

# Days of Special Interest YEAR OF GRACE 2012



## DAYS OF NOTE | ROMAN MISSAL | THIRD EDITION—USA

Jan 7	New Vigil Mass for Epiphany
Jan 22	Mass for Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life Day has new title – “Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children”
Jan 23	(m) Optional Memorial of St. Vincent has been transferred to Jan. 23
May 10	(m) St. Damien Joseph de Veuster of Molokai has been named simply St. Damien de Veuster
May 19	New Vigil Mass for Ascension
July 4	Independence Day
July 5	(m) St. Elizabeth of Portugal formally transferred to this date (from July 4)

### USA Proper Saints and Blesseds – Mass texts for twelve saints have been added

Jan 4	Elizabeth Ann Seton	July 1	Blessed Junipero Serra
Jan 5	St. John Neumann	July 14	Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha
Jan 6	Blessed Andre Bessette	Oct 6	Blessed Marie Rose Durocher
Mar 3	St. Katharine Drexel	Nov 13	St. Frances Xavier Cabrini
May 10	St. Damien de Veuster	Nov 18	St. Rose Philippine Duchesne
May 15	St. Isidore	Nov 23	Blessed Miguel Agustin Pro

### **☒ Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the BVM** **Thursday, December 8, 2011**

This is a holy day of obligation in the USA. Even when this solemnity falls on a Saturday or Monday, the obligation to participate in Mass is never abrogated since it is our country’s patronal feast. As you will recall, the 1993 USCCB ruling applies only to January 1 (Mary Mother of God), August 15 (Assumption), and November 1 (All Saints).

### **☒ Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord** **Saturday/Sunday, December 24 & 25**

The texts for the Vigil Mass are used at the Mass(es) celebrated on the evening of Dec. 24, either before or after Evening Prayer I of Christmas. After midnight, the Mass texts will be from the Mass at Midnight, the Mass at Dawn, and the Mass during the Day, respectively. There is an option for choosing from one or another of the three sets of readings according to the pastoral needs of each congregation.

The creche is to be displayed outside the sanctuary. It may be blessed at the Vigil Mass with the appropriate texts from the Book of Blessings (Chapter 48).

### **☒ Feast of the Baptism of the Lord** **Monday, January 9, 2012**

Though this feast is usually celebrated on a Sunday, this year it is transferred to the Monday after the Epiphany of the Lord. The day that follows it is Tuesday of the First Week in Ordinary Time.

### **☒ Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord** **Sunday, May 20, 2012**

In all but six dioceses in the United States, the solemnity of the Ascension is celebrated on the Seventh Sunday of Easter. Thursday, May 17 is observed either as Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter (Lectionary 294).

**☒ Solemnity of the Assumption**

**Wednesday, August 15, 2012**

Since it falls on a Wednesday this year, this solemnity is observed as a holy day of obligation. The Vigil Mass has a distinct set of orations and readings from the Mass of the Day (see Lectionary nos. 721 and 722).

**☒ Solemnity of All Saints**

**Thursday, November 1, 2012**

Since the solemnity falls on a Thursday this year, this is a holy day of obligation.

**☒ The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls)**

**Friday, November 2**

The Lectionary (nos. 668 or 1011-1016) provides a wealth of readings. The Sacramentary provides three sets of orations, five Prefaces for Christian Death (77-81), and a solemn blessing.

**RITUAL MASSES**

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

Whenever marriage is celebrated during Mass, white vestments are worn and the wedding Mass is used. On those days when the Ritual Mass cannot be used, the Mass of the day is chosen. The nuptial blessing and where appropriate, the special final blessing is added.

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

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

**Funerals**

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

**Other Masses**

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

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

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

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

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

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**TABLE OF LITURGICAL DAYS ACCORDING TO THEIR ORDER OF PRECEDENCE**  
**General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar #59**

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**I**

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

**II**

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

**III**

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

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

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

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

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

R1 = Funeral Mass (GIRM 380)

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

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

(+) = permitted      (-) = not permitted

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

Adapted from Appendix III, *Ceremonial of Bishops* 8 ICEL