



## THE GENERAL ROMAN CALENDAR

*“Throughout the course of the year the Church unfolds the entire mystery of Christ and observes the birthdays of the Saints.”*

Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the Calendar

The Church Year, which begins each year on the First Sunday of Advent and ends the week following the Feast of Christ the King, combines two cycles of liturgical celebrations. One is called the Proper of Time or *Temporale*, associated with the moveable date of Easter and the fixed date of Christmas. The other is associated with fixed calendar dates and has been called the Proper of Saints or *Sanctorale*.

In the *Temporale*, the most important moveable feast on the calendar is Easter. Easter falls on the first Sunday after the Paschal Full Moon. The date of the Paschal Full Moon, used to determine the date of Easter, is based on mathematical approximations following a 19-year cycle called the Metonic cycle.

According to the Metonic cycle, the Paschal Full Moon falls on a recurring sequence of 19 dates ranging from March 21 to April 18. Since Easter happens on the Sunday following the Paschal Full Moon, it can fall on any date between March 22 and April 25.

The dates of many Christian feasts are based on the date of Easter Sunday. For example:

- Ash Wednesday (46 days before Easter)
- Palm Sunday (1 week before Easter)
- Maundy Thursday (3 days before Easter)
- Good Friday (2 days before Easter)
- Easter Saturday (1 day before Easter)
- Easter Monday (1 day after Easter)
- Ascension Day (39 days after Easter)
- Whit Sunday / Pentecost (49 days after Easter)
- Whit Monday (50 days after Easter)
- Trinity Sunday (56 days after Easter)
- Corpus Christi (60 days after Easter)

The other moveable feast that fixes the date of various other feasts is the First Sunday in Advent, which occurs on the Sunday that falls on or nearest to St. Andrew's Day (30 November). The season of Advent thus varies from 22 to 28 days, encompassing four Sundays, and ending on Christmas Day.

All of these dates, along with the feastdays of many saints (the *Sanctorale*) appear on the **GENERAL ROMAN CALENDAR**, the liturgical calendar that indicates the dates of celebrations of saints and mysteries of the Lord (Jesus Christ) in the Roman Rite, wherever this liturgical rite is in use. A directory or Ordo is issued by each diocese or regional group of dioceses each year to assist their clergy; this calendar for the year contains concise directions for praying the Divine Office and Mass of each day. The calendar usually indicates days of fasting, eligibility for

special indulgences, days of devotion, and other information that may be convenient for the clergy to know. The Ordo is issued with the authority of the bishop or bishops concerned, and is binding on the clergy in their jurisdiction.

The calendar of the Roman Missal and Roman Breviary, apart from special privilege, always forms the basis of the Ordo *recitandi*. To this the feasts celebrated in the diocese are added, and, as the higher grade of these special celebrations often causes them to take precedence of those in the ordinary calendar, a certain amount of shifting and transposition is inevitable, even apart from the complications caused by the movable feasts. All this must be calculated and arranged beforehand in accordance with the rules of the general rubrics of the Missal and Breviary. Even so, the clergy of particular churches must further provide for the celebration of their own patronal or dedicatory feasts, and to make such other changes in the Ordo as these insertions may impose.

### The Saints in the Calendar

The General Roman Calendar assigns celebrations of saints to only about half the days of the year, and contains only a fraction of the saints listed in the 776-page volume *Roman Martyrology*, which itself is not an exhaustive list of all the saints legitimately venerated in the Catholic Church.

The feast days of saints celebrated in one country are not necessarily celebrated everywhere. For example, a diocese or a country may celebrate the feast day of a saint of special importance there (e.g., Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in the United States). The General Roman Calendar contains only those celebrations that are intended to be observed in the Roman Rite in every country of the world.

This distinction is in application of the decision of the Second Vatican Council: “Lest the feasts of the saints should take precedence over the feasts which commemorate the very mysteries of salvation, many of them should be left to be celebrated by a particular Church or nation or family of religious; only those should be extended to the universal Church which commemorate saints who are truly of universal importance.”

There is a common misconception that certain saints, e.g., Saint Christopher, were “unsainted” in 1969 or that veneration of them was “suppressed.” In fact, Saint Christopher is recognized as a saint of the Catholic Church, being listed as a martyr in the *Roman Martyrology* under 25 July. In 1969, Pope Paul VI issued the motu proprio *Mysterii Paschalis*, in which he recognized that, while the written Acts of Saint Christopher are merely legendary, attestations to veneration of the martyr date from ancient times. His change in the calendar of saints included “leaving the memorial of Saint Christopher to local calendars” because of the relatively late date of its insertion into the Roman calendar.

## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

All who are suffering or sick and all caregivers who minister to the sick: Sister Constance Ward, George Cochran, Mark Anthony Turner, Rachel Fisher, Joyce Doyle, Patricia Ransom, David Hoppe, Jacqueline Chancio, Victoria P.; C. M., C.A., E.D., E.G., W.B., J.M., and J.G.

*Please call or email the office to add a name to the prayer list. Before calling, please be sure you have spoken to the person [or a member of his family] about adding the name—we do not want to inadvertently disregard someone's desire for privacy.*

Names of those who are sick or suffering will be kept on the list for one month; to keep a name on the list for longer, you must email the parish office.

## MASS READINGS THIS WEEK

### **26 January** *Third Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Isaiah 8: 23— 9: 3; Psalm 27: 1, 4, 13-14;

1 Corinthians 1: 10-13, 17; Matthew 4: 12-23

### **27 January** *Angela Merici, Virgin*

2 Samuel 5: 1-7, 10; Psalm 89: 20-22, 25-26; Mark 3: 22-30

### **28 January** *Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church*

2 Samuel 6: 12b-15, 17-19; Psalm 24: 7-10; Mark 3: 31-35

### **29 January** *Feria*

2 Samuel 7: 4-17; Psalm 89: 4-5, 27-30; Mark 4: 1-20

### **30 January** *Feria*

2 Samuel 7: 18-19, 24-29; Psalm 132: 1-5, 11-14; Mark 4: 21-25

### **31 January** *John Bosco, Priest*

2 Samuel 11: 31-4a, 5-10a, 13-17; Psalm 51: 3-7, 10-11;

Mark 4: 26-34

### **1 February** *Feria*

2 Samuel 12: 1-7a, 10-17; Psalm 51: 12-17; Mark 4: 35-41

### **2 February** *Candlemas*

Malachi 3: 1-4; Psalm 24: 7-10;

Hebrews 2: 14-18; Luke 2: 22-40

## MASS INTENTIONS

### **Saturday, 25 January**

*Anticipated Mass for Sunday*

4:30 pm Sharon Hughes [Joe and Jackie Chancio]

### **Sunday, 26 January**

*The Third Sunday after the Epiphany*

8 am Pro populo

9:30 am Teotimo Ritumban + [Susie Martinez]

11 am Esther Johnson + [Rosemary Collier]

### **Monday, 27 January**

*Angela Merici, Virgin*

9 am *no public mass*

### **Tuesday, 28 January**

*Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church*

9 am James Fox + [Susan White]

### **Wednesday, 29 January**

*Feria*

9 am Barbara Monroe [Jane Slattery]

### **Thursday, 30 January**

*Feria*

9 am Edward Guinivan and companions

### **Friday, 31 January**

*John Bosco, Priest*

9 am Leslie Lee + [Lester Lee]

### **Saturday, 1 February**

*Anticipated Mass for Sunday*

4:30 pm John and Virginia Maples +

### **Sunday, 2 February**

*Candlemas [The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord]*

8 am Pro populo

9:30 am Candido Mercado + [Susie Martinez]

11 am Bill, Norma, and Monica Hayes +

#### St. Ignatius Finance Council

Florian Hocke - *Co-Chair*

Jackie Chancio

Deacon Clark Glenn

Joseph Sommerville

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