

Liturgical Year Calendar and Advisory



December 1, 2024 – November 29, 2025

Diocese of Saint Cloud
Office of Worship

The New Liturgical Year:

I. Principle Celebrations of the Liturgical Year from December 1, 2024 – November 29, 2025

1 st Sunday of Advent:.....	December 1, 2024
Ash Wednesday:	March 5, 2025
Easter Sunday of the Lord’s Resurrection:	April 20, 2025
Ascension of the Lord (Thursday):	May 29, 2025
Pentecost Sunday:	June 8, 2025
The Most Holy Trinity:	June 22, 2025
The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ:	June 22, 2025
First Sunday of Advent:.....	November 30, 2025

II. Cycles: Lectionary for Mass

Sunday Readings: Year C	December 1, 2024—November 23, 2025
Weekday Readings: Cycle I	January 13 to March 4, 2025
.....	June 9 to November 29, 2025

III. Cycles: Liturgy of the Hours

Volume I (Advent, Christmas):	December 1, 2024—January 12, 2025
Volume III (Ordinary Time Weeks 1-8:.....)	January 13—March 4, 2025
Volume II (Lent, Triduum, Easter):	March 5 – June 8, 2025
Volume III (Ordinary Time Weeks 8-17):	June 8-Aug. 2, 2025
Volume IV (Ordinary Time Weeks 18-34):....	August 3 – Nov. 29, 2025

The Advent Season has a two-fold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered; and as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period of devout and joyful expectation.

(General Norms of the Liturgical Year and Calendar #39)



IV. Liturgical Dates Throughout the Advent/Christmas Season

December 8, 2024

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Patronal Feast Day of the USA)

December 8, 2024 falls on the 2nd Sunday of Advent so the solemnity is transferred to Monday, December 9. Previously when the DATE was transferred the obligation was abrogated. However, in a recent communication the Dicastery for Legislative Text communicated to the USCCB: “the feast must be observed as a day of obligation on the day to which it is transferred.” In light of this new directive, the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on Monday, December 9, 2024 is to be observed as a holy day of obligation.**

Ritual Masses (i.e., marriage, confirmation) and funeral Masses are prohibited, though a marriage or funeral may be celebrated outside of Mass using the texts from the Order of Celebrating Matrimony and the Order of Christian Funerals. Note that there are two obligations which must be met: one for the Sunday and one for the Holy Day. So, this year, the obligations for the 2nd Sunday of Advent and for the Immaculate Conception may be met as follows:

2nd Sunday of Advent	Immaculate Conception
Obligation may be fulfilled from the evening (after 4 pm) of Saturday, December 7 and throughout Sunday, December 8.	Obligation may be fulfilled from the evening (after 4 pm) of Sunday, December 8 and throughout Monday, December 9
Obligation may be fulfilled at: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- an evening Mass (after 4 pm on December 7)- Any Mass on December 8	Obligation may be fulfilled at: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- an evening Mass (after 4 pm) on December 8- any Mass on December 9

Thursday, December 12, 2024

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

The date assigned in the liturgical calendar for this celebration is December 12th. The placement of her image in the liturgical space can call attention to this celebration. Intentions in the Universal Prayer may appropriately include themes reflecting concern for unity in the Americas and may conclude with the Collect customarily used for the Mass of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Processions in honor of Our Lady may take place as well. Many other local traditions, including the re-enactment of the story of the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe may also take place.

The Christmas Season Next to the yearly celebration of the paschal mystery, the Church holds most sacred the memorial of Christ's birth and early manifestations. This is the purpose of the Christmas season.

(General Norms of the Liturgical Year and Calendar #32)



Tuesday, December 24 & Wednesday, December 25 The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord [Christmas]

Texts for a Mass after 4:00 pm on Tuesday, December 24th, are properly chosen from the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (in the *Roman Missal, 3rd Typical Edition*) – the Vigil Mass. After an earlier “Vigil Mass,” the Mass texts will be from “At the Mass During the Night,” or, “At the Mass at Dawn,” or “At the Mass During the Day” - respectively. Assigned readings accompany each of these Masses in the Lectionary (however they do not reflect the new titles found in the *Roman Missal III*).

The crèche is to be displayed outside the sanctuary; it may be blessed at the Vigil Mass with the appropriate texts from the **Book of Blessings** (*BB Chapter 48*).

(2) “The Proclamation of the Birth of Christ” may be chanted or recited (from the Ambo by the deacon, cantor or reader) after the greeting and introduction of the Christmas Mass during the Night;

[For text and music see: Roman Missal, 3rd Typical Edition – “Appendix I: The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ” (from the Roman Martyrology), page 1450-1451 (USCCB edition)].

(3) Masses for the Vigil of Christmas may not be scheduled before 4:00 pm on Tuesday December 24th.



Sunday, December 29, 2024
**Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus,
Mary, and Joseph**

At Mass on this Feast, it is permissible for the priest-celebrant to make use of the Blessing of a Family found in the **Book of Blessings**, #62-67, making the necessary adaptations or additions as needed.

December 29th is also the beginning of the Jubilee Year: Pilgrims of Hope. Details regarding the opening of the Jubilee Year. Watch for details as planning develops.

Wednesday, January 1, 2025
**Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother
of God (a holy day of obligation)**

On this day, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary as the Mother of God.



Sunday, January 5, 2025

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

Some parishes honor the custom of blessing homes, offices and classrooms this day. **The Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers** book (the revised edition of 2008) provides a source for these blessings, as well as many other liturgical planning resources.

NB: On the Epiphany there is an ancient custom of announcing the dates of movable feasts for the coming year. This proclamation has been used in connection with the blessing and distribution of calendars. The **Announcement of Easter and the Moveable Feasts** may take place at the ambo after the reading of the Gospel, or within or after the homily, by the deacon, the presider or some other minister.

[*For text and music see: Roman Missal, 3rd Typical Edition – “Appendix I: The Announcement of Easter and the Moveable Feasts, page 1448-1449 (USCCB edition).”]

Sunday, January 12, 2025

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

This feast is a “bridge” between the Christmas Season and Ordinary Time. It is the conclusion of the Christmas Season. As part of the liturgical celebrations consider the inclusion of a Sprinkling Rite to emphasize the baptismal imagery named throughout the liturgical prayers and Scripture.

V. Liturgical Dates Throughout the Liturgical Year

Saturday January 18 – Saturday, January 25, 2025 **The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

begins on Saturday, January 18, 2025, and ends on Saturday, January 25, 2025 (The Conversion of St. Paul). Check www.usccb.org for resources.

Sunday, January 26, 2025 **Sunday of the Word of God**

Pope Francis declared that the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time is to be devoted to a celebration, study, and dissemination of the Word of God in his *motu proprio*, *Aperuit illis* (Sept. 30, 2019). Consider a blessing of parishioners’ bibles; having a Book of Gospels enshrined in a fitting place; bless those who proclaim the Word of God in the parish.

Sunday, February 2, 2025 **Feast of the Presentation of the Lord** **World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life**

Everything proper to this Feast (e.g. text, rubrics and blessings, etc.) is found in the Roman Missal III. The option for “The Blessing of Candles and the Procession” is outlined in two forms: (1) “The Procession;” and (2) “The Solemn Entrance.”

Tuesday, March 25, 2025
Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord

The recitation of the Creed is prescribed; the ministers and assembly genuflect at the words “by the power of the Holy Spirit ...” Alleluia may not be used for the Gospel acclamation since this feast day occurs during Lent.

Sunday, June 1, 2025
Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

In the Province of Minnesota this Solemnity is transferred to the Seventh Sunday of Easter and is to be celebrated according to the notations in the **ORDO**.

The Roman Missal provides a Vigil Mass for the Ascension of the Lord. The Paschal Candle should remain in place (near the ambo) and lit for all liturgies throughout Pentecost.

Sunday, June 29, 2025
Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul

As this solemnity falls on a Sunday, it replaces the 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time. It contains its own vigil Mass.

August 15, 2025
Solemnity of the
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

This is a Holy Day of Obligation; consult the **ORDO** for additional details.

Sunday, September 7, 2025
Feast Day of St. Cloud

The feast day is a solemnity for the parishes **in the city of St. Cloud** and would replace the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time. For all other parishes in the diocese, it retains the rank of feast day and does not replace the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time; these parishes may celebrate a votive Mass for St. Cloud on a weekday near that Sunday, if they so wished, but it would not be mandatory.

Sunday, September 14, 2025
The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

As this solemnity falls on a Sunday, it replaces the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Saturday, November 1, 2025
Solemnity of All Saints

This solemnity is a not holy day of obligation this year.

Sunday, November 2, 2025
Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed
(All Souls' Day)

Any readings from no. 668 or from the Masses for the Dead (1011-1016).

Sunday, November 9, 2025
The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

As this feast falls on a Sunday, it replaces the 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time.

VI. Masses in Honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Outside Advent, Christmas Time, Lent and Easter, on Saturdays which have no commemoration having the rank of Obligatory Memorial or higher, a “Mass in Honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary” may be selected from the *Collection of Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary*. The Liturgical Press (Collegeville, MN) has updated the two-volume edition (I: Missal; and II: Lectionary) to comply with the *Roman Missal III*.

Liturgical and Pastoral Notes:

The **Book of Blessings**, particularly Chapters 47, 48 and 49, contain specific blessings and particular liturgical law with regard to the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

A custom re-introduced by Pope Benedict XVI is the “Blessing of the Images of the Infant Jesus” on the 4th Sunday of Advent. An adaptation from Chapter 35 of the **Book of Blessings** (“Order for the Blessing of an Image of our Lord Jesus Christ”) may be used.

The color for the Season of Advent is violet (purple). In order to distinguish between this season and the Season of Lent, a violet with bluer hues may be used. Any use of blue vestments is not authorized for use in the United States of America. Funeral Masses may choose to employ the use of violet vesture also (as given in #39 of the **Order of Christian Funerals**).

The color of the Season of Christmas is white. However, gold vesture may also be used in place of white.

“If the manger is set up in the 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 to the faithful” (as prescribed in the **Book of Blessings**, #1544). This might be a good time for the parish Liturgy Committee, especially those in art and environment, to review the section in **Built of Living Stones** (“The Liturgical Year: Seasonal Decorations,” paragraphs 122-129/pages 43-44). Another helpful resource regarding Advent and Christmas art and environment is the updated version of: **To Crown the Year** [2nd Edition] by Peter Mazar [with revisions by Rev. J. Philip Horrigan], published by LTP, Chicago, IL (© by the Archdiocese of Chicago, 2015).

The reading of the Gospel at all Masses is to be proclaimed by a bishop, priest or deacon (cf: **GIRM**, #109). With the exception of the reading (or chanting) of the Lord's Passion on Passion/Palm Sunday and Good Friday (which contains several options employing the use of multiple readers and voices), it is not permitted to have the Gospel of the Nativity proclaimed with multiple readers and voices.

As referenced above, the Masses for Christmas follow the traditional sequence (with the assigned readings from the **Lectionary** and prayers from the **Roman Missal, 3rd Typical Edition**):

The Nativity of the Lord

At the Vigil Mass

At the Mass During the Night

At the Mass at Dawn

At the Mass During the Day

Please refer to the **ORDO** for pastoral notes regarding the use of readings and prayers for the celebration of the Nativity of the Lord.

Another very helpful resource (as referenced above) is: *2025 Sourcebook for Sundays, Seasons, and Weekdays - The Almanac for Pastoral Liturgy*, LTP, Chicago, IL © Archdiocese of Chicago © 2024

Resources:

The Lectionary for the Mass (cf: "Introduction")

The Roman Missal, 3rd Typical Edition (cf: "GIRM")

The Order of Prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours & Celebration of the Eucharist

2025 Ordo [Province of Minnesota]

2025 Sourcebook for Sundays and Seasons (An Almanac of Parish Liturgy) [LTP, Chicago, IL]

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)/Bishops' Committee on Divine Worship [Washington, DC] @ www.usccb.org

Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC) [Washington, DC] @ www.fdlc.org

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is it permissible to celebrate a Funeral Mass on Sunday or a Holy Day?

A: First, let us answer the question regarding funerals on Sundays. A Funeral Mass (as outlined in the *Order of Christian Funerals*) is allowed on most Sundays in “Ordinary Time” as prescribed by “The Order of Prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours and Celebration of the Eucharist.” Always consult the **ORDO** (notations R1, R2 and/or R3).

That being said, the scheduling of a Funeral Mass on Sunday should always be discouraged unless extremely serious pastoral needs necessitate making an exception to this liturgical and pastoral rule (and not simply for the sake of convenience).

Secondly, the celebration of a Funeral Mass is rarely (if ever) permitted on a Holy Day of Obligation because of the dignity and status afforded a “solemnity” on the Liturgical Calendar. Again, always consult the **ORDO** as some exceptions occasionally arise when the “Monday/Sunday Rule” is involved and the obligation to participate in the Holy Day Mass is abrogated.

Q: What time can we celebrate this year's Easter Vigil?

A: Holy Saturday is on April 19, 2025. The **Roman Missal, Third Edition**, states: "The entire celebration of the Easter Vigil must take place during the night, so that it begins after nightfall and ends before daybreak on the Sunday" (The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night, pg. 343, no. 3). The *Circular Letter Concerning the Preparation and Celebration of the Easter Vigil* (issued by the Vatican in 1988) is even stronger by insisting that the Easter Vigil must start only after it is dark: "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 a time of day that is customary to celebrate anticipated Sunday Masses."

The Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy (BCL) *Newsletter* (March 2001), states the Easter Vigil "is to take place in darkness ... that is, after the time in the evening when daylight is last visible." Nightfall begins when twilight ends, about 30 minutes after sunset.

All of these documents emphasize the need for the Easter Vigil to occur in darkness so that as the Light of Christ breaks the darkness, so too, Christ the Light transforms our lives. The Easter Vigil is not to be understood or celebrated as just another anticipated Sunday vigil Mass. Pastoral considerations may determine what time is best following sunset. Given that sunset on April 19, 2025 is at 8:09 pm in St. Cloud, the Easter Vigil in St. Cloud should not begin before 8:30 pm. (Use this link for sunset in your location: [Sunrise and Sunset Calculator](#))



The Office of Worship serves as a resource to all the people in the diocese. Please feel free to contact the office for further information or clarifications at 320-255-9068.