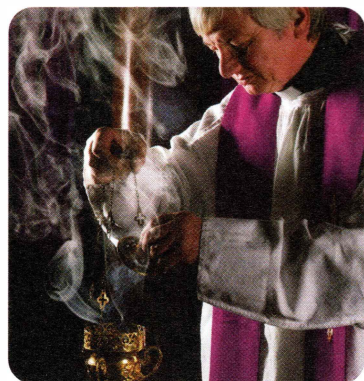
Dear Padre,

I miss the use of incense. Is it forbidden or out of style?

Incense is not out of style, nor is it forbidden. It is still burned to signify that Christ's sacrifice ascends to God as an odor of sweetness and as a sign of people's prayers rising to the throne of God. In the Book of Revelation, we read: "Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a gold censer. He was given a great quantity of incense to offer, along with the prayers of all the holy ones, on the gold altar that was before the throne. The smoke of the incense along with the prayers of the holy ones went up before God from the hand of the angel" (Revelation 8:3–4).

Incense is a resinous substance obtained by cutting into the bark of a fir or pine tree. The original meaning of the Hebrew word for incense was "fragrant smoke." Ancient Jews burned incense as an act of worship in the tabernacle and temple. Scripture mentions incense often (Ephesians 5:2 and Philippians 4:18, for instance).

Today, incense is often used at the benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, at funerals, and during other special liturgical celebrations to highlight the festivity of a particular occasion. Celebrants may also use incense in any liturgy to bless the congregation, the altar, the book of the Gospels, and the gifts of bread and wine. ●



The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Monday

August 12

Weekday

Ez 1:2–5, 24–28c

Mt 17:22–27

Tuesday

August 13

Weekday

Ez 2:8–3:4

Mt 18:1–5, 10,
12–14

Wednesday

August 14

St. Maximilian

*Kolbe, Priest
and Martyr*

Ez 9:1–7;
10:18–22

Mt 18:15–20

Thursday

August 15

Assumption of

*the Blessed
Virgin Mary*

Rv 11:19a; 12:1–
6a, 10ab

1 Cor 15:20–27

Lk 1:39–56

Friday

August 16

Weekday

Ez 16:1–15, 60,
63 or 16:59–63

Mt 19:3–12

Saturday

August 17

Weekday

Ez 18:1–10, 13b,
30–32

Mt 19:13–15

Sunday

August 18

Twentieth Sunday

in Ordinary Time

Prv 9:1–6

Eph 5:15–20

Jn 6:51–58



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Without [Jesus], rather than living, we get by: because he alone nourishes the soul; he alone forgives us from that evil that we cannot overcome on our own; he alone makes us feel loved even if everyone else disappoints us; he alone gives us the strength to love and, he alone gives us the strength to forgive.

ANGELUS, ROME, AUGUST 8, 2021