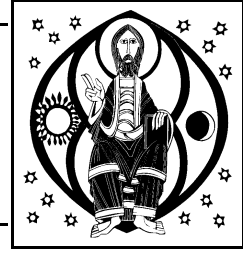


## DAYS OF SPECIAL INTEREST



### **✠ Anniversary of the Dedication of the Cathedral**

Bishop Mengeling has designated December 9 as the anniversary of the dedication of St. Mary Cathedral (consecrated December 8, 1913). The anniversary of the dedication of the cathedral is usually celebrated with the rank of a solemnity in the cathedral itself, with the rank of feast in the other churches of the diocese. The Sacramentary provides proper prayers and a proper Preface (#53). The readings may be found in the Lectionary, nos. 701-706.

However, this year that celebration is superseded by the Second Sunday of Advent. In the Order of Precedence, Sundays of Advent are ranked as “2,” the anniversary of the dedication of a cathedral as a “4.”

### **✠ Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the BVM Saturday, December 8, 2007**

This is a holy day of obligation in the USA. Since it is our country’s patronal feast, it never falls under the “Monday/Saturday ruling” and the obligation to participate in Mass is never abrogated. As you will recall, that ruling only applies to January 1 (Mary Mother of God), August 15 (Assumption), November 1 (All Saints).

On Saturday morning the Mass texts will be for the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. After 4:00 PM, the Mass texts are chosen for the anticipated Mass of the Second Sunday of Advent (Cycle A).

### **✠ Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord Monday/ Tuesday December 24/25, 2007**

Texts for the Mass(es) after 4:00 PM on Monday, will properly be chosen from the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord – the Vigil Mass. After midnight, the Mass texts will be from the Mass at Midnight, the Mass at Dawn, and the Mass during the Day, respectively. The creche is to be displayed outside the sanctuary; it may be blessed at the Vigil Mass with the appropriate texts from the Book of Blessings (BB Chapter 48).

### **✠ Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Tuesday, January 1, 2008**

On this day, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Since this falls on a Tuesday this year, it is a holy day of the obligation in the dioceses of the USA.

### **✠ Memorial of St. Patrick**

The traditional date of St. Patrick’s day falls on March 17. However, in 2008 this will be Monday of Holy Week. Therefore, in most dioceses and churches of the USA, this memorial will simply not be celebrated liturgically in 2008. Only in those parishes where St. Patrick is the principal patron of the church, this day is raised to the rank of solemnity (Table of Liturgical Days, 4c). In these instances, it can be moved to the closest day not listed as nos. 1-8 in the Order of Precedence – Friday, March 14. (Since the solemnity of St. Joseph has been moved to Saturday, March 15, that date is no longer available – see below.)

### **✠ Solemnity of St. Joseph, Husband of the BVM Saturday, March 15, 2008**

Since the solemnity of St. Joseph falls on the Wednesday of Holy Week this year, it is moved to the nearest available day. In the journal of the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments, *Notitiae* (475-476, page 96), the Congregation provided notification that this solemnity would be moved to March 15 in the Universal Calendar for 2008.

### **✠ Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord Monday, March 31, 2008**

Likewise, since March 25 falls within the Octave of Easter in 2008, the Congregation has moved this solemnity to the nearest available day outside the Octave – Monday of the Second Week of Easter.

✠ **Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord    Sunday, May 4, 2008**

In the dioceses of Michigan and Ohio, the solemnity of the Ascension is celebrated on the Seventh Sunday of Easter.

✠ **Solemnity of the Assumption    Friday, August 15, 2008**

Since the solemnity of the Assumption does not fall on a Saturday or Monday this year, the obligation to attend Mass remains in force.

✠ **Solemnity of All Saints    Saturday, November 1, 2008**

Since All Saints falls on a Saturday this year, the obligation to attend Mass is abrogated.

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

On Saturday evening and on Sunday, a wide variety of options are given. The Lectionary (nos. 668 or 1011-1016) provides a wealth of readings. The Sacramentary provides three sets of orations, five Prefaces for Christian Death (77-81), and a solemn blessing.

**RITUAL MASSES**

**Choice of Day for the Rite of Marriage**

Whenever marriage is celebrated during Mass, white vestments are worn and the wedding Mass is used. If the marriage is celebrated on a Sunday or solemnity, the Mass of the day is used with the nuptial blessing and where appropriate, the special final blessing.

The liturgy of the word is extremely helpful in emphasizing the meaning of the sacrament and the obligation of marriage. When the wedding Mass may not be used, one of the readings from the Rite of Marriage (nos. 67-105) may be chosen, except from Holy Thursday to Easter and on the feast of Christmas, Epiphany, Ascension, Pentecost, Corpus Christi, and other holy days of obligation. On the Sundays of the Christmas season and throughout the year, in Masses which are not parish Masses, the wedding Mass may be used without change.

When a marriage is celebrated during Advent or Lent or other days of penance, the parish priest should advise the couple to take into consideration the special nature of these times (Rite of Marriage, no. 11, emphasis added).

**Funerals**

The funeral Mass is not permitted on solemnities of obligation, on Holy Thursday and the Easter Triduum, and on the Sundays of Advent, Lent, and the Easter season (Order of Christian Funerals, no. 178). The funeral liturgy outside Mass may be used on these days.

**Other Masses**

When choosing the Mass texts for Ritual Masses, Masses for Various Needs and Occasions, and Masses for the Dead, please see the chart on page four.

**The Choice of the Mass and Its Parts**

The pastoral effectiveness of a celebration will be greatly increased if the texts of readings, the prayers, and the liturgical songs correspond as closely as possible to the needs, spiritual preparation, and culture of those taking part...

The priest, therefore, in planning the celebration of Mass, should have in mind the common spiritual good of the people of God, rather than his own inclinations. He should, moreover, remember that the selection of different parts is to be made in agreement with those who have some role in the celebration, including the faithful, in regard to the parts that more directly belong to each.

Since, indeed, a variety of options is provided for the different parts of the Mass, it is necessary for the deacon, the lectors, the psalmist, the cantor, the commentator, and choir to be completely sure before the celebration about those texts for which each is responsible to be used and that nothing is improvised. Harmonious planning and carrying out of the rites will be of great assistance in disposing the faithful to take part in the Eucharist (GIRM 352).

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TABLE OF LITURGICAL DAYS ACCORDING TO THEIR ORDER OF PRECEDENCE</b> <b>General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar #59</b></p>
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**I**

1. Easter Triduum of the Lord's Passion and Resurrection
2. Christmas, Epiphany, Ascension, and Pentecost  
Sundays of Advent, Lent, and the Easter Season  
Ash Wednesday  
Weekdays of Holy Week from Monday to Thursday inclusive  
Days within the Octave of Easter
3. Solemnities of the Lord, The Blessed Virgin Mary, and saints listed in the General Calendar  
All Souls (Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed)
4. Proper Solemnities, namely:
  - a. Solemnity of the principal patron of the place, i.e., the city or state
  - b. Solemnity of the dedication of a particular church and the anniversary
  - c. Solemnity of the title of a particular church
  - d. Solemnity of the title, or of the founder, or of the principal patron of a religious order

**II**

5. Feasts of the Lord in the General Calendar
6. Sundays of the Christmas season and Sundays in Ordinary Time
7. Feasts of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of the saints in the General Calendar
8. Proper Feasts, namely:
  - a. Feast of the principal patron of the diocese
  - b. Feast of the anniversary of the dedication of the cathedral
  - c. Feast of the principal patron of a region or province, or a country, or of a wider territory
  - d. Feast of the title, founder, or principal patron of an order or congregation and of a religious province, without prejudice to the directives in no. 4.
  - e. Other feasts proper to an individual church
  - f. Other feasts listed in the calendar of a diocese or of a religious order congregation
9. Weekdays of Advent from 17 December to 24 December, inclusive.  
Days within the Octave of Christmas.  
Weekdays of Lent

**III**

10. Obligatory memorials in the General Calendar
11. Proper obligatory memorials, namely:
  - a. Memorial of a secondary patron of the place, diocese, region, or province, country or wider territory, or of an order or congregation and of a religious province.
  - b. Obligatory memorials listed in the calendar of a diocese, or of an order or congregation
12. Optional Memorials; but these may be celebrated even on the days listed in no. 9, in the special manner described by the General Instruction of the Roman Missal and of the Liturgy of the Hours. In the same manner obligatory memorials may be celebrated as optional memorials if they happen to fall on the Lenten weekdays.
13. Weekdays of Advent up to 16 December inclusive  
Weekdays of the Christmas season from 2 January until the Saturday after Epiphany.  
Weekdays of the Easter Season from Monday after the Octave of Easter until the Saturday before Pentecost inclusive.  
Weekdays in Ordinary Time.

**TABLE OF RUBRICS GOVERNING THE USE OF  
RITUAL MASSES, MASSES FOR VARIOUS NEEDS,  
MASSES FOR VARIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES, AND MASSES FOR THE DEAD**

V1 = Ritual Masses (GIRM 372); MVNO and VM in case of serious pastoral need or advantage at the direction of the local ordinary or with his permission (GIRM 374 and 376)

V2 = MVNO and VM in cases of serious need or pastoral advantage, at the discretion of the rector of the church or the priest celebrant (GIRM 376 and 376)

V3 = MVNO and VM chosen by the priest celebrant in favor of the devotion of the people (GIRM 377)

R1 = Funeral Mass (GIRM 380)

R2 = Mass on the occasion of news of a death, final burial, or the first anniversary (GIRM 381)

R3 = Daily Mass for the Dead (GIRM 355, 379, 381). When R1 and R2 are not permitted, neither is R3.

(+) = permitted      (-) = not permitted

Holy Thursday, Easter Triduum	V1 -	R1 -
Sundays of Advent, Lent, and the Easter Season	V1 -	R1 -
Solemnities of precept	V1 -	R1 -
Solemnities not of precept, All Souls	V1 -	R1 +
Ash Wednesday, weekdays of Holy Week	V1 -	R1 +
Days in the Easter Octave	V1 -	R1 +
Sundays of Christmas, and in Ordinary Time	V1+, V2-	R1+, R2-
Feasts	V1+, V2-,	R1+, R2-
Weekdays December 17-24	V1+, V2-	R1+, R2+
Days in the Christmas Octave	V1+, V2-	R1+, R2+
Weekdays of Lent	V1+, V2-	R1+, R2+
Obligatory Memorials	V1+, V2+	R1+, R2+
Weekdays of Advent to December 16	V1+, V2+	R1+, R2+
Weekdays of Christmas from January 2	V1+, V2+	R1+, R2+
Weekdays of the Easter Season	V1+, V2+	R1+, R2+
Weekdays in Ordinary Time	V1+, V2+, V3+	R1+, R2+, R3+

Adapted from Appendix III, *Ceremonial of Bishops* © ICEL

