



2025 Calendar & Year of Grace

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston



January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Pope's Prayer Intention: <i>For the Right to an Education:</i> Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.			01 ● ✠ MOTHER OF GOD <i>Day of Prayer for World Justice and Peace</i> <i>New Years Holiday</i> F ₂ M ₂	02 ● St.s Basil and Gregory F ₁ M ₁	03 ● ● <i>*Most Holy Name of Jesus</i> F ₁ M ₁	04 ● <i>*St. Elizabeth Ann Seton</i> F ₁ M ₁
05 ● ✠ *EPIPHANY <i>Adult Confirmations</i> F ₃ M ₂	06 ● ● <i>St. André Bessette</i> F ₁ M ₁	07 ● ● <i>St. Raymond of Penyafort</i> F ₁ M ₁	08 ● F ₁ M ₁	09 ● F ₁ M ₁	10 ● <i>Acolyte Deadline</i> F ₁ M ₁	11 ● F ₁ M ₁
12 ● ✠ BAPTISM OF THE LORD <i>Adult Confirmations</i> F ₃ M ₂	13 ● ● <i>St. Hilary</i> F ₁ M ₁	14 ● F ₁ M ₁	15 ● F ₁ M ₁	16 ● F ₁ M ₁	17 ● St. Anthony F ₁ M ₁	18 ● F ₁ M ₁
19 ● ✠ 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME F ₃ M ₂	20 ● ● ● <i>St. Fabian</i> <i>St. Sebastian</i> <i>MLK Holiday</i> F ₁ M ₁	21 ● St. Agnes F ₁ M ₁	22 ● Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection F ₁ M ₁	23 ● ● ● <i>St. Vincent</i> <i>St. Marianne</i> <i>Cope</i> F ₁ M ₁	24 ● ● <i>*St. Francis de Sales</i> <i>*Our Lady Queen of Peace</i> F ₁ M ₁	25 ● CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL F ₁ M ₁
26 ● ✠ 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME F ₃ M ₂	27 ● ● <i>*St. Angela Merici</i> F ₁ M ₁	28 ● <i>*St. Thomas Aquinas</i> F ₁ M ₁	29 ● F ₁ M ₁	30 ● F ₁ M ₁	31 ● St. John Bosco F ₁ M ₁	



February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Pope's Prayer Intention: <i>For Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life:</i> Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.						01 ● F ₁ M ₁
02 ● ✠ *THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD F ₃ M ₂	03 ● ● ● <i>St. Blaise</i> <i>St. Ansgar</i> F ₁ M ₁	04 ● F ₁ M ₁	05 ● ● <i>St. Agatha</i> <i>* St. Philip of Jesus</i> F ₁ M ₁	06 ● <i>St. Paul Miki & Companions</i> F ₁ M ₁	07 ● ● <i>* Our Lady of Grace</i> F ₁ M ₁	08 ● ● ● <i>Jerome Emiliani</i> <i>St. Josephine Bakhita</i> F ₁ M ₁
09 ● ✠ 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME F ₃ M ₂	10 ● <i>St. Scholastica</i> F ₁ M ₁	11 ● ● <i>*Our Lady of Lourdes</i> <i>Day of Prayer for Sick & Health Care Workers</i> F ₁ M ₁	12 ● F ₁ M ₁	13 ● F ₁ M ₁	14 ● <i>*St.s Cyril & Methodius</i> <i>Permanent Diaconate Ordination I</i> F ₁ M ₁	15 ● <i>Permanent Diaconate Ordination II</i> F ₁ M ₁
16 ● ✠ 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME F ₃ M ₂	17 ● ● <i>The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order</i> <i>Presidents Day</i> F ₁ M ₁	18 ● F ₁ M ₁	19 ● F ₁ M ₁	20 ● F ₁ M ₁	21 ● ● <i>St. Peter Damian</i> F ₁ M ₁	22 ● THE CHAIR OF ST. PETER F ₁ M ₁
23 ● ✠ 7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME F ₃ M ₂	24 ● F ₁ M ₁	25 ● F ₁ M ₁	26 ● F ₁ M ₁	27 ● ● <i>St. Gregory of Narek</i> F ₁ M ₁	28 ● <i>Anniv Succession of Cardinal DiNardo as Archbishop (2006)</i> F ₁ M ₁	



March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Pope's Prayer Intention: <i>For Families in Crisis:</i> Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.						01 ●
02 ● ✠ 8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME F ₃ M ₂	03 ● ● <i>* St. Katharine Drexel</i> F ₁ M ₁	04 ● ● <i>St. Casimir</i> F ₁ M ₁	05 ● Ash Wednesday F ₃ M ₂₊₃	06 ● F ₁ M ₃	07 ● <i>St.s Perpetua & Felicity</i> F ₁ M ₃	08 ● <i>St. John of God Rite of Election</i> F ₁ M ₃
09 ● ✠ 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT <i>Rite of Election</i> F ₂ M ₂	10 ● F ₁ M ₃	11 ● F ₁ M ₃	12 ● F ₁ M ₃	13 ● F ₁ M ₃	14 ● F ₁ M ₃	15 ● F ₁ M ₃
16 ● ✠ 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT F ₂ M ₂	17 ● <i>*St. Patrick</i> F ₁ M ₃	18 ● <i>St. Cyril of Jerusalem</i> F ₁ M ₃	19 ● *ST. JOSEPH F ₁ M ₂	20 ● F ₁ M ₃	21 ● F ₁ M ₃	22 ● F ₁ M ₃
23 ● ✠ 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT <i>1st Scrutiny</i> F ₂ M ₂	24 ● F ₁ M ₃	25 ● *THE ANNUNCIATION F ₁ M ₂	26 ● F ₁ M ₃	27 ● F ₁ M ₃	28 ● F ₁ M ₃	29 ● F ₁ M ₃
30 ● ✠ 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT <i>2nd Scrutiny</i> F ₂ M ₂	31 ● F ₁ M ₃					



April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		01 ● F ₁ M ₃	02 ● <i>St. Francis of Paola</i> F ₁ M ₃	03 ● F ₁ M ₃	04 ● <i>St. Isidore Acolyte Deadline</i> F ₁ M ₃	05 ● <i>St. Vincent Ferrer</i> F ₁ M ₃
06 ● ✠ 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT <i>3rd Scrutiny</i> F ₂ M ₂	07 ● <i>St. John Baptist de la Salle</i> F ₁ M ₃	08 ● F ₁ M ₃	09 ● F ₁ M ₃	10 ● F ₁ M ₃	11 ● <i>*St. Stanislaus</i> F ₁ M ₃	12 ● F ₁ M ₃
13 ● ✠ PALM SUNDAY F ₂ M ₂₊₃	14 ● F ₁ M ₂₊₃	15 ● <i>Chrism Mass</i> F ₁ M ₂₊₃	16 ● F ₁ M ₂₊₃	17 ● HOLY THURSDAY F ₂	18 ● GOOD FRIDAY F ₂	19 ● HOLY SATURDAY F ₂
20 ● ✠ RESURRECTION OF THE LORD F ₂ M ₂	21 ● F ₃ M ₂	22 ● F ₃ M ₂	23 ● F ₃ M ₂	24 ● F ₃ M ₂	25 ● F ₃ M ₂	26 ● F ₃ M ₂
27 ● ✠ 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER F ₂ M ₂	28 ● ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF THE CATHEDRALS F ₁ M ₁	29 ● <i>* St. Catherine of Siena</i> F ₁ M ₁	30 ● ● <i>* St. Pius V</i> F ₁ M ₁	Pope's Prayer Intention: <i>For the use of the New Technologies: Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.</i>		



May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Pope's Prayer Intention: <i>For Working Conditions:</i> Let us pray that through work, each person might find fulfilment, families might be sustained in dignity, and that society might be humanized.				01 ● ● <i>St. Joseph the Worker</i> F ₁ M ₁	02 ● St. Athanasius F ₁ M ₁	03 ● * ST. PHILIP & JAMES F ₁ M ₁
04 ● ✠ 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER F ₂ M ₂	05 ● F ₁ M ₁	06 ● F ₁ M ₁	07 ● F ₁ M ₁	08 ● F ₁ M ₁	09 ● F ₁ M ₁	10 ● ● ● <i>St. John of Avila</i> <i>St. Damien de Veuster</i> <i>Transitional Diaconate Ordination</i> F ₁ M ₁
11 ● ✠ 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER <i>Good Shepherd Sunday</i> <i>Mother's Day</i> F ₂ M ₂	12 ● ● ● <i>St.s Nereus & Achilleus</i> <i>St. Pancras</i> F ₁ M ₁	13 ● ● * <i>Our Lady of Fatima</i> F ₁ M ₁	14 ● *ST. MATTHIAS F ₁ M ₁	15 ● ● <i>St. Isidore</i> F ₁ M ₁	16 ● F ₁ M ₁	17 ● F ₁ M ₁
18 ● ✠ 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER F ₂ M ₂	19 ● F ₁ M ₁	20 ● ● <i>St. Bernardine of Siena</i> F ₁ M ₁	21 ● ● <i>St. Christopher Magallanes & Companions</i> F ₁ M ₁	22 ● ● <i>St. Rita of Cascia</i> F ₁ M ₁	23 ● F ₁ M ₁	24 ● F ₁ M ₁
25 ● ✠ 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER F ₂ M ₂	26 ● St. Philip Neri Memorial Day F ₁ M ₁	27 ● ● <i>St. Augustine of Canterbury</i> F ₁ M ₁	28 ● F ₁ M ₁	29 ● <i>St. Paul VI</i> F ₁ M ₃	30 ● F ₁ M ₁	31 ● THE VISITATION F ₁ M ₁



June 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01 ● ✠ * THE ASCENSION <i>Day of Prayer for Fair Weather</i> <i>Adult Confirmations</i> F ₂ M ₂	02 ● ● <i>St.s Marcellinus & Peter</i> F ₁ M ₁	03 ● St. Charles Lwanga & Companions F ₁ M ₁	04 ● F ₁ M ₁	05 ● St. Boniface F ₁ M ₁	06 ● ● <i>St. Norbert</i> F ₁ M ₁	07 ● <i>Adult Confirmations</i> <i>Presbyteral Ordination Mass</i> F ₁ M ₁
08 ● ✠ *PENTECOST <i>Adult Confirmations</i> F ₂ M ₂	09 ● Mary, Mother of the Church F ₁ M ₁	10 ● F ₁ M ₁	11 ● ST. BARNABAS F ₁ M ₁	12 ● <i>Adult Confirmations</i> F ₁ M ₁	13 ● <i>* St. Anthony of Padua</i> <i>Adult Confirmations</i> F ₁ M ₁	14 ● F ₁ M ₁
15 ● ✠ *THE MOST HOLY TRINITY <i>Father's Day</i> F ₃ M ₂	16 ● F ₁ M ₁	17 ● F ₁ M ₁	18 ● F ₁ M ₁	19 ● ● <i>St. Romuald Juneteenth</i> F ₁ M ₁	20 ● F ₁ M ₁	21 ● St. Aloysius Gonzaga F ₁ M ₁
22 ● ✠ *CORPUS CHRISTI F ₃ M ₂	23 ● F ₁ M ₁	24 ● NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST F ₁ M ₂	25 ● F ₁ M ₁	26 ● F ₁ M ₁	27 ● *SACRED HEART OF JESUS F ₁ M ₂	28 ● ● ● <i>Immaculate Heart of Mary</i> <i>St. Irenaeus</i> F ₁ M ₁
29 ● ✠ * ST.S PETER AND PAUL F ₃ M ₂	30 ● F ₁ M ₁	Pope's Prayer Intention: <i>That the World Might Grow in Compassion:</i> Let us pray that each one of us might find consolation in a personal relationship with Jesus, and from his Heart, learn to have compassion on the world..				



July 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		01 ● ● <i>St. Junípero Serra</i> F ₁ M ₁	02 ● <i>Anniversary of Italo Episcopal Ordination (2021)</i> F ₁ M ₁	03 ● * ST. THOMAS F ₁ M ₁	04 ● ● <i>Independence Holiday</i> F ₁ M ₁	05 ● ● ● <i>St. Anthony Zaccaria St. Elizabeth of Portugal</i> F ₁ M ₁
06 ● ✠ 14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME F ₃ M ₂	07 ● F ₁ M ₁	08 ● F ₁ M ₁	09 ● ● <i>St. Augustine Zhao Rong & Companions</i> F ₁ M ₁	10 ● F ₁ M ₁	11 ● * St. Benedict F ₁ M ₁	12 ● F ₁ M ₁
13 ● ✠ 15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>Day of Prayer for Sea Farers</i> F ₃ M ₂	14 ● <i>St. Kateri Tekakwitha</i> F ₁ M ₁	15 ● <i>St. Bonaventure</i> F ₁ M ₁	16 ● ● * <i>Our Lady of Mount Carmel</i> F ₁ M ₁	17 ● F ₁ M ₁	18 ● ● <i>St. Camillus de Lellis</i> F ₁ M ₁	19 ● F ₁ M ₁
20 ● ✠ 16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME F ₃ M ₂	21 ● ● <i>St. Lawrence of Brindisi</i> F ₁ M ₁	22 ● * ST. MARY MAGDALENE F ₁ M ₁	23 ● ● <i>St. Bridget</i> F ₁ M ₁	24 ● ● <i>St. Sharbel Makhlūf</i> F ₁ M ₁	25 ● * ST. JAMES <i>Archdiocesan Youth Conference</i> F ₁ M ₁	26 ● * St.s Joachim & Anne <i>Archdiocesan Youth Conference</i> F ₁ M ₁
27 ● ✠ 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>Archdiocesan Youth Conference</i> F ₃ M ₂	28 ● F ₁ M ₁	29 ● * St.s Martha, Mary, and Lazarus F ₁ M ₁	30 ● ● <i>St. Peter Chrysologus</i> F ₁ M ₁	31 ● <i>St. Ignatius Loyola</i> F ₁ M ₁	Pope's Prayer Intention: <i>For Formation in Discernment:</i> Let us pray that we might again learn how to discern, to know how to choose paths of life and reject everything that leads us away from Christ and the Gospel.	



August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Pope's Prayer Intention: <i>For Mutual Coexistence:</i> Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious or ideological reasons.					01 ● * St. Alphonsus Liguori F ₁ M ₁	02 ● ● ● <i>St. Eusebius of Vercelli</i> <i>St. Peter Julian Eymard</i> F ₁ M ₁
03 ● ✠ 18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME F ₃ M ₂	04 ● * St. John Vianney F ₁ M ₁	05 ● ● <i>The Dedication of the Basilica of Saint Mary Major</i> F ₁ M ₁	06 ● THE TRANSFIGURATION F ₁ M ₁	07 ● ● ● ● ● <i>St. Sixtus II & Companions</i> <i>St. Cajetan</i> * St. Albert of Trapani F ₁ M ₁	08 ● * St. Dominic Opening School's Mass F ₁ M ₁	09 ● ● * St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross F ₁ M ₁
10 ● ✠ 19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME F ₃ M ₂	11 ● * St. Clare of Assisi F ₁ M ₁	12 ● ● <i>St. Jane Frances de Chantal</i> F ₁ M ₁	13 ● ● <i>St.s Pontian & Hippolytus</i> F ₁ M ₁	14 ● * St. Maximilian Kolbe F ₁ M ₁	15 ● ✠ *ASSUMPTION OF MARY F ₂ M ₂	16 ● ● <i>St. Stephen of Hungary</i> F ₁ M ₁
17 ● ✠ 20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME F ₃ M ₂	18 ● ● * St. Helen F ₁ M ₁	19 ● ● <i>St. John Eudes</i> F ₁ M ₁	20 ● St. Bernard F ₁ M ₁	21 St. Pius X F ₁ M ₁	22 ● * Queenship of Mary F ₁ M ₁	23 ● * St. Rose of Lima F ₁ M ₁
24 ● ✠ 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME F ₃ M ₂	25 ● ● ● <i>St. Louis</i> <i>St. Joseph Calasanz</i> <i>Acolyte Deadline</i> F ₁ M ₁	26 ● ● * Our Lady of Czestochowa F ₁ M ₁	27 ● * St. Monica F ₁ M ₁	28 ● * St. Augustine F ₁ M ₁	29 ● Passion Of St. John The Baptist F ₁ M ₁	30 ● F ₁ M ₁
31 ● ✠ 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME F ₃ M ₂						



September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	01 ● <i>Labor Day</i> F ₁ M ₁	02 ● F ₁ M ₁	03 ● * St. Gregory the Great F ₁ M ₁	04 ● F ₁ M ₁	05 ● F ₁ M ₁	06 ● F ₁ M ₁
07 ● ✠ 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME F ₃ M ₂	08 ● THE NATIVITY OF MARY F ₁ M ₁	09 ● * St. Peter Claver F ₁ M ₁	10 ● F ₁ M ₁	11 ● F ₁ M ₁	12 ● F ₁ M ₁	13 ● St. John Chrysostom F ₁ M ₁
14 ● ✠ THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS F ₃ M ₂	15 ● * Our Lady of Sorrows F ₁ M ₁	16 ● St.s Cornelius & Cyprian F ₁ M ₁	17 ● ● ● St. Robert Bellarmine St. Hildegard of Bingen F ₁ M ₁	18 ● F ₁ M ₁	19 ● St. Januarius F ₁ M ₁	20 ● * St. Andrew Kim Tae-gõn, Paul Chõng Ha-sang, & Companions F ₁ M ₁
21 ● ✠ 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 50 th Wedding Anniv Mass F ₃ M ₂	22 ● F ₁ M ₁	23 ● St. Pius of Pietrelcina F ₁ M ₁	24 ● ● * Our Lady of Mercy F ₁ M ₁	25 ● ● St.s Cosmas & Damian F ₁ M ₁	26 ● St. Vincent de Paul F ₁ M ₁	27 ● * St. Vincent de Paul * Our Lady Star of the Sea F ₁ M ₁
28 ● ✠ 26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Day of Prayer for Migrants & Itinerant Workers Blue Mass F ₃ M ₂	29 ● * THE ARCHANGELS F ₁ M ₁	30 ● * St. Jerome F ₁ M ₁	Pope's Prayer Intention: <i>For Our Relationship with all of Creation:</i> Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.			



October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Pope's Prayer Intention: <i>For Collaboration between different Religious Traditions:</i> Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice and human fraternity.			01 ● * St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus F ₁ M ₁	02 ● * The Guardian Angels F ₁ M ₁	03 ● F ₁ M ₁	04 ● * St. Francis of Assisi F ₁ M ₁
05 ● ✠ 27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME F ₃ M ₂	06 ● ● ● <i>St. Bruno</i> <i>Blessed Marie Rose Durocher</i> F ₁ M ₁	07 ● * Our Lady of the Rosary <i>Anniv of DiNardo</i> <i>Episcopal Ordination (1997)</i> F ₁ M ₁	08 ● F ₁ M ₁	09 ● ● ● <i>St. Denis & Companions</i> <i>St. John Leonardi</i> F ₁ M ₁	10 ● F ₁ M ₁	11 ● ● <i>St. John XXIII</i> F ₁ M ₁
12 ● ✠ 28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME F ₃ M ₂	13 ● ● * St. Edward <i>Columbus Day</i> F ₁ M ₁	14 ● ● <i>St. Callistus I</i> F ₁ M ₁	15 ● St. Teresa of Jesus F ₁ M ₁	16 ● ● ● <i>St. Hedwig</i> <i>St. Margaret</i> <i>Mary Alacoque</i> <i>White Mass</i> F ₁ M ₁	17 ● Ignatius of Antioch F ₁ M ₁	18 ● * ST. LUKE F ₁ M ₁
19 ● ✠ 29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME F ₃ M ₂	20 ● ● <i>St. Paul of the Cross</i> F ₁ M ₁	21 ● F ₁ M ₁	22 ● ● <i>St. John Paul II</i> F ₁ M ₁	23 ● ● <i>St. John of Capistrano</i> F ₁ M ₁	24 ● ● <i>St. Anthony Mary Claret</i> F ₁ M ₁	25 ● F ₁ M ₁
26 ● ✠ 30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>25th Wedding Anniv</i> <i>Mass</i> F ₃ M ₂	27 ● F ₁ M ₁	28 ● * ST.S SIMON & JUDE F ₁ M ₁	29 ● F ₁ M ₁	30 ● F ₁ M ₁	31 ● F ₁ M ₁	



November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						01 ● * ALL SAINTS F ₃ M ₂
02 ● ✠ ALL SOULS F ₃ M ₂	03 ● ● * St. Martin de Porres F ₁ M ₁	04 ● * St. Charles Borromeo F ₁ M ₁	05 ● F ₁ M ₁	06 ● F ₁ M ₁	07 ● F ₁ M ₁	08 ● F ₁ M ₁
09 ● ✠ THE DEDICATION OF LATERAN BASILICA F ₃ M ₂	10 ● * St. Leo the Great F ₁ M ₁	11 ● St. Martin of Tours Veterans Day F ₁ M ₁	12 ● St. Josaphat F ₁ M ₁	13 ● * St. Francis Xavier Cabrini F ₁ M ₁	14 ● F ₁ M ₁	15 ● ● St. Albert the Great F ₁ M ₁
16 ● ✠ 33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME F ₃ M ₂	17 ● St. Elizabeth of Hungary F ₁ M ₁	18 ● ● ● Dedication of the Basilicas of Saints Peter & Paul St. Rose Philippine Duchesne F ₁ M ₁	19 ● F ₁ M ₁	20 ● F ₁ M ₁	21 ● The Presentation of Mary F ₁ M ₁	22 ● * St. Cecilia F ₁ M ₁
23 ● ✠ * CHRIST THE KING F ₃ M ₂	24 ● * St. Andrew Dũng- Lạc & Companions DiNardo elevated as Cardinal (2007) F ₁ M ₁	25 ● St. Catherine of Alexandria F ₁ M ₁	26 ● F ₁ M ₁	27 ● ● ● Thanksgiving Day * Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal F ₁ M ₁	28 ● F ₁ M ₁	29 ● F ₁ M ₁
30 ● ✠ 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT F ₂ M ₂	Pope's Prayer Intention: <i>For the Prevention of Suicide:</i> Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.					



December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	01 ●	02 ●	03 ● * St. Francis Xavier	04 ● <i>St. John Damascene</i>	05 ●	06 ● * St. Nicholas <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass</i>
	F ₁ M ₁	F ₁ M ₁	F ₁ M ₁	F ₁ M ₁	F ₁ M ₁	F ₁ M ₁
07 ● ✠ 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	08 ● ✠ * IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY <i>Primary Patroness of the Diocese</i>	09 ● * St. Juan Diego	10 ● <i>Our Lady of Loreto</i>	11 ● <i>Damasus I</i>	12 ● * OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE <i>Day of Prayer for Human Rights and Equality</i>	13 ● St. Lucy
F ₂ M ₂	F ₂ M ₂	F ₁ M ₁	F ₁ M ₁	F ₁ M ₁	F ₁ M ₁	F ₁ M ₁
14 ● ✠ 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	15 ●	16 ●	17 ● <i>O Wisdom</i>	18 ● <i>O Leader</i> * The Expectation of Mary	19 ● <i>O Root</i>	20 ● <i>O Key</i>
F ₂ M ₂	F ₁ M ₁	F ₁ M ₁	F ₁ M ₁	F ₁ M ₁	F ₃ M ₃	F ₁ M ₁
21 ● ✠ 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT <i>O Radiant</i>	22 ● <i>O King</i>	23 ● <i>O Emmanuel</i> <i>St. John of Kanty</i>	24 ●	25 ● ✠ * NATIVITY OF THE LORD	26 ● * ST. STEPHEN	27 ● * ST. JOHN
F ₂ M ₂	F ₁ M ₁	F ₁ M ₁	F ₁ M ₁	F ₂ M ₂	F ₁ M ₁	F ₁ M ₁
28 ● ✠ * THE HOLY FAMILY	29 ● <i>St. Thomas Becket</i>	30 ●	31 ● <i>St. Sylvester I</i>	Pope's Prayer Intention: <i>For Christians in Areas of Conflict:</i> Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.		
F ₃ M ₂	F ₁ M ₁	F ₁ M ₁	F ₁ M ₁			

Year of Grace 2025

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document does **not** replace or supersede the Ordo. It is intended as a quick reference guide for those responsible for and who assist with the preparation of the liturgy. The document contains general notes on the seasons and the revised Roman Missal, as well as detailed information is for the various days and seasons.

CALENDAR LEGEND KEY

- ✠ – Day of Obligation
- – Liturgical Color of Day in order
- * – Archdiocesan Parish Feasts
- F₁ – Funeral Liturgy or Mass is Permitted
- F₂ – Funeral Outside of Mass is Permitted
- F₃ – Funeral Mass is Permitted, but pastorally prudent to be have a Funeral Outside of Mass
- M₁ – Full Marriage Liturgy or Mass is Permitted
- M₂ – For a Wedding celebrated during Mass, the readings and prayers for a must come from the Propers of the day. Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass may be celebrated.
- M₃ – Marriages are allowed, but celebrated on a day having a penitential character, the pastor is to counsel the spouses to consider the special nature of that day.

CYCLES – LECTIONARY FOR MASS

Sunday Cycle	YEAR C	December 1, 2024 to November 23, 2025
Weekday Cycle	CYCLE I	January 13 to March 4, 2025 June 9 to November 29, 2025
Sunday Cycle	YEAR A	November 30, 2025 to November 22, 2026

PRINCIPAL CELEBRATIONS OF THE LITURGICAL YEAR

First Sunday of Advent	December 1, 2024
Ash Wednesday	March 5, 2025
Easter Sunday	April 20, 2025
The Ascension of the Lord [Sunday]	June 1, 2025
Pentecost Sunday	June 8, 2025
The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ	June 22, 2025
First Sunday of Advent	November 30, 2025

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Dec. 1, 2024 – Jan. 12, 2025	Advent, Christmas	Vol. I
Jan. 13 – Mar. 4, 2025	Weeks 1 to 8, Ordinary Time	Vol. III
Mar. 5 – June 8, 2025	Lent, Triduum, Easter	Vol. II
June 9 – Aug. 2, 2025	Weeks 10 to 17, Ordinary Time	Vol. III
Aug. 3 – Nov. 29, 2025	Weeks 18 to 34, Ordinary Time	Vol. IV
Nov. 30, 2025 – Jan. 11, 2026	Advent, Christmas	Vol. I

ARCHDIOCESAN LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS

Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass	Saturday, December 7, 2024
Permanent Diaconate Ordination I	Friday, February 14, 2025
Permanent Diaconate Ordination II	Saturday, February 15, 2025
Chrism Mass	Tuesday, April 15, 2025
Transitional Diaconate Ordination Mass	Saturday, May 10, 2025
Presbyteral Ordination Mass	Saturday, June 7, 2025
Opening Schools' Mass	Friday, August 8, 2025
Wedding Anniversary (50th) Jubilee Mass	Sunday, September 21, 2025
Blue Mass	Sunday, September 28, 2025
White Mass	Thursday, October 16, 2025
Wedding Anniversary (25th) Jubilee Mass	Sunday, October 26, 2025
Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass	Saturday, December 6, 2025

DAYS OF PRAYER

The following days of prayer have been added to the archdiocesan calendar. Particular mention in the liturgies of these days and inclusion in the general intercessions should be made. If appropriate, a special prayer to conclude the intercessions and inclusion in the homily would be appropriate:

Day of Prayer for Human Rights and Equality	Dec 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe
Day of Prayer for World Justice and Peace	Jan 1 – Mary, the Holy Mother of God
Day of Prayer for the Sick and Health Care Workers	Feb 11- Our Lady of Lourdes
Day of Prayer for Fair Weather	Sunday nearest to June 1 – start of Hurricane Season
Day of Prayer for Sea Farers	Second Sunday of July – coincides with Sea Sunday
Day of Prayer for Migrants and Itinerant Workers	Last Sunday of September – World Day of Migrants and Refugees

JUBILEE 2025: PILGRIMS OF HOPE

On May 13, 2024, the Holy See's Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments confirmed the text of the "Mass for the Holy Year" in multiple languages. The USCCB provides them in English, Spanish, and Latin. These may be used during the Jubilee Year 2025, from December 24, 2024 to January 6, 2026. There is a hymn written to be used throughout the year, especially when the Mass Propers are used. You can find these texts at: www.archgh.org/jubilee2025

ANNIVERSARY OF DEDICATION: ST. MARY CATHEDRAL BASILICA AND CO-CATHEDRAL OF THE SACRED HEART

Following the (re)dedication of St. Mary Cathedral Basilica on April 13, 2014, Cardinal DiNardo desired to unite the observance of the dedication of the basilica and the co-cathedral. This commemoration is now observed on April 13th. In both the basilica and the co-cathedral, the days are a solemnity. In all other churches of the Archdiocese it is celebrated as a Feast. **In 2025, due to Holy Week, the anniversary is transferred to April 28th and celebrated only in the Basilica and Co-Cathedral.**

LITURGICAL CALENDAR NOTES

Advent (2024)

DECEMBER (2024)

December 1, **First Sunday of Advent**

- Begin Sunday *Lectionary for Mass*, Year C; Weekday *Lectionary for Mass*, Year II.
- Sundays of Advent take precedence. Therefore, Masses Sunday evening are that of Sunday

December 9, Monday, **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

- Not a holy day of obligation but nonetheless a holy day and solemnity. A sufficient number of masses should be scheduled for the faithful's observance of the Solemnity.
- The Optional Memorial of Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin, December 9, is omitted this year.

December 12, Thursday, **Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**

- Archdiocesan Day of Prayer for Human Rights and Equality
- Particular mention in the liturgy and inclusion in the general intercessions should be made. If appropriate, the concluding prayer for the intercessions could reflect this intention.

December 15, **Third Sunday of Advent**, Gaudete Sunday

- Rose colored vestments may be worn.

Christmas Time (2024)

December 25, Wednesday, **The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)**

- **Always** a Holy Day of Obligation
- Genuflect at "and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate...became man" during the recitation of the Creed
- Vigil Masses may **not** begin before 4:00 p.m. [*Christus Dominus* 1953 (AAS 45)].

JANUARY

January 1, Wednesday, **Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (Octave Day of Christmas)**

- *Holy day of obligation this year.*
- Archdiocesan Day of Prayer for World Justice and Peace
- Particular mention in the liturgy and inclusion in the general intercessions should be made. If appropriate, the homily and the concluding prayer for the intercessions could reflect this intention. Sample prayers provided above.

Ordinary Time (Winter)

January 22, Wednesday, **Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children** (USA) GIRM 373

- "For Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life" (no. 48/1 of the Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions), with white vestments OR
- "For the Preservation of Peace and Justice" (no. 30 of the Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions), with purple vestments.

January 26, **Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

- Pope Francis has designated the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time as "[Sunday of the Word of God](#)", devoted to the celebration, study, and dissemination of the Word of God.
- The USCCB has prepared a website (<https://www.usccb.org/committees/divine-worship/sunday-word-god>) with information and materials for use by the parishes
- This would be an ideal weekend to celebrate the Order for the Blessing of Readers (Book of Blessings, chapter 61).

FEBRUARY

February 2, Sunday, **Feast of the Presentation of the Lord**

- Two options are provided in the Roman Missal for the Blessing of Candles and the Procession (First Form: The Procession; Second Form: The Solemn Entrance)
- Pastoral Suggestion
 - If parishioners are not bringing candles to be blessed, the pastor may exercise his discretion not to re-bless the parish candles at each Mass. Perhaps use the First Form at the first Mass of the Feast (including the blessing) and then the Second Form at all subsequent Masses (omitting the blessing). In either case, but especially the latter, it may be prudent to include additional candles in the procession and liturgical environment. The celebrant should give an explanatory address as to the importance of this Feast.
 - If it is the parish custom that parishioners bring candles to be blessed then the blessing of candles should be included in either form of the entrance rites, as indicated in the Roman Missal.

February 11, Tuesday, **Day of Prayer for the Sick and Health Care Workers**

- Archdiocesan Day of Prayer for the Sick and Health Care Workers
- Particular mention in the liturgy and inclusion in the general intercessions should be made. If appropriate, the homily and the concluding prayer for the intercessions could reflect this intention.
- Celebrations of the Anointing of the Sick are highly encouraged on this day.

February 27, Tuesday, **optional Memorial of St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church**

- Added to the General Roman Calendar by decree of the CDWDS (February 2, 2021)
- Collect can be taken from the Common of Doctors of the Church

LENT

NOTE: Ideally, marriages necessary for initiation into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil, including convalidations, should be celebrated before Holy Week. They may NOT be celebrated on Good Friday or Holy Saturday.

MARCH

Rite of Sending (Parish)

- At a time close to the Rite of Election, in a Celebration of the Word or a Mass, the Rite of Sending is used to prepare those being sent to the Bishop.
- For the liturgical texts see OCIA no. 106ff; or no. 434ff; or no. 530ff.
- If a Catechumen cannot attend the Rite of Sending, an effort should still be made to have their name inscribed in the Book of the Elect.

March 5, Ash Wednesday

- Form for distribution of ashes.
 - “Repent and believe in the Gospel.”
 - “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”
- In Mass, the Penitential Act is omitted due to the imposition of ashes later in the liturgy.
- The blessing and distribution of ashes may also take place outside Mass. In this case, the rite is preceded by a Liturgy of the Word, with the Entrance Antiphon, the Collect, and the readings with their chants as at Mass. Then there follows the Homily and the blessing and distribution of ashes. The rite is concluded with the Universal Prayer, the Blessing, and the Dismissal of the Faithful. (RM3, Ash Wednesday)

March 9, First Sunday of Lent

- Rite of Election (Archdiocese)
 - Rite of Election is celebrated by the Cardinal or an assisting bishop at various locations around the archdiocese.
 - The names of the Elect should be written in the Book of the Elect before arriving for the Rite of Election, and the Book of the Elect needs to be brought to the Rite of Election.

March 16, Second Sunday of Lent

- Penitential Rite with baptized Candidates for full Communion of the Catholic Church (OCIA no. 464ff)

March 23, Third Sunday of Lent

- **First Scrutiny** for OCIA Elect (only)
 - The Gospel – the Samaritan Woman **must** be read when the scrutiny is celebrated
 - Preface: Third Sunday of Lent – The Samaritan Woman
 - EP I – proper *Memento* and *Hanc igitur*, EP II & EP III proper intercessions
- Cycle A readings may be read at all Masses (Intro. Lectionary 97; PS 24)
- When the Scrutiny is not celebrated, Preface I or II of Lent is used.
- OCIA - Presentation of the Creed (during week, OCIA 104, 157)

March 25, Tuesday, **Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord**

- Genuflect at “and by the Holy Spirit.....became man” during the recitation of the Creed.

March 30, **Fourth Sunday of Lent**, Laetare Sunday

- Rose vestments may be worn
- **Second Scrutiny** for OCIA Elect (only)
 - The Gospel – The Man Born Blind **must** be read when the scrutiny is celebrated
 - Preface: Fourth Sunday of Lent – The Man Born Blind
 - EP I – proper Memento and Hanc Igitur; EP II & EP III proper intercessions
- Cycle A readings may be read at all Masses (Intro. Lectionary 97; PS 24)
- When the Scrutiny is not celebrated, Preface I or II of Lent is used.
- Covering crosses and images - In the Dioceses of the United States of America, crosses in the church may be covered from the **conclusion of the Mass for Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent** until the end of the celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday. Images in the church may be covered from the conclusion of the Mass for Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent until the beginning of the Easter Vigil. (USCCB, 2001; CDW Prot No 1381/01/L)

APRIL

April 6, **Fifth Sunday of Lent**

- **Third Scrutiny** for OCIA Elect (only)
 - The Gospel – Lazarus **must** be read when the scrutiny is celebrated
 - Preface Fifth Sunday of Lent – Lazarus
 - EP I – proper Memento and Hanc Igitur; EP II & EP III proper intercessions
- Cycle A readings may be read at all Masses (Intro. Lectionary 97; PS 24)
- When the Scrutiny is not celebrated, Preface I or II of Lent is used.

Holy Week

NOTE: Ideally, all Marriages (including convalidations) should be celebrated before Holy Week. Celebrations of Matrimony are not permitted on Good Friday or Holy Saturday (OCM, 32).

April 13, **Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**

- Entrance Gospel is found in Roman Missal.

April 14-16, Monday through Wednesday inclusive, **Weekdays of Holy Week**

- "The days of Holy Week, from Monday to Thursday inclusive, have precedence over all other celebrations." It is **not** fitting that baptisms and confirmation be celebrated on these days (except in danger of death). (PS 27)
- Ritual Masses are **not** permitted (GIRM 372)

April 15, Tuesday, **Chrism Mass** at Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, 7:00 p.m.

April 17, **Holy Thursday (during the day)**, Lenten Weekday [6]

- Only Masses permitted are Chrism Mass and the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper.
- Exceptions to this are reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the Cardinal.
- It is **not** fitting that baptism and/or confirmation be celebrated (except in danger of death). (PS 27)
- Ritual Masses are **not** permitted (GIRM 372)
- A Funeral Mass may **not** be celebrated (GIRM 380; OCF 178)
- A Funeral Liturgy outside Mass may be celebrated (OCF 178)
- Ideally, all Marriages (including convalidations) should be celebrated before Holy Week.
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony within Mass* may **not** be celebrated
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass* may be celebrated. (GIRM 372, OCM 34)
- Communion distributed **only** during Mass, but may be brought to the sick at any hour of the day. (RM3 Holy Thursday, 4, EWOM 16a)

THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Begins with Thursday of the Lord's Supper at the Evening Mass through Evening Prayer of Easter Sunday.

April 17, **Thursday of the Lord's Supper at the Evening Mass [Holy Thursday]**

- Mass marks the end of the Lenten fast and the start of the Paschal fast. (RM3 Paschal Triduum, 1; PS 39)
- A sufficient number of hosts are prepared, including Communion to the sick and for the Celebration of the Lord's Passion. (RM3 Holy Thursday, 5; PS 48)
- There is no prescribed number of individuals whose feet are washed. Participants may be women, youth, and children, as well as men. The community may take part in the foot washing presuming the liturgy is properly prepared. (CDF Decree, Jan 2016)
- Presiders are reminded to wash their hands after the washing of feet (RM3 Holy Thursday #13)
- Order of procession to the chapel of repose is outlined below (RM3 Holy Thursday #38)
- Stripping the altar privately after Mass does **not** include the removal of the Altar, Ambo, Presider's Chair or removing the Corpus from the Crucifix. Holy water fonts may be drained and cleaned to be refilled after baptisms on Holy Saturday. Crosses may be removed if possible or covered with red or purple fabric. Candles should **not** be lit before sacred images. (RM3 Holy Thursday, 41; PS 57, CDW Prot No 569/00/L)
- Church bells are to remain quiet after the Gloria in Evening Mass on Thursday of the Lord's Supper to the Gloria in the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night. (RM3 Holy Thursday, 7; PS 50)
- There should be no exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from the Mass of the Lord's Supper until after the Triduum. After the transfer of the Blessed Sacrament, the faithful are invited to continue adoration before the Blessed Sacrament for a suitable length of time, but after midnight the adoration should take place without solemnity. (RM3 Holy Thursday #43)

April 18, **Friday of the Passion of the Lord [Good Friday]**,

- See description below
- On this day and Holy Saturday, the Church does **not** celebrate the sacraments at all except for Penance and the Anointing of the Sick. (RM3 Good Friday #1)
- A Funeral Mass may **not** be celebrated (GIRM 380; OCF, 178)
- A Funeral Liturgy outside Mass may be celebrated. "Funerals are to be celebrated without singing, music, or the tolling of bells" (OCF, 178; PS 61).
- The celebration of Matrimony (including convalidation) is **forbidden** (PS 61; OCM 32)

- Communion may be given only at the celebration of the Lord's Passion, but may be brought at any hour of the day to the sick who **cannot** participate in this service. (RM3 Good Friday, p. 314; PS 59; EWOM 16b)
- Cross vs. Crucifix. The ritual text clearly refers to the wood of the cross which is the instrument of our salvation. However, it is clear that the use of the crucifix is mentioned in the middle ages. A cross without corpus is preferred but a crucifix may be used. Nonetheless, only a single cross or crucifix should be used for the veneration. (PS 68, 69)
- The minister for the Good Friday liturgy of the Celebration of the Lord's Passion is a priest. The liturgy of Good Friday is linked to the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper and the Easter Vigil.
- The option is no longer given for the priest, at the solemn intercession, to choose the prayers in the missal which are more appropriate to local circumstances. The Diocesan Bishop, for grave public need, may permit or order the addition of a special intention. (RM3 Good Friday 13)
- The form for the presentation of the Cross has changed: Behold the wood of the Cross, on which hung the **salvation** of the world. R. Come, let us **adore**.
- For the adoration of the cross, the priest celebrant alone approaches, with the chasuble and his shoes removed, if appropriate. Then the clergy, the lay ministers and faithful approach (RM3 Good Friday 18).
- Adoration of one cross only is allowed. (RM3 Good Friday 19)
- Deacon, or if there is no Deacon, the Priest himself, wearing the humeral veil brings the Blessed Sacrament to the altar for the distribution of Holy Communion (RM3 22).
- At the conclusion of the service, all genuflect to the cross and depart in silence. The altar is stripped afterwards but the Cross with two or four candles remains. (RM3 Good Friday 28)

April 19, **Holy Saturday / Easter Vigil in the Holy Night**

- No Masses are to be celebrated during the day. The Church abstains from the Sacrifice of the Mass, with the sacred table left bare, until after the solemn Vigil. (RM3 Holy Saturday 2)
- Aside from the Easter Vigil, Holy Communion may be given **only** as Viaticum. Regular communion calls to the sick, except for Viaticum, are **not** to occur. (RM3 Holy Saturday 3; EWOM 16c)
- The celebration of Matrimony (including convalidation) is **forbidden** (PS 75, OCM 32)
- A Funeral Mass may **not** be celebrated (GIRM 380)
- A Funeral Liturgy outside Mass may be celebrated. (GIRM 380, OCF 178)
- It is commendable that the Preparation Rites, e.g., Recitation of the Creed, Ephphetha, anointing catechumens with the Oil of Catechumens, etc. be celebrated with the elect during the day. (OCIA, 185)
- Easter Vigil liturgy in 2023 should begin **no earlier than 8:30 p.m.** "The entire celebration of the Easter Vigil takes place at night. It should **not** begin before nightfall and it should end before daybreak on Sunday.' This rule is to be taken according to its strictest sense." (PS 78)
- The cross and candles are **not** carried out to the Easter fire. (RM3 Easter Vigil 8)
- The preparation of the paschal candle is a required part of the rite. (RM3 Easter Vigil 11)
- "*Lumen Christi*" is sung at the door of the church, at the middle of the church, and before the altar. (RM3 Easter Vigil, 15-17)
- Triple intonation of the alleluia is part of the gospel acclamation. (RM3 34)
- If the anointing of the adults with the Oil of Catechumens has **not** taken place beforehand, as part of the Holy Saturday preparatory rites, it occurs after the blessing of the water and prescribed questioning of the adults and parents or godparents of the children. (RM3 Easter Vigil, 48)
- Order for the completion of the rite of Baptism is stated in the Missal. (RM3 Easter Vigil, 51)
- Before the *Ecce Agnus Dei*, the priest may briefly address the newly baptized about receiving their first Communion and about the excellence of this great mystery, which is the climax of initiation and the center of the whole of Christian life. (RM3 Easter Vigil, 64)

- The Paschal Candle is to remain in the sanctuary near the ambo or the altar from the Easter Vigil until Pentecost evening prayer. (PS 99) It is lit in all solemn liturgical celebrations of the Easter Season. (RM3 Easter Vigil, 70)
- Double “alleluia” at dismissal.

April 20, **Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord**

- Rite of the Renewal of Baptismal Promises according to the text found for Easter Vigil at #55 may take place after the Homily in place of the standard recitation of the Creed. (RM3 Easter Sunday, 72)
- Double “alleluia” at dismissal.

EASTER TIME

April 21-27, **Octave of Easter**, Monday within the Octave of Easter through the Second Sunday of Easter

- Each day is celebrated as a Solemnity of the Lord (GNLY 24)
- Double “alleluia” at dismissal.

April 27, **Second Sunday of Easter or Divine Mercy Sunday (The Octave Day of Easter)**

- Double “alleluia” at dismissal.

April 28, Monday, **Anniversary of the Dedication of Metropolitan Cathedral and the Co-Cathedral**

- Transferred from April 13 and due to Holy Week.

MAY

May 10, Saturday, **optional Memorial of St. John de Avila, Priest and Doctor of the Church**

- Added to the General Roman Calendar by decree of the CDWDS (February 2, 2021)
- Collect can be taken from the Common of Doctors of the Church

May 11, Sunday, **Fourth Sunday of Easter**

- The Blessing of Mothers is found in the Book of Blessings, Chapter 55.

May 29, Thursday, **Easter Weekday** [week 6]

- The Celebration of the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord has been transferred to the Seventh Sunday of Easter in the Provinces of Texas, including the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.
- Readings #294
 - Acts 18: 1-8; Psalm 98: 1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; John 16:16-20.

Or:

optional Memorial of St. Paul VI, Pope

- Added to the General Roman Calendar by decree of the CDWDS (January 25, 2019)
- Collect can be taken from the Common of Common of Pastors: For a Pope

JUNE

June 1, Sunday, **Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord**

- Note texts in the Roman Missal for the Vigil Mass for the Ascension of the Lord.
- Archdiocesan Day of Prayer for Fair Weather (Sunday Closest to June 1).
- Particular mention in the liturgy and inclusion in the general intercessions should be made. If appropriate, the concluding prayer for the intercessions could reflect this intention.

June 8, **Pentecost Sunday**

- Vigil Mass: Orations for the Vigil Mass of Pentecost in the Roman Missal. The Pentecost Sequence, *Veni, Sancte, Spiritus*, obligatory on Pentecost Sunday, may be omitted at the Vigil. If the Vigil, however, for pastoral reasons, makes use of the readings (#63) of Pentecost Day, the Sequence should be sung. (From the Paulist Ordo)
- Sequence *Veni Sancte Spiritus* after the second reading and before the Alleluia.
- Double “alleluia” at dismissal.
- The Paschal Candle, lit during all of today’s Masses, should be placed near the baptismal font after evening prayer, if celebrated or after the last Mass, as a sign that the Easter time is over.

ORDINARY TIME (SUMMER)

June 9, Monday, **Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church**

- New Memorial, inserted into calendar by Pope Francis, will be perpetually celebrated on the Monday after Pentecost. This Memorial supersedes the rubric found in the Missal which suggests that a Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit be celebrated on the Monday after Pentecost.
- Proper orations, including a preface, are found in the Roman Missal under Votive Masses: 10. Blessed Virgin Mary, B. Our Lady, Mother of the Church
- The readings for the Memorial are proper (i.e. mandatory). A printable version may be found on the USCCB website:
<http://www.usccb.org/motherofthechurch>
 - Genesis 3: 9-15 OR Acts 1:12-14
 - Psalm 87: 1-2, 3 and 5, 6-7
 - John 19: 25-34

June 15, Sunday, **Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity**

- The Blessing of Fathers is found in the Book of Blessings, Chapter 56.

June 24, Tuesday, **Solemnity of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist**

- Note that proper readings and prayers are available in the Lectionary and Roman Missal for the Vigil Mass of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist.

June 28, Saturday, **optional Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Or:

optional Memorial Saint Irenaeus, Bishop, Martyr, and Doctor of the Church

- In a notification dated December 8, 1998, of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments (Prot. n. 2671/98/L), the Obligatory Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary becomes an Optional Memorial in years when it conflicts with

another Obligatory Memorial. This year that is also the Optional Memorials of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Irenaeus, Bishop, Martyr, and Doctor of the Church. Either liturgy is usable.

June 29, Sunday, **Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul**

- Mass after 4:00 pm on Saturday: See new orations in the Roman Missal, 3rd ed. for the Vigil Mass.
- Note that proper readings and prayers are available in the Lectionary and Roman Missal for the Vigil Mass of Sts. Peter and Paul.

JULY

July 13, Sunday, **Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

- Archdiocesan Day of Prayer for Sea Farers (Second Sunday in July)
- Particular mention in the liturgy and inclusion in the general intercessions should be made. If appropriate, the homily and the concluding prayer for the intercessions could reflect this intention.

July 14, Monday, **USA Memorial of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin**

- Proper texts for the Dioceses of the United States of America approved by a decree from the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments (May 26, 2023).
- Liturgical texts may be found at <https://www.usccb.org/prayer-worship/liturgical-year/saint-kateri-tekakwitha>

July 22, Monday, **Feast of Saint Mary Magdalene**

- Elevated the day to a Feast by decree of the CDWDS (June 3, 2016)
- The proper Preface is to be used for this mass, found at <https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year-and-calendar/saint-mary-magdalene>

July 29, Tuesday, **Obligatory Memorial of Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus**

- Added to the General Roman Calendar by decree of the CDWDS (February 2, 2021)
- Interim liturgical guidelines may be found at <https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year-and-calendar/saints-martha-mary-and-lazarus>

AUGUST

August 15, Friday, **Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

- *Holy Day of Obligation*. A sufficient number of Masses should be scheduled for the faithful's observance of the Solemnity.

SEPTEMBER

September 1, **Monday of the Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time**

- World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation
- Particular mention in the liturgy and inclusion in the general intercessions should be made. If appropriate, the concluding prayer for the intercessions could reflect this intention.

September 14, Sunday, **Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

- Masses after 4 PM Saturday night **should** be for the Feast.

September 17, Tuesday, **optional Memorial of St. Hildegard of Bingen, Virgin and Doctor of the Church**

- Added to the General Roman Calendar by decree of the CDWDS (February 2, 2021)
- Orations can be taken from the Common of Virgins: For One Virgin, or the Common of Holy Men and Women: For a Nun.

September 28, **Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

- World Day of Migrants and Refugees (established by Pope Francis)
- Archdiocesan Day of Prayer for Migrants and Itinerant Workers
- Particular mention in the liturgy and inclusion in the general intercessions should be made. If appropriate, the homily and the concluding prayer for the intercessions could reflect this intention.

OCTOBER

October 11, Saturday, **Optional Memorial of St. John XXIII, Pope**

- Proper Collect is available at: <http://www.usccb.org/about/divine-worship/liturgical-calendar/saint-john-xxiii.cfm>
- Other orations come from Common of Pastors: For a Pope
- For a more solemn observance, the following readings are recommended, and can be found in the Lectionary supplement at 655A: Ezekiel 34:11-16; Psalm 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6; John 21:15-17

October 22, Wednesday, **Optional Memorial of St. John Paul II, Pope**

- Proper Collect in Latin, English and Spanish is available at: <http://www.usccb.org/about/divine-worship/liturgical-calendar/saint-john-paul-ii.cfm>
- Other orations come from Common of Pastors: For a Pope
- For a more solemn observance, the following readings are recommended, and can be found in the Lectionary supplement at 663A: Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10; John 21:15-17

NOVEMBER

November 1, Saturday, **Solemnity of All Saints**

- **Not** a holy day of obligation but nonetheless a holy day and solemnity. A sufficient number of masses should be scheduled for the faithful's observance of the Solemnity.
- Evening Mass, Friday, November 1 – All Saints

November 2, Sunday, **Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed** (All Souls)

- Evening Mass, Saturday, November 1, Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed.
- Suggested readings in the ordo/lector workbook: Wisdom 3: 1-9; Psalm 23: 1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Romans 5: 5-11 or Romans 6:3-9; John 6: 37-40.
- No Gloria; the creed is not recited.

November 9, Sunday, **Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica**

- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony within Mass* may **not** be celebrated unless it is the Mass of the Day (GIRM 372, OCM 34)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass* may be celebrated.

November 27, Thursday, **Thanksgiving Day**

- Blessing of Food on Thanksgiving Day (Book of Blessings, nos 1755-1780)

OTHER NOTES

THE ROMAN MISSAL, THIRD EDITION

The rubrics and prayers of the Roman Missal, Third Edition introduced some modifications to various Masses and Rituals, e.g., Prayers over the People for each day of Lent, instructions for Holy Week as well as the nuptial blessing for the *Order of Celebrating Matrimony*. Many of these have been noted below. The reader is encouraged to read through this document carefully and review the rubrics found in the Missal.

The instructions concerning the Introductory Rites for **Ritual Masses** are modified in the new translation of the Roman Missal especially regarding the Gloria which is noted. The rubrics are as follows:

For the Conferral of Baptism

The Sacraments of Christian Initiation are usually conferred on adults during the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night. If, however, they are celebrated apart from the Paschal Solemnity because of necessity, this Ritual Mass may be used with the color white or a festive color on days when Ritual Masses are permitted.

This Ritual Mass may also be prayed for the conferral of the Baptism of Children, under the same conditions.

In this Ritual Mass, the Penitential Act, the Kyrie and the Creed are omitted. The *Gloria in excelsis* (Glory to God in the highest), however, is sung\said.

For the Conferral of Confirmation

This Ritual Mass is used, with the color red or white, or a festive color, at the conferral of Confirmation on days when Ritual Masses are permitted. The *Gloria in excelsis* (Glory to God in the highest) is sung\said. The Creed, however, is omitted in favor of the renewal of baptismal promises.

For the Celebration of Marriage

The Penitential Act is omitted. The *Gloria in excelsis* (Glory to God in the highest) is sung\said.

The following instruction is only for Ritual Masses and not for the celebration of the respective sacramental liturgy outside of Mass or within Mass when the Ritual Mass is not permitted.

The Gloria

Nine out of the ten Ritual Masses prescribe the *Gloria in excelsis*, the exception being the Institution of Lectors and Acolytes. (There is also no Gloria within the Ritual Masses For the Conferral of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation, Mass 2 The Celebration of the Scrutinies, celebrated on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays of Lent.) Ritual Masses are celebrated festively as though they are Feasts. Consequently, just as for other Feasts in the seasons of Advent and Lent, the *Gloria* is sung for these Ritual Masses. Note that Ritual Masses are not permitted on the Sundays of Advent or Lent. (January 2012 *Newsletter*, Bishops Committee for Divine Worship)

SUNDAY AND THE LITURGICAL YEAR

Sunday is the foundation of the Christian week. Sunday, the Lord's Day, is the day of Christ's Resurrection and is the eschatological eighth day on which the community recognizes the risen Christ in the assembly, in the Word, in the Eucharist and in the minister. Through the course of the

Liturgical Year, the entire mystery of Christ unfolds from the incarnation to the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost and the hopeful expectation of His return in glory. Sunday is the original feast day, the first holy day. Because of Sunday's primacy, it gives way only to solemnities or feasts of the Lord, which are together the principle days of the Liturgical Year.

Because of the primacy of Sunday, even when ritual Masses are permitted, the unfolding of the Paschal Mystery from week to week should be respected. The prayers and readings given for each Sunday are followed in Masses with the community.

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

In addition to each Sunday of the year, there are five holy days of obligation in the dioceses of the United States: the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (January 1), the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15), All Saints (November 1), the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (December 8), and the Nativity of the Lord (December 25). In the provinces of Texas (San Antonio and Galveston-Houston) the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord has been transferred to the Seventh Sunday of Easter.

The USCCB decision of November 1991 and confirmed by the Apostolic See in July of 1992 instructs that the requirement to attend Mass is abrogated whenever Mary, the Holy Mother of God (January 1), the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15), or All Saints (November 1) falls on a Saturday or a Monday. This policy only affects these three feasts and only dispenses the obligation to attend Mass. These days are still celebrated as solemnities. The faithful are encouraged to participate in Mass on these days.

RITUAL MASSES

Ritual Masses are connected to the celebration of certain Sacraments or Sacramentals. They are prohibited on Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Easter, on solemnities, including the days within the Octave of Easter, on the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day), on Ash Wednesday, and during Holy Week, taking due account of the norms given in the ritual books or in the Masses themselves (GIRM 372).

When the *Order of Celebrating Matrimony within Mass* is celebrated, one reading **must** come from those which explicitly speak of marriage (OCM 56).

Two important items regarding the reception of the consent at Celebrations of Matrimony must be noted:

- 1) When marriage is celebrated **within a nuptial Mass**, the consent may not be received by a deacon but **must** be received by a priest. Any request for an exception, rarely granted, must be submitted to the Cardinal no later than two months prior to the wedding.
- 2) On September 15, 2016 Pope Francis issued the motu proprio *De concordia inter Codices*. The motu proprio **adds the following to Canon 1108 of the Code of Canon Law**: "**§3. Only a priest validly assists at marriages between Eastern parties or between one Latin party and one Eastern party whether Catholic or non-Catholic.**" Therefore, at celebrations of Matrimony in which at least one party is a member of a Catholic Church *sui iuris* (Eastern Rite Catholics) or of the Orthodox Churches, a deacon **MAY NOT** receive the consent of the parties. Doing so could impact the validity of the Sacrament.

Note: The observation of Sundays and solemnities begins at 4:00 p.m. the evening before. Consequently, the restriction on Ritual Masses extends to the evening before. **This will impact the Mass selected in the celebration of Matrimony on Saturday evenings.**

CELEBRATION OF MATRIMONY ON SUNDAY AND SOLEMNITIES

Whenever Matrimony is celebrated during Mass, this Ritual Mass is used, with the color white or a festive color. One reading must explicitly speak of marriage. However, on those days listed in nos. 1-4 of the Table of Liturgical Days, the Mass of the day is used, with no substitution of readings, retaining the Nuptial Blessing in the Mass and, if appropriate, the proper formula for the final blessing. If, however, during Christmas Time and

Ordinary Time, the parish community participates in a Sunday Mass during which Matrimony is celebrated, the Mass of the Sunday is prayed. In this instance one reading, which explicitly speaks of marriage, may be substituted. (OCM 56, Introduction to Chapter IV)

Priests are limited to three Masses on a Sunday. While the *Order of Celebrating Matrimony* is allowed on some Sundays during the year, it is pastorally imprudent for priests to accept an additional Mass on Sunday given the ever-increasing need for Sunday Eucharist. The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony* may be celebrated with a regular Sunday Mass unless prohibited by the calendar.

When a Marriage is to be celebrated on a day having a penitential character, especially during Lent, the pastor is to counsel the spouses to consider the special nature of that day. The celebration of Matrimony [including convalidation] on Friday of the Passion of the Lord and Holy Saturday is to be avoided altogether (OCM 32).

FUNERAL MASS

Among the Masses for the Dead, the Funeral Mass holds first place. It may be celebrated on any day except for solemnities that are holy days of obligation, Holy Thursday, the Paschal Triduum, and the Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Easter, with due regard also for all the other requirements of the norm of the law¹. Note that when a Funeral Mass may not be celebrated it may be possible to celebrate the Funeral Liturgy outside Mass (GIRM 380; OCF 178).

ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF THE PARISH CHURCH

Parishes should celebrate the anniversary of the dedication of their church. If the Table of Liturgical Days outlined in the General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar numbers I.1-I.3 does not prevent it, this celebration may be moved to the nearest Sunday and the proper Mass “On the Anniversary of the Dedication” may be used at all Masses with a congregation².

CHRISTMAS ENVIRONMENT

A Creche should not be placed in front of the altar. The USCCB’s October/November newsletter 1989 says: “If the manger is set up in church, it must not be placed in the presbyterium. A place should be chosen that is suitable for prayer and devotion and is easily accessible by the faithful. The practice of placing the manger under or on the altar is not proper since it devalues the nature of the altar and makes it only a setting for the crib.”

LENT

PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE FOR EACH DAY

On weekdays of Lent, at the end of Mass and before the final blessing, the Prayer over the People indicated for each day may appropriately be used. (RM3, note before Ash Wednesday, no. 3)

FLOWERS & MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

During Lent, it is not permitted to decorate the altar with flowers, and the use of musical instruments is allowed only so as to support the singing. Nevertheless, Laetare Sunday (the Fourth Sunday of Lent), Solemnities, and Feasts are exceptions to this rule. (RM3, note before Ash Wednesday, no. 4)

¹ cf. *Code of Canon Law*, cc 1176-1185

² *General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar*, no. 58.

COVERING OF CROSSES AND IMAGES

In the Dioceses of the United States of America, crosses in the church may be covered from the conclusion of the Mass for Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent until the end of the celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday. Images in the church may be covered from the conclusion of the Mass for Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent until the beginning of the Easter Vigil³.

SCRUTINIES

Ritual Masses, 1. Christian Initiation, 2. The Scrutinies now includes a commemoration of the godparents. The Roman Canon has a proper *Memento Domine* and *Hanc Igitur*. Eucharistic Prayers II and III each have proper intercessions. In the celebration of the Scrutinies, the proper gospel is to be read regardless of Lectionary cycle, i.e. First Scrutiny – the Samaritan Woman, Second Sunday – the Man Born Blind, Third Sunday – Lazarus. Each corresponds with the proper Preface.

Triduum

HOLY THURSDAY, THE MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Mass of the Lord's Supper is celebrated in the evening, at a convenient time, with the full participation of the whole local community and with all the Priests and ministers exercising their office.

Where a pastoral reason requires it, **the local Ordinary may permit** another Mass to be celebrated in churches and oratories in the evening and, in case of genuine necessity, even in the morning, but only for the faithful who are in no way able to participate in the evening Mass. Care should, nevertheless, be taken that celebrations of this sort do not take place for the advantage of private persons or special small groups, and do not prejudice the evening Mass.

Holy Communion may only be distributed to the faithful during Mass; but it may be brought to the sick at any hour of the day.

The altar may be decorated with flowers with a moderation that accords with the character of this day. The tabernacle should be entirely empty; but a sufficient number of hosts should be consecrated in this Mass for the Communion of the clergy and the people on this and the following day.

Footwashing

"In order that the full meaning of this rite might be expressed to those who participate it seemed good to the Supreme Pontiff Pope Francis to vary the norm which is found in the rubrics of the Missale Romanum (p. 300 n. 11): *The men who have been chosen are led by the ministers...*, which therefore must be changed as follows: *Those who are chosen from amongst the people of God are led by the ministers...* (and consequently in the Caeremoniali Episcoporum n. 301 and n. 299b: *seats for those chosen*), so that pastors may select a small group of the faithful to represent the variety and the unity of each part of the people of God. Such small groups can be made up of men and women, and it is appropriate that they consist of people young and old, healthy and sick, clerics, consecrated men and women and laity." (CDF Decree, Jan 2016)

There is no prescribed number of individuals whose feet are washed. The community may take part in the foot washing presuming the liturgy is properly prepared. (BCL newsletter, Feb 1987)

³ See rubric for the Fifth Sunday of Lent, Roman Missal, third edition.

Order of Procession with Blessed Sacrament:

(See RM3 Holy Thursday #38-40, 43, 44)

- Cross with two candle bearers,
- others with lighted candles follow,
- thurifer with smoking thurible,
- priest with Blessed Sacrament with two candle bearers
- others may follow.
- When the procession arrives at the place of repose, the priest with the help of the deacon if necessary places the ciborium in the tabernacle,
 - the door remains open,
 - incense is placed in the thurible,
 - kneeling, he incenses the Blessed Sacrament while the *Tantum Ergo* or other suitable Eucharistic chant is sung.
 - The deacon or priest closes the door to the tabernacle.
 - After a period of adoration, the priest and ministers genuflect and return to the sacristy.
- The faithful are invited to continue adoration before the Blessed Sacrament for a suitable length of time during the night, according to local circumstances, but after midnight the adoration should take place without solemnity.
- If the celebration of the Passion of the Lord on the following Friday does not take place in the same church, the Mass is concluded in the usual way and the Blessed Sacrament is placed in the tabernacle.

Stripping of the Altar

- At an appropriate time, the altar is stripped and, if possible, the crosses are removed from the church. It is expedient that any crosses which remain in the church be veiled. (RM3 41).
- The altar, ambo, and presidential chairs are not removed. The Corpus is not removed from the Crucifix.

GOOD FRIDAY

On this day and Holy Saturday, the Church does **not** celebrate the sacraments at all except for Penance and the Anointing of the Sick. (RM3 Good Friday #1)

- Presiding minister is a priest not a deacon.
- Presentation of the Cross - Behold the wood of the Cross, on which hung the **salvation** of the world. R. Come, let us **adore**.
- Only one Cross is to be offered for adoration. If, because of the large number of people, it is not possible for all to approach individually, the Priest, after some of the clergy and faithful have adored, takes the Cross and, standing in the middle before the altar, invites the people in a few words to adore the Holy Cross and afterwards holds the Cross elevated higher for a brief time, for the faithful to adore it in silence.
- The option is no longer given for the priest, at the solemn intercession, to choose the prayers in the missal which are more appropriate to local circumstances. The Diocesan Bishop, for grave public need, may permit or order the addition of a special intention.

Cross vs. Crucifix

The ritual text clearly refers to the wood of the cross which is the instrument of our salvation. However, it is clear that the use of the crucifix is mentioned in the middle ages. A cross without corpus is preferred but a crucifix may be used. Nonetheless, only a single cross or crucifix may be used for the veneration. (PS 68, 69)

HOLY SATURDAY AND THE EASTER VIGIL

On this day, the Church does **not** celebrate the sacraments at all except for Penance and the Anointing of the Sick. (RM3 Good Friday #1) Holy Communion may only be given on this day as Viaticum. (RM3, Holy Saturday, 3)

The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night, the first Mass of Easter, is celebrated in the night between April 8th and 9th in 2023. There is to be **only one** celebration in each church. The law of the Church is that the celebration of the Easter Vigil is celebrated at night.⁴ The *General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar*, no. 21, states:

The Easter Vigil, in the holy night when the Lord rose again, is considered the “mother of all holy Vigils,”¹¹ in which the Church, keeping watch, awaits the Resurrection of Christ and celebrates it in the Sacraments. Therefore, the entire celebration of this sacred Vigil must take place at night, so that it both begins after nightfall and ends before the dawn on the Sunday.

This instruction is to be understood in the strictest sense.⁵ In 2005, the United States revised the rule for Daylight Saving Time.⁶ The **Easter Vigil liturgy in 2024 may not begin before 8:30 p.m.**

The preparation of the Paschal Candle is no longer optional although the 5 grains of incense is optional.

The procession with the Paschal Candle is slightly modified as follows::

- Paschal Candle is lit at the fire
- Procession Order: thurifer, deacon (or other minister) with lighted Paschal Candle, followed by priest and ministers, finally the people (note: no crucifix). All hold **unlit** taper candles.
- Deacon\minister lifts the candle and intones “The light **of** Christ” or “Lumen Christi”
 - **at the door to the church** – priest lights taper
 - in the middle of the church – all light their tapers
 - in front of the altar
- candle placed in stand
- all lights are lit except for the altar candles.

Baptism at the Easter Vigil

The integration of the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) into the Roman Missal was one of the reasons for a new edition of the Missal. A brief review here of the Baptismal Liturgy within the Easter Vigil should be beneficial. The following two points should allow one to resolve most confusion or concern one may have during an initial review of the Easter Vigil.

⁴ General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar, number 21

⁵ “The entire celebration of the Easter Vigil must take place during the night., so that it begins after nightfall and ends before daybreak on Sunday” (Roman Missal, The Easter Vigil, n. 5; *Caeremoniale episcoporum* n. 332;.) This rule is to be taken according to its strictest sense. Reprehensible are those abuses and practices which have crept into many places in violation of this ruling, whereby the Easter Vigil is celebrated at the time of day that it is customary to celebrate anticipated Sunday Masses. (*Eucharisticum mysterium*, (25 May 1967) n. 28; AAS 59 (1967), 556-557.)

⁶ On August 8, 2005, President George W. Bush signed the Energy Policy Act of 2005. This Act changed the time change dates for Daylight Saving Time in the U.S. Beginning in 2007, DST begins the second Sunday of March and ends the first Sunday of November.

1. The Roman Missal's rubrics are based upon the OCIA Part I which directs the process for the unbaptized elect\catechumens. The Missal does not address Part II For Particular Circumstances, i.e., children, combined rite for unbaptized and previously baptized making a profession of faith, etc.
2. Unless the Roman Missal, 3rd edition, specifies otherwise the instructions, rubrics and prayers of the OCIA and Rite of Infant Baptism are followed/used.

With these two points in mind, the new edition of the Missal provides helpful instruction and facilitates the integration of the OCIA, Part I, with the Easter Vigil Mass. Take note of the rubrics while you read from the Missal and the OCIA as you prepare.

Easter Vigil no. 48 Anointing with Oil of Catechumens is no longer optional. If it has not taken place as part of the Holy Saturday Preparatory Rites (OCIA no. 185 ff), it occurs before the Renunciation of Satan and the Profession of Faith.

Easter Vigil no. 49 there are several points to unpack here:

1. The last sentence of the first paragraph states the questioning and profession occur "as is indicated in the respective Rites, i.e., Order of Baptism of Children or Order of Christian Initiation of Adults.
2. Paragraph two states:
Where many are to be baptized on this night, it is possible to arrange the rite so that, immediately after the response of those to be baptized and of the godparents and the parents, the Celebrant asks for and receives the renewal of baptismal promises of all present.

Double "Alleluia" at Dismissal

The use of the double "Alleluia" at the dismissal is done by the Deacon or, if there is no Deacon, the Priest himself. This practice is observed from the Easter Vigil throughout **the Octave of Easter**. (RM3, Easter Vigil, no 69) It is then used again on Pentecost Sunday (RM3, Pentecost) It is **not** to be used during the rest of the Easter season.

Second Sunday of Easter – Divine Mercy Sunday

The Congregation for Divine Worship decreed (May 23, 2000) that "throughout the world, the Second Sunday of Easter will receive the name Divine Mercy Sunday, a perennial invitation to the Christian world to face, with confidence in divine benevolence, the difficulties and trials that human kind will experience in the years to come."

The essential celebration consists in the celebration of the liturgy of the Second Sunday of Easter during which the homily should focus on the scripture readings of the day. It should be noted that the three cycles of Scripture readings and the prayers of the day are all centered on the forgiveness of sins and God's infinite mercy. Additional celebrations are permitted including a Holy Hour with Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Private prayer includes the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

In a decree dated August 3, 2002, the Apostolic Penitentiary announced that in order "to insure that the faithful would observe this day with intense devotion, the Supreme Pontiff himself established that this Sunday be enriched with a plenary indulgence." The plenary indulgence is granted under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff) to the faithful who, on that day, in any church or chapel, in a spirit that is completely detached from the affection of a sin, even a venial sin, take part in the prayers and devotions held in honor of Divine Mercy, or who, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament exposed or reserved in the tabernacle, recite the Our Father and the Creed, and add a devout prayer to the merciful Lord Jesus (e.g., Merciful Jesus, I trust you!).

Epiphany of the Lord

See new orations in the Roman Missal, 3rd ed. for the Vigil Mass on Epiphany

Sunday, Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

See new orations in the Roman Missal, 3rd ed. for the Vigil Mass for the Ascension of the Lord.

TABLE OF LITURGICAL DAYS

I

1. The Paschal Triduum of the Passion and Resurrection of the Lord.
2. The Nativity of the Lord, the Epiphany, the Ascension, and Pentecost.
Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Easter.
Ash Wednesday.
Weekdays of Holy Week from Monday up to and including Thursday.
Days within the octave of Easter.
3. Solemnities inscribed in the General Calendar, whether of the Lord, of the Blessed Virgin Mary or of the Saints.
The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed.
4. Proper Solemnities, namely:
 - a. The Solemnity of the principal Patron of the place, city or state.
 - b. The Solemnity of the dedication and the anniversary of the dedication of one's own church.
 - c. The Solemnity of the Title of one's own church.
 - d. The Solemnity either of the Title
or of the Founder
or of the principal Patron of an Order or Congregation.

II

5. Feasts of the Lord inscribed in the General Calendar.
6. Sundays of Christmas Time and the Sundays in Ordinary Time.
7. Feasts of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of the Saints in the General Calendar.
8. Proper feasts, namely:
 - a. The Feast of the principal Patron of the diocese.
 - b. The Feast of the anniversary of the dedication of the cathedral church.
 - c. The Feast of the principal Patron of a region or province, or a country, or of a wider territory.

- d. The Feast of the Title, Founder, or principal Patron of an Order or Congregation and of a religious province, without prejudice to the prescriptions given under no. 4.
- e. Other Feasts proper to an individual church.
- f. Other Feasts listed in the Calendar of each diocese or Order or Congregation.
9. Weekdays of Advent from December 17 up to and including December 24.
Days within the octave of Christmas.
Weekdays of Lent.

III

10. Obligatory Memorials in the General Calendar.
11. Proper Obligatory Memorials, namely:
 - a. The Memorial of a secondary Patron of the place, diocese, region, or religious province.
 - b. Other Obligatory Memorials inscribed in the Calendar of each diocese, or Order or Congregation.
12. Optional Memorials, which, however, may be celebrated, in the special manner described in the General Instruction of the Roman Missal and of the Liturgy of the Hours, even on the days listed in no. 9.
In the same manner Obligatory Memorials may be celebrated as Optional Memorials if they happen to fall on Lenten weekdays.
13. Weekdays of Advent up to and including December 16.
Weekdays of Christmas Time from January 2 until the Saturday after the Epiphany.
Weekdays of the Easter Time from Monday after the Octave of Easter up to and including the Saturday before Pentecost.
Weekdays in Ordinary Time.

SPECIAL RESOURCES

CURRENT LITURGICAL BOOKS

The USCCB continually publishes new translations of ritual books (i.e. *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharistic Mystery Outside Mass* and *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*). The Office of Worship has continually [updates a webpage here](#) to help parishes ensure they are using the currently approved ritual books. We have also partnered with various liturgical book publishers so that parishes can receive discounts on liturgical books which can be purchased here [through the OW online shop](#).

EP MASSES FOR CHILDREN

A supplement containing the Eucharistic Prayers for Masses with Children, modified to maintain consistency with the Roman Missal, is now available for purchase through USCCB Publishing. Contact them at 1-800-235-8722 or css@usccb.org.

LARGE PRINT MISSAL

Resources for the blind or sight impaired regarding the Roman Missal are available through the National Catholic Partnership for Persons with Disability (NCPD). Large print (up to 44 point type) Missals for priests are available through NCPD, and the Xavier Society for the Blind provides large print and Braille participation aids as well as a Braille Missal (for priests). <http://www.ncpd.org/order/romanmissal>

CONCELEBRATION

While the Roman Missal, Third Edition as printed may not indicate changes, rubrics for the Eucharistic Prayers for Concelebration have been updated. These prayers may be downloaded for free or printed copies may be purchased from USCCB Publishing. Contact them at 1-800-235-8722 or css@usccb.org.

From the September 2011 *Newsletter*, USCCB Bishop's Committee on Divine Worship:

The rubrics for concelebration in *Preces Eucharisticae pro Concelebratione* and the *Roman Missal, Third Edition* include several nuances of current practices worth noting here. First, in each of the Eucharistic Prayers, the Latin concelebration text indicates that while the celebrant alone says "The mystery of faith," the concelebrants (without the principal celebrant) make the acclamation that follows together with the people ("*Et concelebrantes cum populo prosequuntur, acclamantes*"). The rubric at the final doxology and *Amen* affirms as before that in the absence of a deacon one of the concelebrants may elevate the chalice as the principal celebrant elevates the paten with the host. In addition, either the celebrant alone may say (or sing) the doxology or the concelebrants may say (or sing) it together with the celebrant. In either case "[t]he people acclaim" the *Amen* without celebrant or concelebrants.

In Eucharistic Prayer III, there is a change in the division of the parts shared among concelebrants, with three instead of two divisions now possible. GIRM no. 231 states: It is appropriate that the intercessions *May he make of us an eternal offering to you*, and *May this Sacrifice of our reconciliation*, and *To our departed brothers and sisters* be assigned to one or other of the concelebrants, who pronounces them alone, with hands extended, and in a loud voice.

Both at the epiclesis and just before the final doxology, the rubrics have changed in some of the Eucharistic Prayers regarding when the celebrant or concelebrants join their hands. The rubrics further clarify this and attention will need to be paid to the variations from current practice.

Finally, while it is not new, GIRM no. 218 should always be borne in mind, especially in regard to those parts of the Eucharistic Prayers that could be sung by the principal celebrant together with the concelebrants (which in itself is to be encouraged):

The parts pronounced by all the concelebrants together and especially the words of Consecration, which all are obliged to say, are to be recited in such a manner that the concelebrants speak them in a low voice and that the principal celebrant's voice is heard clearly. In this way the words can be more easily understood by the people.

ABBREVIATIONS

CDW	Congregation for Divine Worship
EWOM	Holy Communion And Worship of the Eucharistic Mystery Outside Mass, 2024
GIRM	General Instruction of the Roman Missal, 2011
GNLY	General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar, 1969
LECT	Introduction to the Lectionary, 1981
OCF	Order of Christian Funerals, 1989
OCM	Order of Celebrating Matrimony, 2016
PS	Paschale Solemnitatis (Circular Letter Concerning the Preparation and Celebration of the Easter Feasts. Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, January 16, 1988.
OCIA	Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, 2024
RM3	Roman Missal, 3 rd Edition, 2011

