



Upcoming Holy Days of Obligation

- **Friday, November 1—Solemnity of All Saints**
 - **Wednesday, December 25—Nativity of the Lord**
 - **Wednesday, January 1—Mary, the Holy Mother of God**
- ◇ Funeral Masses and ritual Masses are not permitted on any Holy Day of Obligation. If there is a need to celebrate a funeral liturgy on this day, the “Funeral Liturgy Outside of Mass” found in the *Order of Christian Funerals*, nos. 177-203, would be used.

Other Calendar Notes

- ◆ **How to approach All Souls Day (Saturday, Nov. 2):** Since Ritual Masses are not permitted on the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, the Ritual Mass for the Celebration of Matrimony may not be used. Rather, the Marriage ritual and the nuptial blessing should be used within the Mass of All Souls.

The USCCB offers these clarifications about evening Masses on Saturday, November 2nd: “On Saturday evening (Nov. 2), any normally scheduled anticipated Masses should be for the 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time. (If desired for pastoral reasons, a Mass of All Souls’ Day outside the usual Mass schedule may be celebrated on Saturday evening.)”

And regarding the permission given in the Missal to celebrate three Masses on All Souls, the allowance is for a maximum of three Masses for the entire day of November 2, and this would include an anticipated Sunday Mass on Saturday evening. In other words, one cannot celebrate three All Souls Masses earlier in the day, and then a Sunday vigil Mass on the evening of Nov. 2 — that would be four Masses in one day and thus a violation.

Moreover, as noted in the Missal, the following stipulations by Pope Benedict XV on the three All Souls Mass intentions must still be adhered to:

“All priests are permitted to celebrate three Masses on All Souls Day, provided these take place at different times and on condition, moreover, that while they may at their preference apply one of the Masses in favor of any person and accept for that Mass a stipend, they may not accept a stipend for the second or for the third Mass, the second of which they are bound to apply respectively for all the faithful departed and the third for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff.” - *Incruentum altaris sacrificium*, 1915.

As such, if a priest wished to celebrate two Masses using the All Souls propers and then celebrate the Sunday vigil Mass in the evening as the third Mass, then the two All Souls Masses could utilize the required intentions for all the faithful departed and the pope, so that the vigil Mass could make use of any regularly scheduled intention and stipend. In any event, only one stipend can be accepted that day.

- ◆ **Regarding Immaculate Conception on Monday, December 9:** December 8 falls on the Second Sunday of Advent, so the Solemnity is transferred to Monday, Dec. 9. The USCCB has affirmed that when this happens, it is NOT a holy day of obligation. Funeral Masses are permitted on Dec. 9.

- ◆ **Tuesday, December 10** marks this year’s observance of the anniversary of the dedication of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. It is observed as a Feast outside the Cathedral, using option II in the Common of the Dedication of a Church.
- ◆ **January 22 - Mass in Thanksgiving for the Gift of Human Life**
January 22, 2020—the observance of the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*—is a “particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life, and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion” (GIRM #373). The Roman Missal’s “Mass for Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life” is found at no. 48/1 (with A & B options for the prayers) in “Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions.” White vestments are used.

- ◆ **New Order of Baptism of Children coming in early 2020**

A new English translation for the *Order of Baptism of Children, Second Edition* has been confirmed by the Holy See and will soon be available in the United States. The earliest that the revised texts may be used is February 2, 2020—the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. The new Order of Baptism of Children becomes mandatory on Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020. From that date forward, no other translation of the rite may be used in the dioceses of the United States.

Five publishers have expressed interest in printing the new book: Catholic Book, Liturgical Press, Liturgy Training Publications, Magnificat, and USCCB. Once ordering information is available, that information will be circulated, along with an overview of the changes.

Christmas Notes

- ◆ **Genuflection at Christmas Masses** – At all Masses for the Nativity of the Lord, the assembly should be reminded beforehand to **genuflect during the Creed** at the mention of the Incarnation: **“and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.”** Particularly on this day (and also on the Solemnity of the Annunciation), we pay homage to the great mystery of the Incarnation by symbolically touching ourselves to the ground, just as the Son of God came down among us as man.
- ◆ **Christmas Décor** – “Since the Christmas season begins with the Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve and ends with the Baptism of the Lord, the placement and removal of Christmas decorations should coincide with these times” (*Built of Living Stones*, #125).

If a manger or crèche scene is set up in church, it should be not be placed in the main part of the sanctuary, but should be somewhere easily accessible for the prayer and devotion of the faithful (*Book of Blessings* #1544). The Nativity scene should only be blessed once each season (typically at the first Mass on Christmas Eve, or prior to it), though it could be revered with incense at subsequent Christmas liturgies.

- ◆ **The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ from the Roman Martyrology** – Located in Appendix I of the Roman Missal, it “may be chanted or recited, most appropriately during the celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours. It may also be chanted or recited before the beginning of Christmas Mass during the Night.” This proclamation “may not replace any part of the [Christmas] Mass.” A recording of the chant is available at the bottom of this page: <http://npm.org/chants-of-the-roman-missal/appendix-1-other-chants/>
- ◆ **The Announcement of Easter and the Moveable Feasts** – Found in Appendix I, it may be proclaimed after the Gospel at Mass during the Day for the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord (Jan. 5, 2020). A recording is at <http://npm.org/chants-of-the-roman-missal/appendix-1-other-chants/>

- ◆ **Blessing of Homes** – The Christmas season—and especially Epiphany—is a traditional time when homes are blessed. Parishes could promote the pious Epiphany custom of families using chalk (which can be blessed and distributed by the parish ahead of time) to mark both the year and the initials of the Magi (which also form a Latin abbreviation for “May Christ bless this house”) above the doors of their homes: **20+C+B+M+20**. This could be done in conjunction with a home blessing provided online by the USCCB: <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/sacraments-and-sacramentals/sacramentals-blessings/objects/blessing-of-the-home-and-household-on-epiphany.cfm>
- ◆ **Regarding the song “Mary, Did You Know?”** – A reminder: the Christmas song titled “Mary, Did You Know?” has become popular through radio and pop culture, and has sometimes been adopted in liturgical contexts around Christmas. However, several rhetorical questions posed to Mary in the song’s lyrics present difficulties for us as Catholics. Besides the fact that the first chapter of Luke’s Gospel makes it clear that Mary did indeed know that her Son would bring salvation and rule the nations, the biggest problem comes in these lines: “Did you know that your Baby Boy has come to make you new? This Child that you delivered will soon deliver you.” This is at least an implicit denial of the Immaculate Conception, by which Mary was extraordinarily preserved from sin at her first moment of existence. While there is an atemporal side to God’s activity, at face value “This Child that you delivered will soon deliver you” conveys a sense of Mary at that moment still awaiting salvation along with everyone else (as opposed to being already cleansed by a “prevenient grace,” as the Prayer over the Offerings for Immaculate Conception on December 8 says). And since the song was not written by/for Catholics, that’s surely the intent. But we have to affirm that Mary was not still awaiting a future salvation when Jesus was born—in fact, her purity was necessary for the Incarnation. Due to these problematic lyrics, this song should not be employed in any liturgical context—even as prelude music.

Flu Season: If it seems prudent as a means to reduce the spread of illness during flu season, any priest has the ability to omit the sign of peace after the Our Father at Mass. Offering or withholding of the Precious Blood to the people is also a decision made at the parish level.

The faithful should be reminded that anyone who is seriously ill (e.g., impaired by fever or other flu symptoms) has no obligation to attend Sunday Mass.

Looking Ahead to Early 2020

Rite of Election/Call to Continuing Conversion:

Fort Wayne: Sunday, February 23, 2:00 PM—Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

South Bend: Sunday, March 1, 2:00 PM—St. Matthew Cathedral

Chrism Masses:

South Bend: Monday, April 6, 7:30 PM—St. Matthew Cathedral

Fort Wayne: Tuesday, April 7, 7:30 PM—Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Easter Vigil Start Time, 2020

On Saturday, April 11, 2020, the end of civil twilight is at 8:45 PM EDT on the Fort Wayne side, and 8:51 PM EDT on the South Bend side. Therefore, around 8:45 PM would be the earliest possible time to begin the Easter Vigil in the diocese.

Since the USCCB encourages waiting an extra 15-30 minutes (because total darkness occurs after civil twilight ends), 9:00 PM or later would really be the most appropriate start time.

The Roman Missal states that the Vigil must begin in true darkness, “after nightfall.”

Please contact the Office of Worship at (260) 399-1426 with any questions