

ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON

OFFICE OF WORSHIP



The Year of Grace -2012

LITURGICAL CALENDAR NOTES FOR THE
ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON

Liturgical Calendar Notes	2
Purpose of this Document	2
The Roman Missal, Third Edition.....	2
For the Conferral of Baptism	2
For the Conferral of Confirmation.....	2
For the Celebration of Marriage	2
The Gloria.....	2
Roman Missal, Third Edition Applied to Other Rites	2
Sunday and the Liturgical Year.....	3
Holy Days of Obligation	3
Ritual Masses.....	3
Rite of Marriage on Sunday and Solemnities.....	4
Funeral Mass	4
Days of Prayer	4
Anniversary of the Dedication of the Parish Church.....	4
Lent – Prayer Over the People for Each Day.....	4
Lent – Flowers & Musical Instruments.....	5
Lent – Covering of Crosses and Images.....	5
Ash Wednesday	5
Scrutinies	5
Triduum – Holy Thursday, The Mass of the Lord's Supper	5
Footwashing.....	5
Order of Procession with Blessed Sacrament:.....	6
Stripping of the Altar.....	6
Triduum – Good Friday	6
Triduum – Holy Saturday and the Easter Vigil	7
Baptism at the Easter Vigil	7
Second Sunday of Easter – Divine Mercy Sunday.....	8
Roman Missal, third edition – Special Resources.....	9
EP Masses for Children.....	9
Large Print Missal.....	9
Concelebration	9
The Calendar.....	10
Advent Time (2011).....	10
Christmas Time (2011).....	11
Ordinary Time (Winter).....	11
Lenten Time	12
Lenten – Holy Week.....	14
THE EASTER TRIDUUM	14
Easter Time.....	16
Ordinary Time	17
Christmas Time (2012).....	20
Table of Liturgical Days: According to Order of Precedence.....	22
Abbreviations	23
Citations	23

LITURGICAL CALENDAR NOTES

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.

Pages 2 through 9 contain general notes on the seasons and the revised Roman Missal. Additional, detailed information, is given for the various days and seasons further in the document. [Return to top](#)

The Roman Missal, Third Edition

The rubrics and prayers of the Roman Missal, Third Edition introduce 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 rite of Marriage. Many of these have been noted below. The reader is encouraged to read through this document carefully and review the rubrics found in the new edition of the Missal.

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

For the Conferral of Baptism

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

This Mass may also be said for the conferral of the Baptism of infants, under the same conditions.

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

For the Conferral of Confirmation

This 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 said. The Creed, however, is omitted.

For the Celebration of Marriage

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

This instruction is only for Ritual Masses and not for the celebration of the respective sacramental liturgy outside of Mass.

The Gloria

Nine out of ten Ritual Masses prescribe the *Gloria in excelsis*, the exception being the Institution of Lectors and Acolytes. These Masses are treated 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 even during Advent or Lent. Note that Ritual Masses are not permitted on the Sundays of Advent or Lent. (January 2012 *Newsletter*, Bishops Committee for Divine Worship) [Return to top](#)

Roman Missal, Third Edition Applied to Other Rites

Below is a summary of key instructions and/or modifications as well as a description of the influences the Roman Missal, Third Edition, has on the celebration of other liturgical rites.

The following as found in the Roman Missal, Third Edition *are to be applied* to the other Liturgical Rites:

- The response to every occurrence of the greeting/dialogue, “The Lord be with you” or its variations, is “And with your spirit,” including the dialogue between the confirmand and the bishop in the Rite of Confirmation.

- The Confiteor as found in the Roman Missal is used in all other rites where the Confiteor is an option.
- The prayer of the priest and the assembly in at the invitation to Holy Communion (“Behold the Lamb of God...”; and “Lord, I am not worthy...”)
- The dismissal at other rites
- The prayers of the deacon/priest in preparation to proclaim the Gospel

The following adaptations *may be applied* to other liturgical rites in light of the Roman Missal (but these do not constitute obligations):

- The Blessing of Water and the renewal of Baptismal Promises at Baptism
- The nuptial blessing at the celebration of Marriage outside Mass (note that the Latin texts of the Nuptial Blessing have been modified, so the texts of the Nuptial Blessings in the Roman Missal are not merely re-translations)
- The Funeral Liturgy outside Mass can make use of the various collects found in the collection of Masses of the Dead
- The Liturgy of the Hours can make use of the proper collects from the Roman Missal. [Return to top](#)

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. It is the eschatological eighth day on which the community recognizes him 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 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 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 should be followed in Masses of the community. [Return to top](#)

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. These are: 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 Feast 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 attend Mass. [Return to top](#)

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, on 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).

Note: 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 impacts the Mass selected in the celebration of Christian Marriage on Saturday evenings. [Return to top](#)

Rite of Marriage on Sunday and Solemnities

Whenever Marriage is celebrated during Mass, this Ritual Mass is used, with the color white or a festive color. However, on those days listed in nos. 1-4 of the Table of Liturgical Days (page 22) , the Mass of the day is used, 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 Marriage is celebrated, the Mass of the Sunday is used.

Priests are limited to three Masses on a Sunday. While the *Rite of Marriage* is allowed on some Sundays during the year, it is pastorally imprudent for priests to accept an additional Mass on Sunday given the increasing need for Sunday Eucharist. The *Rite of Marriage* 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 parish priest (pastor) is to counsel the couple to respect the special nature of such a day. Celebration of marriage [including convalidation] on Good Friday and Holy Saturday is altogether forbidden (OCM 32-unofficial translation). [Return to top](#)

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; Order of Christian Funerals 178). [Return to top](#)

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 Migrants and Itinerant Workers (Dec 18 – UN International Migrants Day)
- 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) [Return to top](#)

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 (page 22 below) outlined in the General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar I. 1-3 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. [Return to top](#)

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” (Roman Missal 3rd ed., note before Ash Wednesday, no. 3). [Return to top](#)

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

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

Lent – 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 (Roman Missal 3rd ed., note before Ash Wednesday, no. 4). [Return to top](#)

Lent – 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. [Return to top](#)

Ash Wednesday

Roman Missal, 3 rd ed.	Sacramentary (2 nd ed)
Repent and believe in the Gospel	Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel.
Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.	Remember, man, you are dust and to dust you will return.

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 a 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. [Return to top](#)

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 amount of bread should be consecrated in this Mass for the Communion of the clergy and the people on this and the following day. [Return to top](#)

Footwashing

There is no prescribed number of individuals whose feet are washed. By custom, 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. (BCL newsletter, Feb, 1987) [Return to top](#)

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

Order of Procession with Blessed Sacrament:

(See Roman Missal 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. [Return to top](#)

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. (Roman Missal #41).
- The altar, ambo, and presidential chairs are not removed. The Corpus is not removed from the Crucifix. [Return to top](#)

Triduum – 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. (Roman Missal 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 should 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 prayer 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. [Return to top](#)

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) [Return to top](#)

Presentation of the Cross: The translation for the presentation of the Cross have changed: “Behold the wood of the Cross, on which hung the **salvation** of the world.” R. “Come, let us **adore**.” [Return to top](#)

Triduum – Holy Saturday and the Easter Vigil

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

The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night, the first Mass of Easter, is celebrated in the night between April 7 and April 8, in 2012. 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 Day Light Saving which will begin on the second Sunday of March beginning in 2007⁶. Consequently, the **Easter Vigil liturgy in 2012 may not begin until 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:
 - 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. 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 [Return to top](#)

Baptism at the Easter Vigil

The integration of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) into the Roman Missal is 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.

1. The Roman Missal’s rubrics are based upon the RCIA Part I which directs the process for the unbaptized. The Missal does not address Part II For Particular Circumstances, i.e., children, combined rite for unbaptized and baptized making a profession of faith, etc.
2. The Roman Missal, 3rd edition, does not replace the instructions found in the RCIA or the Rite of Infant Baptism.

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 will begin on the second Sunday of March and end the first Sunday of November.

With these two points in mind, the new edition of the Missal provides helpful instruction and greatly eliminates the integration of the RCIA with the Easter Vigil Mass previously necessary. Take note of the rubrics while you read and prepare. [Return to top](#)

Easter Vigil no. 48 Anointing with Oil of Catechumens is no longer optional. If it has previously not taken place, e.g., as part of the Holy Saturday Preparatory Rites (RCIA 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, e.g., Rite of Baptism of Infants or Rite 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.

The rite does not envision questioning all together but [Return to top](#)

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!). [Return to top](#)

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.

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. Paperback, No. 7-233, 24 pages, 8" x 10.5," \$4.95. Copies may also be ordered through the Office of Worship.

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: <http://www.usccbpublishing.org> search by keyword "concelebration card".

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

The rubrics for concelebration in *Preces Eucharisticæ 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. [Return to top](#)

THE CALENDAR

Advent Time (2011)

November 27, 2011, **First Sunday of Advent**

- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass **may not be** celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - One reading may be substituted from the *Rite of Marriage*
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass **may be** celebrated
- Begin Sunday *Lectionary for Mass*, Year B; Weekday *Lectionary for Mass*, Year II [Return to top](#)

December 4, 2011, **Second Sunday of Advent**

- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass **may not be** celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing, and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - One reading may be substituted from the *Rite of Marriage*
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated [Return to top](#)

December 8, 2011, Thursday, **The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Patronal Feastday of the United States of America)**

- **Always** a Holy Day of Obligation
- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass **may not be** celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing, and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted (RM11)
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated
- Funeral Mass **not** permitted. Funeral Liturgy Outside Mass permitted (GIRM 380 OCF 178). [Return to top](#)

December 11, 2011, **Third Sunday of Advent– Gaudete Sunday**

- Rose colored vestments may be worn otherwise violet is worn
- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass may **not** be celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - One reading may be substituted from the Rite of Marriage
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated [Return to top](#)

December 12, 2011, Monday, **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 homily and the concluding prayer for the intercessions could reflect this intention. [Return to top](#)

December 18, 2011, **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

- 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.
- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass may **not** be celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day

- One reading may be substituted from the Rite of Marriage
- The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated [Return to top](#)

Christmas Time (2011)

December 25, 2011, Sunday, **The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)** Solemnity

- **Always** a Holy Day of Obligation
- The *Proclamation of the Birth of Christ*, from the Roman Martyrology, is appropriately sung at the start of Christmas Midnight Mass following the Greeting and Introduction in place of the Penitential Act. The Gloria begins immediately after.
- Genuflect at “and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate...became man” during the recitation of the Creed
- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass may **not** be celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface Blessing and Readings of the Day
 - No reading may be substituted
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated
- Funeral Mass **not** permitted. (GIRM 380)
- Vigil Masses may **not** begin before 4:00 p.m. [*Christus Dominus* 1953 (AAS 45)] [Return to top](#)

Year of Grace 2012

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

- 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.
- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass may **not** be celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted (RM11)
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated [Return to top](#)

January 8, Sunday, **The Epiphany of the Lord (Solemnity)**

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

- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass may **not** be celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted (RM11)
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated [Return to top](#)

Ordinary Time (Winter)

January 23, Monday, **Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children** (observed) (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 [Return to top](#)

February 11, Saturday

- Archdiocesan Day of Prayer for the Sick and Health Care Workers
- Celebrations of the Anointing of the Sick are highly encouraged on this day.

- 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.

[Return to top](#)

Lenten Time

February 22, **Ash Wednesday**

- Modified form for distribution of ashes (see page 5).
- The blessing and imposition of ashes should take place either at Mass or outside of the Mass with the Liturgy of the Word and conclude with the prayer of the faithful [Paschale Solemnitatis, 21]
- 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 follow 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.
- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass may **not** be celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted (RM11)
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated [Return to top](#)

February 26, **First Sunday of Lent** – Rite of Sending (parish) & Rite of Election (archdiocese)

- Rite of Sending see RCIA no. 106ff; or no. 434ff; or no. 530ff.
- Rite of Election is celebrated by the cardinal or one of the assisting bishops at various locations around the archdiocese.
- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass may **not** be celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted (RM11)
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated [Return to top](#)

March 4, **Second Sunday of Lent** – Penitential Rite (RCIA previously baptized candidates for the full Communion of the Catholic faith)

- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass may **not** be celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted (RM11)
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated [Return to top](#)

March 11, **Third Sunday of Lent** – **First Scrutiny** for RCIA Elect (only)

- Cycle A readings may be read at all Masses (Intro. Lectionary 97; PS 24)
- Scrutinies
 - The Gospel – the Samaritan Woman **must** be read when the scrutiny is celebrated
 - Scrutiny Mass Preface Third Sunday of Lent – The Samaritan Woman
 - EP I – proper Memento and Hanc Igitur; EP II & EP III proper intercessions
- When the Scrutiny is not celebrated, Preface I or II of Lent is used.
- RCIA - Presentation of the Creed (during week, RCIA 104, 157)
- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass may **not** be celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted (RM11)
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given

- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated [Return to top](#)

March 18, **Fourth Sunday of Lent** – *Second Scrutiny* for RCIA Elect (only) – Laetare Sunday

- Rose vestments may be worn
- Cycle A readings may be read at all Masses (Intro. Lectionary 97; PS 24)
- Scrutinies
 - 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
- When the Scrutiny is not celebrated, Preface I or II of Lent is used.
- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass may **not** be celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted (RM11)
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated
- 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)) [Return to top](#)

March 19, Monday, **Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass may **not** be celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted (RM11)
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated [Return to top](#)

March 25 , **Fifth Sunday of Lent** – *Third Scrutiny* for RCIA Elect (only)

- Cycle A readings may be read at all Masses (Intro. Lectionary 97; PS 24)
- Scrutinies
 - 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
- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass may **not** be celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted (RM11)
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated [Return to top](#)

March 26, Monday, **Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord**

- Genuflect at “and by the Holy Spirit.....became man” during the recitation of the Creed
- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass may **not** be celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted (RM11)
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated [Return to top](#)

Lenten – Holy Week

April 1, **Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**

- Roman Missal contains the Entrance Gospel.
- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass may **not** be celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted (RM11)
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated [Return to top](#)

April 2-4, 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)
- A Funeral Mass may be celebrated (GIRM 380)
- Ideally, all marriages (including convalidations) should be celebrated before Holy Week.
- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass may **not** be celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted (RM11)
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated
- Ritual Masses are **not** permitted (GIRM 372) [Return to top](#)

April 3, Tuesday, **Chrism Mass** at Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, 7:00 p.m.

April 5, **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 baptisms and confirmation be celebrated (except in danger of death). (PS 27)
- Strengthening of language regarding the veiling of crosses is observed (41)
- 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 *Rite of Marriage* during Mass may **not** be celebrated
- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated. (GIRM 372, RM 11)
- Communion distributed **only** during Mass, but may be brought to the sick at any hour of the day. (Roman Missal; EWOM 16a) [Return to top](#)

THE EASTER TRIDUUM - begins with Thursday of the Lord's Supper at Evening Mass through Easter Sunday.

April 5 –**Thursday of the Lord's Supper At the Evening Mass [Holy Thursday]**

- See page 5 above for descriptions
- Mass marks the end of the Lenten fast and the start of the Paschal fast. (PS 39)
- Sufficient number of hosts is prepared including Communion to the sick and for the Liturgy of the Lord's Passion. (Roman Missal Holy Thursday p.299; 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. (BCL newsletter, Feb, 1987)
- Presiders are reminded to wash their hands after the washing of feet (RM Holy Thursday #13)
- Order of procession to the chapel of repose is outlined (RM Holy Thursday #38)
- Clarification about the placement of the ciborium upon arrival in the chapel of repose is made (RM 39)

- 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 covered with red or purple fabric. Candles should **not** be lit before sacred images. (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. (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. (Roman Missal Holy Thursday #43) [Return to top](#)

April 6 – **Friday of the Passion of the Lord [Good Friday]**,

- See page 6 above
- On this day and Holy Saturday, the Church does **not** celebrate the sacraments at all except for Penance and the Anointing of the Sick. (Roman Missal Good Friday #1)
- A Funeral Mass may **not** be celebrated (GIRM 380)
- A Funeral Liturgy Outside Mass may be celebrated. "Funerals are to be celebrated without singing, music, or the tolling of bells" (PS 61).
- The celebration of marriage (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. (Roman Missal 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 prayer 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. (Roman Missal Good Friday #13)
- The form 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 (Roman Missal Good Friday #18).
- Adoration of one cross only is allowed. (Roman Missal 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 (Roman Missal 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. (Roman Missal Good Friday #28) [Return to top](#)

April 7 – **Holy Saturday / Easter Vigil in the Holy Night**

- 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. (Roman Missal Holy Saturday #3; EWOM 16c)
- The celebration of marriage (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)
- Preparation Rites, e.g., Recitation of the Creed, Ephphetha, etc. (RCIA, 185)
- Easter Vigil liturgy in 2012 may **not** begin until 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. (RM 8)
- The preparation of the paschal candle is a required part of the rite. (Roman Missal 11)

- "The Light of Christ" is sung at the door of the church, at the middle of the church and before the altar. (Roman Missal 15-17)
- Triple intonation of the alleluia is part of the gospel acclamation (Roman Missal 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. (Roman Missal 48)
- Order for the completion of the rite of baptism is stated in the Missal. (RM 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. (RM 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) [Return to top](#)

April 8, **Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord**

- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass may **not** be celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted (RM 11)
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated [Return to top](#)

Easter Time

April 9-April 15, **Octave of Easter**, Monday of the First Week of Easter, through Second Sunday of Easter

- Each day is a Solemnity (GNLY 24)
- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass may **not** be celebrated unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - One reading may be substituted from the Rite of Marriage
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated [Return to top](#)

April 15, **Second Sunday of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday, (The Octave Day of Easter)**

- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass may **not** be celebrated unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - One reading may be substituted from the Rite of Marriage
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated [Return to top](#)

April 22, **Third Sunday of Easter**

- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass may **not** be celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - One reading may be substituted from the Rite of Marriage
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated [Return to top](#)

April 29, **Fourth Sunday of Easter**

- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass may **not** be celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - One reading may be substituted from the Rite of Marriage
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated [Return to top](#)

May 6, **Fifth Sunday of Easter**

- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass may **not** be celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - One reading may be substituted from the Rite of Marriage
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated [Return to top](#)

May 13, **Sixth Sunday of Easter**

- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass may **not** be celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - One reading may be substituted from the Rite of Marriage
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
 - The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated
- The Blessing of Mothers is found in the Book of Blessings, Chapter 55 [Return to top](#)

May 17, **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; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 16:16-20 [Return to top](#)

May 20, **Sunday, Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord**

- Note texts in the Roman Missal for the Vigil Mass for the Ascension of the Lord.
- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass may **not** be celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted (RM11)
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated [Return to top](#)

May 27, **Sunday, Pentecost**

- Sequence Veni Sancte Spiritus after the second reading
- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass may **not** be celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted (RM11)
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
 - The Rite of Marriage Outside Mass may be celebrated [Return to top](#)
- The Paschal Candle, lit during all of today's Masses, should be placed in the baptistery *after* evening prayer, if celebrated or after the last Mass, as a sign that the Easter time is over.

Ordinary Time

June 3, **Sunday, Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity**

- 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.
- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass may **not** be celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - One reading may be substituted from the Rite of Marriage
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given

- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated [Return to top](#)

June 10, Sunday, Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass may **not** be celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No Reading may be substituted for the Readings assigned to the liturgical day (RM11)
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated [Return to top](#)

June 15, Friday, Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass may **not** be celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - One reading may be substituted from the Rite of Marriage
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated [Return to top](#)

June 17, Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

- The Blessing of Fathers is found in the Book of Blessings, Chapter 56 [Return to top](#)

June 24, Sunday, Solemnity of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist

- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass may **not** be celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - One reading may be substituted from the Rite of Marriage
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated [Return to top](#)

June 29, Friday, Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul

- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass may **not** be celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - One reading may be substituted from the Rite of Marriage
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated [Return to top](#)

July 10, Sunday, 15th 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. [Return to top](#)

August 15, Wednesday, Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

A Holy Day of Obligation

- A Funeral Mass may **not** be celebrated (GIRM 380)
- A Funeral Liturgy Outside Mass may be celebrated (RM 11)
- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass may **not** be celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - One Reading may be substituted (RM11)
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated [Return to top](#)

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

A Holy Day of Obligation

- A Funeral Mass may **not** be celebrated (GIRM 380)
- A Funeral Liturgy Outside Mass may be celebrated (RM 11)
- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass may **not** be celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted (RM11)
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated [Return to top](#)

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

- Funeral Mass may be celebrated
- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass may **not** be celebrated unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - One reading may be substituted from the Rite of Marriage
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated [Return to top](#)

November 22, **Thursday, Thanksgiving Day**

- A Blessing of Food on Thanksgiving Day can be found in the Book of Blessings Nos 1755-1780 [Return to top](#)

November 25, **Sunday, Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**

- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass may **not** be celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - One reading may be substituted from the Rite of Marriage
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated [Return to top](#)

November 26, **Monday, Anniversary of the Dedication of St. Mary's Cathedral Basilica**

(solemnity in the basilica only)

Except for the Basilica:

- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass may be celebrated (GIRM 372, RM 11)
- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated
- Advent Time (2012 - Year of Grace 2013)
- December 2, First Sunday of Advent
- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass may **not** be celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - One reading may be substituted from the Rite of Marriage
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated [Return to top](#)

December 2, **First Sunday of Advent**

- Begin Sunday *Lectionary for Mass*, Year C; Weekday *Lectionary for Mass*, Year I
- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass may **not** be celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - One reading may be substituted from the Rite of Marriage
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated [Return to top](#)

December 8, **Saturday, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

- **Always** a Holy Day of Obligation
- A Funeral Mass may **not** be celebrated (GIRM 380)
- A Funeral Liturgy Outside Mass may be celebrated (OCF 178)
- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass may **not** be celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing, and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted (RM11)
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated
- Sundays of Advent take precedence. Therefore, Masses Sunday evening are that of Sunday.
- Celebrate Vespers I for the Second Sunday of Advent. [Return to top](#)

December 9, **Second Sunday of Advent**

- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass may **not** be celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - One reading may be substituted from the Rite of Marriage
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated [Return to top](#)

December 12, **Wednesday, 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. [Return to top](#)

December 16, **Third Sunday of Advent– Gaudete Sunday**

- Rose colored vestments may be worn
- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass may **not** be celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - One reading may be substituted from the Rite of Marriage
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated [Return to top](#)

December 18, **Tuesday of the Third Week of Advent**

- 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 [Return to top](#)

December 23, **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass may **not** be celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - One reading may be substituted from the Rite of Marriage
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated [Return to top](#)

Christmas Time (2012)

December 25, **Tuesday, 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

- The *Rite of Marriage* during Mass may **not** be celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (this includes Masses after 4:00 p.m. on the evening before) (GIRM 372, RM 11)
 - Prayers, Preface Blessing and Readings of the Day
 - No reading may be substituted
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Rite of Marriage* Outside Mass may be celebrated
- Funeral Mass **not** permitted. (GIRM 380)
- Vigil Masses may **not** begin before 4:00 p.m. [*Christus Dominus* 1953 (AAS 45)] [Return to top](#)

TABLE OF LITURGICAL DAYS: ACCORDING TO ORDER OF PRECEDENCE

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
 - e. or of the Founder
 - f. 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. [Return to top](#)

ABBREVIATIONS

CDW Congregation for Divine Worship
EWOM Holy Communion And Worship of the Eucharist Outside Mass, 1973
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 Ordo Celebrandi Matrimonium 1990 (editio typical altera – 2nd Latin edition)
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.
RCIA Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, 1988
RM Rite of Christian Marriage, 1969

Citations

GIRM 372. Ritual Masses are connected to the celebration of certain Sacraments or Sacramentals. They are prohibited on Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Easter, on Solemnities, on 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, and furthermore due regard is to be had for the norms set out in the ritual books or in the Masses themselves.

GIRM 380. Among the Masses for the Dead, the Funeral Mass holds first place. It may be celebrated on any day except for Solemnities that are Holydays of Obligation, Thursday of Holy Week (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 law⁷.

RM 11. 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 the special final blessing according to the circumstances.

The liturgy of the word as adapted to the marriage celebration, however, is a highly effective means for the catechesis on the sacrament of marriage and its duties. Therefore, when the wedding Mass may **not** be held, one of the readings from the texts provided for the marriage celebration (nos. 67-105) may be chosen, except from Holy Thursday to Easter, on the solemnities of Epiphany, Ascension, Pentecost, or Corpus Christi, or on holydays of obligation. On the Sundays of the Christmas season and in Ordinary Time, the entire wedding Mass may be used in Masses that are **not** parish Masses.

OCM 32 When a marriage is to be celebrated on a day having a penitential character, especially during Lent, the parish priest (pastor) is to counsel the spouses to respect the special nature of such a day. Celebration of marriage on Good Friday and Holy Saturday is altogether forbidden. (unofficial translation)

OCM 34 During the season of Christmas and in Ordinary Time, when a marriage is celebrated with a Sunday Mass in which the parish community participated, the Mass of the Sunday is used. (unofficial translation)

OCF 178 [Funeral Liturgy Outside Mass] may be used for various reasons: when the funeral Mass is **not** permitted, namely on solemnities of obligation, on Holy Thursday and the Easter Triduum, and on the Sundays of Advent, Lent, and the Easter Season.... [Return to top](#)

⁷ cf. *Code of Canon Law*, cc 1176-1185