



ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON
OFFICE OF WORSHIP

The Year of Grace – 2024

LITURGICAL CALENDAR NOTES
FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON

Liturgical Calendar Notes	2
Purpose of this Document	2
Days of Prayer	2
Anniversary of Dedication: St. Mary Cathedral Basilica and Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart	2
Votive Masses During the Eucharistic Revival.....	2
The Calendar	3
Advent (2023)	3
Christmas Time (2023).....	4
Ordinary Time (Winter)	4
Lent.....	5
Holy Week.....	7
The Sacred Paschal Triduum.....	8
Easter Time	10
Ordinary Time (Summer).....	12
Other Notes	16
The Roman Missal, Third Edition.....	16
Sunday and the Liturgical Year.....	16
Holy Days of Obligation	17
Ritual Masses	17
Celebration of Matrimony on Sunday and Solemnities	17
Funeral Mass	18
Anniversary of the Dedication of the Parish Church	18
Christmas Environment.....	18
Lent.....	18
Prayer over the People for Each Day	18
Flowers & Musical Instruments	18
Covering of Crosses and Images.....	18
Scrutinies.....	18
Triduum – Holy Thursday, The Mass of the Lord’s Supper	18
Footwashing	19
Order of Procession with Blessed Sacrament:	19
Stripping of the Altar.....	19
Triduum – Good Friday.....	19
Triduum – Holy Saturday and the Easter Vigil.....	20
Second Sunday of Easter – Divine Mercy Sunday	21
Epiphany of the Lord.....	22
Sunday, Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord.....	22
Special Resources	22
Misal Romano, Tercera Edición	23
Table of Liturgical Days: According to Order of Precedence	24
Quick Guide to Wedding Masses on Fridays and Saturdays	25

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. The document contains general notes on the seasons and the revised Roman Missal, as well as detailed information is for the various days and seasons.

[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
 - Sample Prayers of the Faithful in [English](#) & [Spanish](#)
- Day of Prayer for World Justice and Peace
 - Jan 1 – Mary, the Holy Mother of God
 - Sample Prayers of the Faithful in [English](#) & [Spanish](#)
- Day of Prayer for the Sick and Health Care Workers
 - Feb 11- Our Lady of Lourdes
 - Sample Prayers of the Faithful in [English](#) & [Spanish](#)
- Day of Prayer for Fair Weather
 - Sunday nearest to June 1 – start of Hurricane Season
 - Sample Prayers of the Faithful in [English](#) & [Spanish](#)
- Day of Prayer for Sea Farers
 - Second Sunday of July – coincides with Sea
 - Sunday Sample Prayers of the Faithful in [English](#) & [Spanish](#)
- Day of Prayer for Migrants and Itinerant Workers
 - Last Sunday of September – World Day of Migrants and Refugees
 - Sample Prayers of the Faithful in [English](#) & [Spanish](#)

[Return to top](#)

Anniversary of Dedication: St. Mary Cathedral Basilica and Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart

Following the (re)dedication of St. Mary Cathedral Basilica on April 13, 2014, Cardinal DiNardo desired to unite the observance of the dedication of the basilica and the co-cathedral. This commemoration is now observed on April 13th. In both the basilica and the co-cathedral, the days are a solemnity. In all other churches of the Archdiocese it is celebrated as a Feast. [Return to top](#)

Votive Masses During the Eucharistic Revival

During the USCCB directed Eucharistic Revival, a judicious use of votive Masses could be utilized to engage the revival and deepen the devotion of the faithful to the mystery of the Most Blessed Sacrament. The Missal includes multiple votive Masses that are connected to the mystery of the Eucharist. While each votive Mass can be utilized on a ferial day, here are specific days to consider celebrating the Masses because of their historical use and development:

- Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest - Thursdays, First Thursdays
- The Most Holy Eucharist - Thursdays
- The Mystery of the Holy Cross - Fridays
- The Most Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ – Fridays
- The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus – First Fridays

[Return to top](#)

THE CALENDAR

ADVENT (2023)

December 3, **First Sunday of Advent**

- Begin Sunday *Lectionary for Mass*, Year B; Weekday *Lectionary for Mass*, Year II
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony within 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, OCM 34)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass* may be celebrated. [Return to top](#)

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

- *Holy Day of Obligation*. A sufficient number of Masses should be scheduled for the faithful's observance of the Solemnity.
- A Funeral Mass may **not** be celebrated (GIRM 380)
- A Funeral Liturgy outside Mass may be celebrated (OCF 178)
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony within 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, OCM 34)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing, and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass* may be celebrated. [Return to top](#)

December 10, **Second Sunday of Advent**

- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony within 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, OCM 34)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass* may be celebrated. [Return to top](#)

December 12, Tuesday, **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 17, **Third Sunday of Advent**, Gaudete Sunday

- Rose colored vestments may be worn
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony within 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, OCM 34)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass* may be celebrated.

December 24, **Fourth Sunday of Advent** – At Masses in the morning

- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony within 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, OCM 34)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given

- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass* may be celebrated
- **With sufficient notice to parishioners**, parishes may wish to adjust their morning Mass schedule since history shows attendance may be down due to the convergence of Advent 4 and Christmas Eve. The liturgical environment should continue to reflect Advent at the Masses celebrated in the morning. Decorations for the Christmas liturgies should, as much as possible, be put up during the afternoon.
- Masses celebrated after 4:00 p.m. should be from the Masses for Christmas [Return to top](#)

CHRISTMAS TIME (2023)

December 25, Monday, **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 *Order of Celebrating Matrimony within 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, OCM 34)
 - Prayers, Preface Blessing and Readings of the Day
 - No reading may be substituted
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony without 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](#)

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

- **Not a Holy day of obligation this year.**
- Archdiocesan Day of Prayer for World Justice and Peace
- Particular mention in the liturgy and inclusion in the general intercessions should be made. If appropriate, the homily and the concluding prayer for the intercessions could reflect this intention. Sample prayers provided above.
- A Funeral Mass may **not** be celebrated (GIRM 380)
- A Funeral Liturgy outside Mass may be celebrated (OCF 178)
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony within 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, OCM 34)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass* may be celebrated. [Return to top](#)

January 7, Sunday, **The Epiphany of the Lord (Solemnity)**

- See orations in the Roman Missal, 3rd ed. for the Vigil Mass of Epiphany
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony within 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, OCM 34)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass* may be celebrated. [Return to top](#)

January 8, Monday, **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**

- Since, in 2024, the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord is celebrated on January 7, this Feast is transferred to the following Monday, January 8, with only one reading before the Gospel. [Return to top](#)

ORDINARY TIME (WINTER)

January 21, **Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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

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

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

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

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

Lent

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

Rite of Sending (Parish)

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

February 14, **Ash Wednesday**

- Form for distribution of ashes.
 - “Repent and believe in the Gospel.”
 - “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”
- In Mass, the Penitential Act is omitted due to the imposition of ashes later in the liturgy.
- The blessing and distribution of ashes may also take place outside Mass. In this case, the rite is preceded by a Liturgy of the Word, with the Entrance Antiphon, the Collect, and the readings with their chants as at Mass. Then there follows the Homily and the blessing and distribution of ashes. The rite is concluded with the Universal Prayer, the Blessing, and the Dismissal of the Faithful. (RM3, Ash Wednesday)
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony within Mass* may **not** be celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (GIRM 372, OCM 34)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass* may be celebrated
- Funeral Mass permitted. [Return to top](#)

February 18, **First Sunday of Lent**

- Rite of Election (Archdiocese)
 - Rite of Election is celebrated by the Cardinal or an assisting bishop at various locations around the archdiocese.

- The names of the Elect should be written in the Book of the Elect before arriving for the Rite of Election, and the Book of the Elect needs to be brought to the Rite of Election.
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony within 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, OCM 34)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass* may be celebrated [Return to top](#)

February 25, **Second Sunday of Lent**

- Penitential Rite with baptized Candidates for full Communion of the Catholic Church (RCIA no. 464ff)
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony within 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, OCM 34)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass* may be celebrated [Return to top](#)

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

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

March 3, **Third Sunday of Lent**

- **First Scrutiny** for RCIA Elect (only)
 - The Gospel – the Samaritan Woman **must** be read when the scrutiny is celebrated
 - Preface: Third Sunday of Lent – The Samaritan Woman
 - EP I – proper *Memento* and *Hanc Igitur*; EP II & EP III proper intercessions
- Cycle A readings may be read at all Masses (Intro. Lectionary 97; PS 24)
- When the Scrutiny is not celebrated, Preface I or II of Lent is used.
- RCIA - Presentation of the Creed (during week, RCIA 104, 157)
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony within 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, OCM 34)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass* may be celebrated [Return to top](#)

March 10, **Fourth Sunday of Lent, Laetare Sunday**

- Rose vestments may be worn
- **Second Scrutiny** for RCIA Elect (only)
 - The Gospel – The Man Born Blind **must** be read when the scrutiny is celebrated
 - Preface: Fourth Sunday of Lent – The Man Born Blind
 - EP I – proper *Memento* and *Hanc Igitur*; EP II & EP III proper intercessions
- Cycle A readings may be read at all Masses (Intro. Lectionary 97; PS 24)
- When the Scrutiny is not celebrated, Preface I or II of Lent is used.
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony within 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, OCM 34)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass* may be celebrated.
- 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 17, **Fifth Sunday of Lent**

- **Third Scrutiny** for RCIA Elect (only)
 - The Gospel – Lazarus **must** be read when the scrutiny is celebrated
 - Preface Fifth Sunday of Lent – Lazarus
 - EP I – proper Memento and Hanc Igitur; EP II & EP III proper intercessions
- Cycle A readings may be read at all Masses (Intro. Lectionary 97; PS 24)
- When the Scrutiny is not celebrated, Preface I or II of Lent is used.
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony within 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, OCM 34)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass* may be celebrated
- NOTE: Ideally, all Marriages (including convalidations) should be celebrated before Holy Week. Celebrations of Matrimony are **not** permitted on Good Friday or Holy Saturday (OCM, 32). [Return to top](#)

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

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

HOLY WEEK

March 24, **Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**

- Entrance Gospel is found in Roman Missal
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony within 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, OCM 34)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass* may be celebrated. [Return to top](#)

March 25-27, 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 *Order of Celebrating Matrimony within Mass* may **not** be celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (GIRM 372, OCM 34)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass* may be celebrated
- Ritual Masses are **not** permitted (GIRM 372) [Return to top](#)

March 26, Tuesday, **Chrism Mass** at Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, 7:00 p.m. [Return to top](#)

March 28, **Holy Thursday (during the day)**, Lenten Weekday [6]

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

The Sacred Paschal Triduum

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

March 28, **Thursday of the Lord's Supper at the Evening Mass [Holy Thursday]**

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

March 29, **Friday of the Passion of the Lord [Good Friday]**,

- See below
- On this day and Holy Saturday, the Church does **not** celebrate the sacraments at all except for Penance and the Anointing of the Sick. (RM3 Good Friday #1)
- A Funeral Mass may **not** be celebrated (GIRM 380; OCF, 178)
- A Funeral Liturgy outside Mass may be celebrated. "Funerals are to be celebrated without singing, music, or the tolling of bells" (OCF, 178; PS 61).
- The celebration of Matrimony (including convalidation) is **forbidden** (PS 61; OCM 32)
- Communion may be given only at the celebration of the Lord's Passion, but may be brought at any hour of the day to the sick who **cannot** participate in this service. (RM3 Good Friday, p. 314; PS 59; EWOM 16b)
- Cross vs. Crucifix. The ritual text clearly refers to the wood of the cross which is the instrument of our salvation. However, it is clear that the use of the crucifix is mentioned in the middle ages. A cross without corpus is preferred but a crucifix may be used. Nonetheless, only a single cross or crucifix should be used for the veneration. (PS 68, 69)

- The minister for the Good Friday liturgy of the Celebration of the Lord's Passion is a priest. The liturgy of Good Friday is linked to the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper and the Easter Vigil.
- The option is no longer given for the priest, at the solemn intercession, to choose the prayers in the missal which are more appropriate to local circumstances. The Diocesan Bishop, for grave public need, may permit or order the addition of a special intention. (RM3 Good Friday 13)
- The form for the presentation of the Cross has changed: Behold the wood of the Cross, on which hung the **salvation** of the world. R. Come, let us **adore**.
- For the adoration of the cross, the priest celebrant alone approaches, with the chasuble and his shoes removed, if appropriate. Then the clergy, the lay ministers and faithful approach (RM3 Good Friday 18).
- Adoration of one cross only is allowed. (RM3 Good Friday 19)
- Deacon, or if there is no Deacon, the Priest himself, wearing the humeral veil brings the Blessed Sacrament to the altar for the distribution of Holy Communion (RM3 22).
- At the conclusion of the service, all genuflect to the cross and depart in silence. The altar is stripped afterwards but the Cross with two or four candles remains. (RM3 Good Friday 28) [Return to top](#)

March 30, **Holy Saturday / Easter Vigil in the Holy Night**

- No Masses are to be celebrated during the day. The Church abstains from the Sacrifice of the Mass, with the sacred table left bare, until after the solemn Vigil. (RM3 Holy Saturday 2)
- Aside from the Easter Vigil, Holy Communion may be given **only** as Viaticum. Regular communion calls to the sick, except for Viaticum, are **not** to occur. (RM3 Holy Saturday 3; EWOM 16c)
- The celebration of Matrimony (including convalidation) is **forbidden** (PS 75, OCM 32)
- A Funeral Mass may **not** be celebrated (GIRM 380)
- A Funeral Liturgy outside Mass may be celebrated. (GIRM 380, OCF 178)
- It is commendable that the Preparation Rites, e.g., Recitation of the Creed, Ephphetha, anointing catechumens with the Oil of Catechumens, etc. be celebrated with the elect during the day. (RCIA, 185)
- Easter Vigil liturgy in 2023 should begin **no earlier than 8:30 p.m.** "The entire celebration of the Easter Vigil takes place at night. It should **not** begin before nightfall and it should end before daybreak on Sunday.' This rule is to be taken according to its strictest sense." (PS 78)
- The cross and candles are **not** carried out to the Easter fire. (RM3 Easter Vigil 8)
- The preparation of the paschal candle is a required part of the rite. (RM3 Easter Vigil 11)
- "*Lumen Christi*" is sung at the door of the church, at the middle of the church, and before the altar. (RM3 Easter Vigil, 15-17)
- Triple intonation of the alleluia is part of the gospel acclamation. (RM3 34)
- If the anointing of the adults with the Oil of Catechumens has **not** taken place beforehand, as part of the Holy Saturday preparatory rites, it occurs after the blessing of the water and prescribed questioning of the adults and parents or godparents of the children. (RM3 Easter Vigil, 48)
- Order for the completion of the rite of Baptism is stated in the Missal. (RM3 Easter Vigil, 51)
- Before the *Ecce Agnus Dei*, the priest may briefly address the newly baptized about receiving their first Communion and about the excellence of this great mystery, which is the climax of initiation and the center of the whole of Christian life. (RM3 Easter Vigil, 64)
- The Paschal Candle is to remain in the sanctuary near the ambo or the altar from the Easter Vigil until Pentecost evening prayer. (PS 99) It is lit in all solemn liturgical celebrations of the Easter Season. (RM3 Easter Vigil, 70)
- Double "alleluia" at dismissal. [Return to top](#)

March 31, **Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord**

- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony within Mass* may **not** be celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (GIRM 372, OCM 34)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass* may be celebrated
- Rite of the Renewal of Baptismal Promises according to the text found for Easter Vigil at #55 may take place after the Homily in place of the standard recitation of the Creed. (RM3 Easter Sunday, 72)

- Double “alleluia” at dismissal. [Return to top](#)

Easter Time

April 1-7, **Octave of Easter**, Monday within the Octave of Easter through the Second Sunday of Easter

- Each day is celebrated as a Solemnity of the Lord (GNLY 24)
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony within 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, OCM 34)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - One reading may be **added** from the *Order of Celebrating Matrimony* (OCM 34)
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass* may be celebrated.
- Double “alleluia” at dismissal. [Return to top](#)

April 7, **Second Sunday of Easter or Divine Mercy Sunday (The Octave Day of Easter)**

- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony within 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, OCM 34)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass* may be celebrated.
- Double “alleluia” at dismissal. [Return to top](#)

April 8, Monday, **Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord**

- Transferred from March 25 this year due to Holy Week.
- Genuflect at “and by the Holy Spirit....became man” during the recitation of the Creed.
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony within 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, OCM 34)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass* may be celebrated. [Return to top](#)

April 13, Saturday, **Anniversary of the Dedication of Metropolitan Cathedral and the Co-Cathedral At the Basilica and the Co-Cathedral: Solemnity**
At Parishes: Feast

- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony within 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, OCM 34)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass* may be celebrated. [Return to top](#)

April 14, **Third Sunday of Easter**

- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony within 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, OCM 34)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass* may be celebrated [Return to top](#)

April 21, **Fourth Sunday of Easter**

- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony within 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, OCM 34)

- Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
- No reading may be substituted
- The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass* may be celebrated. [Return to top](#)

April 28, **Fifth Sunday of Easter**

- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony within 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, OCM 34)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass* may be celebrated. [Return to top](#)

May 5, **Sixth Sunday of Easter**

- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony within 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, OCM 34)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass* may be celebrated. [Return to top](#)

May 9, Thursday, **Easter Weekday** [week 6]

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

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

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

May 12, 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 *Order of Celebrating Matrimony within 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, OCM 34)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass* may be celebrated.
- The Blessing of Mothers is found in the Book of Blessings, Chapter 55. [Return to top](#)

May 19, **Pentecost Sunday**

- Vigil Mass: Orations for the Vigil Mass of Pentecost in the Roman Missal. The Pentecost Sequence, *Veni, Sancte, Spiritus*, obligatory on Pentecost Sunday, may be omitted at the Vigil. If the Vigil, however, for pastoral reasons, makes use of the readings (#63) of Pentecost Day, the Sequence should be sung. (From the Paulist Ordo)
- Sequence *Veni Sancte Spiritus* after the second reading and before the Alleluia.
- Double “alleluia” at dismissal.
- The Paschal Candle, lit during all of today’s Masses, should be placed near the baptismal font after evening prayer, if celebrated or after the last Mass, as a sign that the Easter time is over.
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony within 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, OCM 34)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given

- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass* may be celebrated.
- 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. [Return to top](#)

Ordinary Time (Summer)

May 20, Monday, **Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church**

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

May 26, Sunday, **Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity**

- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony within 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, OCM 34)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass* may be celebrated. [Return to top](#)

May 29, Wednesday, **optional Memorial of St. Paul VI, Pope**

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

June 2, Sunday, **Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ**

- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony within 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, OCM 34)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass* may be celebrated. [Return to top](#)

June 7, Friday, **Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus**

- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony within 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, OCM 34)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass* may be celebrated. [Return to top](#)

June 16, **Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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

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

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

- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony within Mass* may **not** be celebrated, unless it is the Mass of the Day (GIRM 372, OCM 34)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass* may be celebrated.
- Masses after 4 PM Sunday night may be for **either** the Solemnity or the Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time. [Return to top](#)

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

- Note that proper readings and prayers are available in the Lectionary and Roman Missal for the Vigil Mass of Sts. Peter and Paul.
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony within 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, OCM 34)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass* may be celebrated.
- Masses after 4 PM Saturday night **should** be for the Solemnity. [Return to top](#)

July 14, Sunday, **Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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

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

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

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

- Please note the addition of the names Mary and Lazarus to the title of the Memorial, in accord with a decree from the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments (January 26, 2021)
- Interim liturgical guidelines may be found at <https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year-and-calendar/saints-martha-mary-and-lazarus> [Return to top](#)

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

- *Holy Day of Obligation*. A sufficient number of Masses should be scheduled for the faithful's observance of the Solemnity.
- A Funeral Mass may **not** be celebrated (GIRM 380)
- A Funeral Liturgy outside Mass may be celebrated (OCF 178)
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony within 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, OCM 34)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass* may be celebrated. [Return to top](#)

September 1, **Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

- World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation
- Particular mention in the liturgy and inclusion in the general intercessions should be made. If appropriate, the concluding prayer for the intercessions could reflect this intention. [Return to top](#)

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

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

September 29, **Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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

October 5, Saturday, **optional Memorial of Saint Faustina Kowalska**

- Added to the General Roman Calendar by decree of the CDWDS (May 18, 2020)
- Orations can be taken from the Common of Virgins: For One Virgin, or the Common of Holy Men and Women: For Religious [Return to top](#)

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

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

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

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

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

- *Holy Day of Obligation*. A sufficient number of Masses should be scheduled for the faithful's observance of the Solemnity.
- A Funeral Mass may **not** be celebrated (GIRM 380)
- A Funeral Liturgy outside Mass may be celebrated (OCF 178)
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony within 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, OCM 34)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass* may be celebrated. [Return to top](#)

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

- Funeral Mass may be celebrated (GIRM 380)
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony within Mass* may **not** be celebrated unless it is the Mass of the Day (GIRM 372, OCM 34)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass* may be celebrated.
- Masses after 4 PM Saturday night **should** be for the Feast. [Return to top](#)

November 24, Sunday, **Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**

- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony within 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, OCM 34)
 - Prayers, Preface, Blessing and Readings assigned to the liturgical day
 - No reading may be substituted
 - The Nuptial Blessing is given
- The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass* may be celebrated. [Return to top](#)

November 28, Thursday, **Thanksgiving Day**

- Blessing of Food on Thanksgiving Day (Book of Blessings, nos 1755-1780) [Return to top](#)

OTHER NOTES

The Roman Missal, Third Edition

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

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

For the Conferral of Baptism

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

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

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

For the Conferral of Confirmation

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

For the Celebration of Marriage

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

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

The Gloria

Nine out of the ten Ritual Masses prescribe the *Gloria in excelsis*, the exception being the Institution of Lectors and Acolytes. (There is also no Gloria within the Ritual Masses For the Conferral of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation, Mass 2 The Celebration of the Scrutinies, celebrated on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays of Lent.) Ritual Masses are celebrated festively as though they are Feasts. Consequently, just as for other Feasts in the seasons of Advent and Lent, the *Gloria* is sung for these Ritual Masses. Note that Ritual Masses are not permitted on the Sundays of Advent or Lent. (January 2012 *Newsletter*, Bishops Committee for Divine Worship) [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 and is the eschatological eighth day on which the community recognizes the risen Christ in the assembly, in the Word, in the Eucharist and in the minister. Through the course of the Liturgical Year, the entire mystery of Christ unfolds from the incarnation to the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost and the hopeful expectation of His return in glory. Sunday is the original feast day, the first holy day. Because of Sunday's primacy, it gives way only to solemnities or feasts of the Lord, which are together the principle days of the Liturgical Year.

Because of the primacy of Sunday, even when ritual Masses are permitted, the unfolding of the Paschal Mystery from week to week should be respected. The prayers and readings given for each Sunday are followed in Masses with the community. [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: the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (January 1), the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15), All Saints (November 1), the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (December 8), and the Nativity of the Lord (December 25). In the provinces of Texas (San Antonio and Galveston-Houston) the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord has been transferred to the Seventh Sunday of Easter.

The USCCB decision of November 1991 and confirmed by the Apostolic See in July of 1992 instructs that the requirement to attend Mass is abrogated whenever Mary, the Holy Mother of God (January 1), the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15), or All Saints (November 1) falls on a Saturday or a Monday. This policy only affects these three feasts and only dispenses the obligation to attend Mass. These days are still celebrated as solemnities. The faithful are encouraged to participate in Mass on these days. [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, including the days within the Octave of Easter, on the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day), on Ash Wednesday, and during Holy Week, taking due account of the norms given in the ritual books or in the Masses themselves (GIRM 372).

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

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

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

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

Celebration of Matrimony on Sunday and Solemnities

Whenever Matrimony is celebrated during Mass, this Ritual Mass is used, with the color white or a festive color. One reading must explicitly speak of marriage. However, on those days listed in nos. 1-4 of the Table of Liturgical Days, the Mass of the day is used, with no substitution of readings, retaining the Nuptial Blessing in the Mass and, if appropriate, the proper formula for the final blessing. If, however, during Christmas Time and Ordinary Time, the parish community participates in a Sunday Mass during which Matrimony is celebrated, the Mass of the Sunday is prayed. In this instance one reading, which explicitly speaks of marriage, may be substituted. (OCM 56, Introduction to Chapter IV)

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

When a Marriage is to be celebrated on a day having a penitential character, especially during Lent, the pastor is to counsel the spouses to take into account the special nature of that day. The celebration of Matrimony

[including convalidation] on Friday of the Passion of the Lord and Holy Saturday is to be avoided altogether (OCM 32). [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](#)

Anniversary of the Dedication of the Parish Church

Parishes should celebrate the anniversary of the dedication of their church. If the Table of Liturgical Days outlined in the General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar numbers I.1-1.3 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](#)

Christmas Environment

A Creche should not be placed in front of the altar. The USCCB’s October/November newsletter 1989 says: “If the manger is set up in church, it must not be placed in the presbyterium. A place should be chosen that is suitable for prayer and devotion and is easily accessible by the faithful. The practice of placing the manger under or on the altar is not proper since it devalues the nature of the altar and makes it only a setting for the crib.” [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. (RM3, note before Ash Wednesday, no. 3)

Flowers & Musical Instruments

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

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](#)

Scrutinies

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Footwashing

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

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

Order of Procession with Blessed Sacrament:

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

- Cross with two candle bearers,
- others with lighted candles follow,
- thurifer with smoking thurible,
- priest with Blessed Sacrament with two candle bearers
- others may follow.
- When the procession arrives at the place of repose, the priest with the help of the deacon if necessary places the ciborium in the tabernacle,
 - the door remains open,
 - incense is placed in the thurible,
 - kneeling, he incenses the Blessed Sacrament while the *Tantum Ergo* or other suitable Eucharistic chant is sung.
 - The deacon or priest closes the door to the tabernacle.
 - After a period of adoration, the priest and ministers genuflect and return to the sacristy.
- The faithful are invited to continue adoration before the Blessed Sacrament for a suitable length of time during the night, according to local circumstances, but after midnight the adoration should take place without solemnity.
- If the celebration of the Passion of the Lord on the following Friday does not take place in the same church, the Mass is concluded in the usual way and the Blessed Sacrament is placed in the tabernacle. [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. (RM3 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. (RM3 Good Friday #1)

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

Triduum – Holy Saturday and the Easter Vigil

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

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

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

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

- The preparation of the Paschal Candle is no longer optional although the 5 grains of incense is optional.
- The procession with the Paschal Candle is slightly modified as follows::
 - Paschal Candle is lit at the fire
 - Procession Order: thurifer, deacon (or other minister) with lighted Paschal Candle, followed by priest and ministers, finally the people (note: no crucifix). All hold **unlit** taper candles.
 - Deacon\minister lifts the candle and intones “The light **of** Christ” or “Lumen Christi”
 - **at the door to the church** – priest lights taper
 - in the middle of the church – all light their tapers
 - in front of the altar
 - candle placed in stand
 - all lights are lit except for the altar candles. [Return to top](#)

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

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

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

Baptism at the Easter Vigil

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

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

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

Easter Vigil no. 48 Anointing with Oil of Catechumens is no longer optional. If it has not taken place as part of the Holy Saturday Preparatory Rites (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, i.e., 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.

Double "Alleluia" at Dismissal

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

Second Sunday of Easter – Divine Mercy Sunday

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

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

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

SPECIAL RESOURCES

(A) EP MASSES FOR CHILDREN

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

(B) 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>

(C) CONCELEBRATION

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

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

The rubrics for concelebration in *Preces 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](#)

MISAL ROMANO, TERCERA EDICIÓN

Beginning with the First Sunday of Advent 2018, all Masses celebrated in Spanish **must** use the approved United States edition of the *Misal Romano, tercera edición*. If a parish is in need of the new *Misal*, please contact the Office of Worship. [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
or of the Founder
or of the principal Patron of an Order or Congregation.

II

5. Feasts of the Lord inscribed in the General Calendar.
6. Sundays of Christmas Time and the Sundays in Ordinary Time.
7. Feasts of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of the Saints in the General Calendar.
8. Proper feasts, namely:
 - a. The Feast of the principal Patron of the diocese.
 - b. The Feast of the anniversary of the dedication of the cathedral church.
 - c. The Feast of the principal Patron of a region or province, or a country, or of a wider territory.
 - d. The Feast of the Title, Founder, or principal Patron of an Order or Congregation and of a religious province, without prejudice to the prescriptions given under no. 4.
 - e. Other Feasts proper to an individual church.
 - f. Other Feasts listed in the Calendar of each diocese or Order or Congregation.
9. Weekdays of Advent from December 17 up to and including December 24.
Days within the octave of Christmas.
Weekdays of Lent.

III

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

QUICK GUIDE TO WEDDING MASSES ON FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

Ritual Masses (including the *Order of Celebrating Matrimony within Mass*) may not be celebrated on certain days during the liturgical year. This prohibition begins at 4 PM the evening before. Knowing that most weddings are celebrated on Fridays and Saturdays, the following list is intended to show those Fridays and Saturdays on which the readings and prayers for a nuptial Mass **may not** come from the *Order of Celebrating Matrimony within Mass*. For any other wedding date, please consult the calendar in the Year of Grace for other possible conflicts.

- I. Saturdays of Advent (2023) – After 4 PM
December 2, 9, 16, 23
- II. Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
December 8
- III. The Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) (2023) – After 4 PM
December 24
- IV. The Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God – After 4 PM
December 31
- V. The Vigil of the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord – After 4 PM
January 6
- VI. Saturdays of Lent – After 4 PM
February 17, 24; March 2, 9, 17, 25; April 1
- VII. **The Sacred Paschal Triduum – All Celebrations of Matrimony are prohibited
March 28-31**
- VIII. Friday and Saturday within the Octave of Easter - All day
April 5, 6
- IX. The Annunciation of the Lord
April 8
- X. Saturdays of Easter – After 4 PM
April 13, 20, 27; May 4, 11, 18
- XI. Vigil of the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity – After 4 PM
May 26
- XII. Vigil of the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ – After 4 PM
June 2
- XIII. Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus – All day
June 7
- XIV. Solemnity of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist
June 23 – After 4 PM
June 24 – All day
- XV. Vigil of the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe – After 4 PM
November 24

[Return to top](#)

(D) 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 Order of Celebrating Matrimony, 2016
PS Paschale Solemnitatis (Circular Letter Concerning the Preparation and Celebration of the Easter Feasts. Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, January 16, 1988.
RCIA Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, 1988
RM3 Roman Missal, 3rd Edition, 2011

(E) 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.

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 Whenever Marriage is celebrated within Mass, the Ritual Mass "The Celebration of Marriage" is used with sacred vestments of the color white or of a festive color. On those days listed in nos. 1-4 of the Table of Liturgical Days, however, the Mass of the day is used with its own readings, with the inclusion of the Nuptial Blessing and, if appropriate, the proper formula for the final blessing.

If, however, during Christmas and Ordinary Time, the parish community participates in a Sunday Mass during which Marriage is celebrated, the Mass of the Sunday is used.

Nevertheless, since a Liturgy of the Word adapted for the Celebration of Marriage has a great impact in the handing on of catechesis about the Sacrament itself and about the duties of the spouses, when the Mass "For the Celebration of Marriage" is not said, one of the readings may be taken from the texts provided for the celebration of Marriage (nos. 144-187).

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