



Office of Worship

To: Pastors, Administrators, Deacons and Parish Staff

Date: June 22, 2021

Following are updates from the USCCB Committee on Divine Worship. While some of these concerns may not impact your ministry, I thought you might find them of interest. Please feel free to post this information on your website or insert excerpts into the parish bulletin or newsletter.

New Ritual Book - The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has confirmed the ritual book “Ordination of a Bishop, of Priests, and of Deacons” for liturgical use in the United States. U.S. mandatory implementation is set for the First Sunday of Advent, November 28, 2021.

Days of Prayer and Special Observances by the USCCB

Natural Family Planning Awareness Week	Week of July 25
Day of Prayer for Peace in Our Communities	September 9
National Migration Week	Last Week of September
Respect Life Sunday {including Respect Life Month	First Sunday of October October}
Priesthood Sunday	Last Sunday of October
Black Catholic History Month	November

The Secretariat of Divine Worship has prepared a webpage listing major days of prayer and special observances at <https://www.usccb.org/committees/divine-worship/special-observances>. The page includes links to resources from other USCCB committees or outside organizations.

NEW! Free Resource in Spanish - The Subcommittee on Divine Worship in Spanish is pleased to offer the *Boletín*, a new, free resource in Spanish for Hispanic/Latino liturgical ministry in the Church in the United States. Published in three online-only issues per year (spring, summer, and fall) with eight pages per issue, the *Boletín* includes original articles in Spanish and translations from the English-language *Newsletter* that are of interest or relevance for the celebration of the liturgy in Spanish. The *Boletín* may be found at [USCCB.org/cultodivino](https://www.usccb.org/cultodivino), along with a variety of resources in Spanish.

Calendar Advisory: Christmas 2021 and Solemnity of Mary 2022

This year, the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) falls on a Saturday and is immediately followed on Sunday by the Feast of the Holy Family. In cases of consecutive feast days, there are often questions regarding which Mass is to be celebrated on Saturday evening.

What day is celebrated is determined by two considerations: the rank of each celebration on the Table of Liturgical Days and whether each celebration is a holy day of obligation.

In the case of Christmas and Holy Family, both are days of precept (the latter because it falls on a Sunday), but Christmas occupies a higher place on the Table of Liturgical Days. Therefore, on the evening of Saturday, December 25, the Nativity Mass during the Day is celebrated with its accompanying readings from the Lectionary, and Evening Prayer II is prayed.

On days such as these, there are also questions regarding the fulfillment of the obligation to attend Mass. In short, the prevailing view of many canon lawyers is that each obligation (in this case, one for Christmas and another for Holy Family) must be fulfilled with a separate Mass. The fulfillment of the Mass obligation does not depend upon the Mass prayers and readings but rather on the time of day at which one attends Mass. The following chart may be helpful:

Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)	Holy Family
Obligation may be fulfilled from the evening of Friday, December 24 through Saturday, December 25.	Obligation may be fulfilled from the evening of Saturday, December 25 through Sunday, December 26
For example, one may attend: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vigil Mass of the Nativity • Mass during the Night (celebrated at any time) • Morning/afternoon/evening Masses on December 25 	For example, one may attend: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Afternoon/evening Masses on December 25 (even though the Mass texts will be for the Nativity) • Morning/afternoon/evening Masses on December 26

The **Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God** on Saturday, January 1, 2022 is more straightforward. In the United States, the obligation to attend Mass on the Solemnity of Mary is abrogated when this celebration occurs on a Monday or a Saturday. In this case, because the Solemnity occurs on a Saturday, the Vigil Mass of the Epiphany is celebrated and Evening Prayer I of the Epiphany is prayed at the *Liturgy of the Hours*. While one is not required to anticipate a Mass on the preceding evening of a Sunday or feast of precept, the Vigil Mass of the Epiphany is not an anticipated Mass but a Vigil. *“Some solemnities are also endowed with their own Vigil Mass, which is to be used on the evening of the preceding day, if an evening Mass is celebrated.” (UNLYC, no. 11)*

[Pope Francis Adds Five Saints to General Roman Calendar](#) – Pope Francis made public on February 2, 2021 the inscription of three new Optional Memorials in the General Roman Calendar for the latest Doctors of the Church – Saints John of Avila, Hildegard of Bingen, and Gregory of Narek – and the addition of Saints Mary and Lazarus to the existing Memorial of Saint Martha on July 29. Information on all the new celebrations is available on the [USCCB webpages](#).

[Plenary Indulgences for Year of St. Joseph](#) – The Apostolic Penitentiary issued a decree to celebrate the Year of Saint Joseph through December 8, 2021. Special opportunities to receive a plenary indulgence were also included, subject to the usual conditions: sacramental confession, reception of Holy Communion, prayer for the intentions of the Pope, and total detachment to all sin, including venial sin.

To find the prayers and activities that have been enriched with a plenary indulgence, go to the Committee on Divine Worship [NewsLetter](#) (November 2020). The final page of that issue includes several prayers for Saint Joseph drawn from approved sources, including the recent Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde* by Pope Francis.

[Litany of Loreto](#) – Pope Francis added three invocations in the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, also known as the Litany of Loreto. Different translations of the Litany of Loreto are available and may be used by the faithful. One English translation can be found at this [link](#).

If you have any questions or we can be of assistance in another way, please feel free to contact the office. We are happy to help!

Blessings,

Sue

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