**Diocese of Kansas City-Saint Joseph  
Copyright Policy**

# A. General Principles

Most of the music and many of the texts used in worship services is under copyright. Copyright protects the right of composers, lyricists, and other creators of creative and intellectual property to be compensated for the usage and reproduction of their work. It also protects the integrity of the texts, since alterations cannot be made without the permission of the copyright owner. Composers earn royalties when copies of their work are sold. Traditionally, this has been handled by publishers, but since technology now makes it easy for end users to create their own copies of copyrighted works, the responsibility for the just remuneration of composers also falls to the end users in that case. This is accomplished by purchasing an appropriate license. Creating printed, broadcast, or streamed copies of copyrighted music or texts requires a license, even if you are not selling the copies or charging admission fees. If you, your parish or institution:

* Reprints melody lines and/or text from a copyrighted song in a worship aid,
* Projects copyrighted lyrics onto a screen,
* Uploads or streams a video of your worship online, either live or on demand,
* Shares devotionals containing worship music, or
* Creates practice tracks for your choir,

…you need a license.

Fortunately, there is a service called OneLicense (www.onelicense.net) which can handle all of the details for you for a large number of publishers of the music commonly used in Catholic liturgies.

Another source of licensing is CCLI, Christian Copyright Licensing International (<https://get.ccli.com/pages/copyright-license>). This organization licenses much contemporary Christian music.

Parishes and groups in this diocese who reproduce printed music or stream or post videos of worship services online should contact OneLicense or another licensing organization to obtain a license and comply with their reporting requirements. There is no group license for the diocese which covers parishes.

Note that reprinting music and streaming or broadcasting services require two separate kinds of licenses. OneLicense offers both. Simply performing music from legitimate copies during a religious service does not require a license.

It is important to note that different texts in a given hymnal or liturgical book may be copyrighted by different entities. In hymnals, the copyright holder should be listed on the same page as the music, or in the Acknowledgements section at the back. Liturgical books can be more complicated. For example, in the *Liturgy of the Hours*, the antiphons and psalm prayers are copyrighted by the International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. (ICEL), most of the biblical readings are copyrighted by the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc. (which appears to be administered in the United States by an office of the USCCB Secretariat), and the psalms themselves are copyrighted by The Grail (England), whose rights are administered in the US by GIA Publications, Inc.

Copyright ownership can also change as publishers change names, merge and split, so sometimes research is required to figure out who owns a particular song. The tools at [www.copyright.gov](http://www.copyright.gov) may sometimes be helpful in this regard.

*How long does copyright last?*

For the authoritative answer and explanation, please consult <https://copyright.gov/circs/circ15a.pdf>

In general, for works copyrighted for the first time on or after January 1, 1978, the copyright lasts for the author’s life plus an additional 70 years.

All works published in the United States before January 1, 1923, are in the public domain.

Anything published between 1923 and 1977 may or may not be public domain, even if there is a copyright notice. If you have a copy with a copyright notice, it is best to try to report the usage.

# B. ICEL Texts

ICEL's copyright policy can be found on their web site:

<http://www.icelweb.org/copyright.htm>

And in more complete form at <http://www.icelweb.org/PubPolicy.PDF>

Excerpts from the ICEL policy appear below.

No royalty is charged, and no written or verbal permission is needed from ICEL, for reprinting ICEL translations in a publication for use at a specific Mass or celebration of an individual congregation or institution, for example: convention program booklets, jubilee Masses, ordinations, baptisms, first communions, confirmations, funerals, weddings, etc., provided that the following conditions are met:

a. the publication is not produced by a publishing firm;

b. the publication is not sold;

c. the appropriate copyright notice appears on the cover, inside cover, or title page;

d. the official editions of the texts are followed exactly.”

*Publications for More than One-Time Use*

No royalty is charged on publications for more than one-time use such as hymnals and other participation aids containing ICEL texts and produced by parishes, schools, or religious communities for their individual use and not by an outside firm, provided that the group printing this publication does not sell it. Permission must be obtained from ICEL for the inclusion of ICEL texts in publications for more than one-time use.

*How to Acknowledge ICEL Texts*

“The copyright acknowledgment should include: the name of the ICEL text, the copyright symbol, year of publication, ICEL's corporate title (may be abbreviated), and the phrase all rights reserved (see examples below).”

Example:

Excerpts from the English translation of *The Roman Missal* © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Multiple texts

Excerpts from the English translation of *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation, (ICEL); excerpts from the English translation of *The Roman Missal* © 2010, ICEL; the English translation of *Eucharistic Prayers for Masses with Children* © 1975, ICEL. All rights reserved.

In acknowledging excerpts of ICEL texts it is preferable to name the element(s) or the specific rite(s) being reproduced as given in the following examples:

The English translation of the psalm responses and alleluia and gospel acclamations from the *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.

The English translation of the "Order for the Blessing of a Family" and the "Order for the Blessing of a Married Couple" from the *Book of Blessings* © 1988, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.

*Use of ICEL Materials on Global Computer Networks*

For the full policy, see <http://www.icelweb.org/PubPolicy.PDF>, page 26.

“ICEL texts and translations that have been approved by the Conferences of Bishops, have received the recognition of the Holy See, and have subsequently been promulgated for use on the date established by the Conferences of Bishops may be reproduced in a non-commercial site ("Site") on the global computer network commonly known as the Internet without obtaining written or oral permission, subject to the following conditions:

(1) there must be no fee charged to access the Site or any of the ICEL translations, texts, or music, thereon;

(2) The appropriate ICEL copyright acknowledgment must appear on the first and last pages and/or frames within the Site displaying the ICEL translation or text (see www.icelweb.org and click on "copyright policies");

(3) The ICEL translations and texts must be followed exactly;

(4) These policies do not grant a license to publish texts in any other form or any other right in ICEL's name and marks, and the Site may not display the ICEL translations or texts or otherwise use the ICEL name in any way that implies affiliation with, or sponsorship or endorsement by, ICEL;

(5) ICEL reserves the right to terminate or modify its permission to use its translations and texts;

(6) ICEL reserves the right to take action against any party that fails to conform to these policies, infringes any of its intellectual property rights, or otherwise violates applicable law.

According to the ICEL Administrator of Copyright Permissions, no ICEL permission is required to stream or record live liturgies. However, they do ask that a copyright acknowledgement (see above) be included somewhere appropriate.

In summary, no licensing or reporting is necessary for the use of ICEL texts as long as the usage is in accord with the above policies, including appropriate acknowledgements.

# C. ICET Texts

(from <http://www.icelweb.org/PubPolicy.PDF>, page 10, retrieved 8/4/2021)

“ICET texts are texts that have been produced by the International Consultation on English Texts, an ecumenical body of which ICEL was a member. These texts have been revised by the successor to ICET, the English Language Liturgical Consultation (ELLC). The following is a list of these texts:

Gloria Patri

Benedictus (Canticle of Zechariah)

Te Deum

Magnificat (Canticle of Mary)

Nunc Dimittis (Canticle of Simeon)

The texts, whether in their original form (1975) or as revised by ELLC (1988), are in the public domain and as such do not require permission for reproduction. It is sufficient to acknowledge the source of the text, for example: English translation of the [insert title] by the International Consultation on English Texts or the English Language Liturgical Consultation.”

# D. Lectionary Readings and other USCCB or CCD copyrighted texts

(USCCB policy from https://www.usccb.org/media/permissions-policy)

*One-time print use (such as in a worship program for a special liturgy):*

* No written permission is required for one-time use.
* The official liturgical text must be followed. All excerpts must be verbatim from the text, including capitalization and punctuation. The poetic structure of those readings written in verse (for example, Psalms, Wisdom, Isaiah, etc.) must be preserved in verse as printed.
* The appropriate acknowledgment must be printed either beneath the reading(s) or with the other acknowledgments:

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, second typical edition © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. Used with permission. All rights reserved. No portion of this text may be reproduced by any means without permission in writing from the copyright owner.

*Use of Readings in Worship Aids on a Regular Basis:*

A written agreement is required to reproduce the readings in worship leaflets, bulletins, parish hymnals, etc. on a regular basis. The annual license fee varies based on the number of copies made each week.

Additional terms can be found at

<https://www.usccb.org/media/permissions-policy>

From <https://www.usccb.org/offices/new-american-bible/permissions>

“Permission may **not** be granted to podcast the complete NAB (or complete books of the NAB) or the daily or Sunday readings. … Permission may **not** be granted for display or projection of the readings (on screens, walls, etc.) during liturgical services.”

**Livestreaming:**

No permission or licensing from the USCCB is required for livestreaming of Masses and the Divine Office via social media. Relevant liturgical law should be observed regarding the choice and use of texts.