

**CALENDAR NOTES**  
**Winter/Spring 2017-2018**  
*Diocese of Lansing - Office of Worship*

- Solemnity/Feast of the Dedication of St Mary's Cathedral, 2017
  - Christmas 2017
- Feast of the Holy Family 2017/Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God 2018
  - 2018 Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion
    - "24 Hours for the Lord" March 9-10, 2018
    - Time of the Easter Vigil, 2018

**Solemnity/Feast of the  
Anniversary of the Dedication of  
Saint Mary's Cathedral**

**Saturday, December 9, 2017**, the Anniversary of the Dedication of Saint Mary's Cathedral, Lansing (1913), is observed with the rank of a Solemnity (*Gloria* and *Creed*) within the Cathedral, and as a Feast (*Gloria*) in all parishes and institutions in the Diocese of Lansing. Orations are taken from the *Roman Missal*, Common of the Dedication of a Church, I. In the Church that was Dedicated [at the Cathedral only], or II. Outside the Church that was Dedicated [in all parishes and institutions in the Diocese of Lansing]. A wide selection of proper scriptural texts are found in the Common of the Anniversary of the Dedication of a Church in the *Lectionary*, numbers 701-706.

The *Liturgy of the Hours* is taken from the Common of the Dedication of a Church I. In the Church that was Dedicated [at the Cathedral only], or II. Outside the Church that was Dedicated [in the Diocese]. The *Te Deum* is said.

The optional memorial of Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin is impeded in the Diocese of Lansing; following the *Table of Liturgical Days According to their Order of Precedence*, the Feast of the Anniversary of the Dedication of the Cathedral ranks as 8b, whereas an optional memorial ranks as 12. In liturgical celebrations after 4 pm on Saturday, December 9, the Second Sunday of Advent is observed.

Where it is favorable to the devotion of the faithful, recognition of the exemplary life and heroic virtues of Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin

can fittingly be made in a homily drawn on the texts provided for the Anniversary of the Dedication of a Church, particularly since his story is strongly intertwined with the building of the church on the Hill of Tepeyac in Mexico City, now part of the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe. It may be recalled that the Virgin Mary's first request to St Juan Diego, as recorded in the apparition narrative, was: "I want very much that they build my sacred little house here, in which I will show Him, I will exalt Him upon making Him manifest, I will give Him to all people in all my personal love, Him that is my compassionate look, Him that is my help, Him that is my salvation." This corresponds with the purpose of both the church building and the community of faith it houses: "to show [Jesus], to exalt him, and to give him to all people" in love and compassion, and ultimately to invite all to find salvation in him.



## **Christmas 2017**

**In 2017, the Fourth Sunday of Advent coincides with December 24, Christmas Eve.**

The faithful should be advised that there is a Mass obligation both for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and for Christmas, as they are both Holy Days of Obligation. In a recent statement on this topic, the USSCB's Secretariat of Divine Worship noted that, in such cases, the prevailing view of the majority of canonists is that these obligations cannot be satisfied at one and the same Mass; each day of obligation must be fulfilled with a separate Mass.

The days, times, and appropriate Masses are summarized in the following chart:

Fourth Sunday of Advent			The Nativity of the Lord	
Date	Saturday, Dec. 23	Sunday, Dec. 24	Sunday, Dec. 24	Monday, Dec. 25
Time	Masses <i>after</i> 4 PM	Masses <i>before</i> 4 PM	Masses <i>after</i> 4 PM	Masses all day
Mass	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Fourth Sunday of Advent	The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)	The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

## Holy Family/Mary, Mother of God Sunday, December 31, 2017 and Monday, January 1, 2018

**Sunday, December 31, 2017** is the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. The following day, Monday, January 1, 2018, is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, which is **not** observed as a Holy Day of Obligation in 2018.

**Q. Which Mass should be celebrated on the evening of December 31, keeping in mind that the celebration of solemnities normally begins with the evening of the preceding day?**

**A.** In answering this and similar questions, one should first consider the following principle established by the 1969 *General Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar*. “If several celebrations fall on the same day, the one that holds the highest rank according to the preceding Table of Liturgical Days is observed” (60).

Taking this into account, it might seem at first that evening Masses on December 31, 2017 should celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy

Mother of God, considering that Solemnities of the Blessed Virgin Mary appear higher than Feasts of the Lord on the *Table of Liturgical Days*. However, another lesser-known norm promulgated by the Congregation for Divine Worship must also be borne in mind. In 1984, the Congregation offered the following additional guidance on this issue: **“In the celebration of Mass, precedence is always to be given (*“præcedentia semper danda est”*) to the feast of precept [holy day of obligation], regardless of the ranks of the two consecutive feasts....”** (Congregation for Divine Worship: *Notitiæ* 20 [1984] 603).

This rule appears to have been established as a way of serving the pastoral needs of the faithful who attend evening Masses and expect to celebrate the Sunday liturgy.

To return to the particular question at hand, inasmuch as the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, falls on a Monday in 2018 and is, therefore, not a holy day of obligation, **evening Masses on December 31, 2017 should celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family.** This is due to the fact that the solemnity of Sunday is always observed as a holy day of obligation, while the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, is not in this case.

In summary:

Date	Holy Family		Mary, Mother of God*
	Saturday, Dec 30, 2017	Sunday, Dec 31, 2017	Monday, January 1, 2018
Time	Masses <i>after</i> 4 PM	Masses <i>all day</i>	Masses <i>all day</i>
Mass	Feast of the Holy Family	Feast of the Holy Family	Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God *

**\* Not observed as a Holy Day of Obligation in 2018.**

**2018**  
**Rite of Election and**  
**Call to Continuing Conversion**

**Saturday, February 17, 2018**

**9:30 AM – Christ the King, Ann Arbor**

*4000 Ave Maria Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48105*

❖ *Parishes of the Washtenaw and Lenawee-Hillsdale  
Vicariates*

**2:00 PM – Saint John, Davison**

*404 Dayton St, Davison, MI 48423*

❖ *Parishes of the Genesee and Livingston Vicariates*

**Sunday, February 18, 2018**

**3:00 PM – Saint Thomas Aquinas, East Lansing**

*955 Alton Road, East Lansing, MI 48823*

❖ *Parishes of the Ingham-Eaton-Clinton-Shiawassee and  
Jackson Vicariates*

## **“24 Hours for the Lord”**

### **March 9 -10, 2018**

The two primary elements of the 24 Hours for the Lord initiative are (1) prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, either reserved in the tabernacle or exposed for adoration, and (2) the opportunity to participate in the Sacrament of Penance.

**Open Doors.** All parishes in the Diocese of Lansing, with due consideration for particular circumstances, are invited to open their churches for a period of twenty-four hours from Friday evening, **March 9**, through Saturday evening, **March 10, 2018**, concluding with the Saturday evening Mass. The clergy and faithful are encouraged to encounter the mercy of the Lord in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, either reserved or exposed, and with additional opportunities for the Sacrament of Penance during these twenty-four hours.

**Particular Circumstances.** In some instances it will be a hardship to open churches for the entire twenty-four hour period. Pastors, in keeping with the spirit of the observance, are encouraged to provide for greater availability for prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation on March 9-10, 2018.

**Multi-Parish Celebrations.** Additionally, parishes are encouraged, if this is helpful to the observance, to join together and host this initiative at a single site, particularly for greater availability for the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

**Please send the following form to the Office of Worship before February 23, 2018** with the day(s) and time(s) that you are observing 24 Hours for the Lord, and any particulars (Daily Mass, Confession times, Rosary, Exposition/Benediction) so that your information can be posted to the diocesan website. Michael Andrews, Director, Office of Worship, Diocese of Lansing, 228 North Walnut Street, Lansing, Michigan 48933 Tel. (517) 342-2476 Fax. 517.342.2515 E-mail: [mandrews@dioceseoflansing.org](mailto:mandrews@dioceseoflansing.org)

# 24 Hours for the Lord

## March 9-10, 2018

Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

<i>Possible options (among others) for celebrations during this time</i>	<b>Friday, March 9</b> <i>(list times below in each applicable space)</i>	<b>Saturday, March 10</b> <i>(list times below in each applicable space)</i>
<b>Daily Mass</b>		
<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Adoration</b>		
<b>Confessions</b>		
<b>Rosary</b>		
<b>Chaplet of Divine Mercy</b>		
<b>Evening Prayer</b>		
<b>Solemn Evening Prayer (chanted/choir)</b>		
<b>Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament</b>		
<b>Night Prayer</b>		
<b>Adoration (before Tabernacle)</b>		
<b>Office of Readings</b>		
<b>Morning Prayer</b>		
<b>Litany of the Holy Eucharist</b>		
<b>Other (specify)</b>		

## **Time of the Easter Vigil, 2018**

*"The Greatest and Most Noble of All Solemnities" – Roman Missal, Easter Vigil, no 2*

"The entire celebration of the Easter Vigil takes place at night. It should not begin before nightfall; it should end before daybreak on the Sunday" (*Roman Missal, The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night*, no. 3).

On Saturday, March 31, 2018, according to the U.S. Naval Observatory, Astronomical Applications Department, civil twilight will end in the Diocese of Lansing at 8:33 PM. **Thus, in 2018, the Easter Vigil should not begin until 8:35 PM.**

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