



Upcoming Important Dates

◆ **September 11: Tenth Anniversary of the 9/11/01 Terrorist Attacks**

In light of this important anniversary, the USCCB has set up this website, offering liturgical considerations for September 11, which falls on a Sunday:

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-resources/liturgical-considerations-for-september-11.cfm>.

It includes samples intercessions and some homiletic notes.

Also—in response to a U.S. Senate resolution calling on our nation to commemorate this anniversary by ceasing all work or other activity—churches, firehouses, and other institutions are asked to ring bells or sound sirens at 1:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time on September 11, 2011. Every person across the country is asked to observe a Moment of Remembrance at that time. You may wish to inform the faithful of this initiative.

◆ **October 3: Obligatory Memorial of St. Mother Theodore Guérin**

The Obligatory Memorial of St. Mother Theodore Guérin was officially inscribed in our diocesan calendar by the Holy See. On Monday, October 3rd, the prayers and readings should be drawn from the Common of Virgins. The Collect is proper, and is included as a printable attachment to this mailing.

◆ **October 16: Mass in Honor of Blessed John Paul II**

As previously communicated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, Sunday, October 16th is the designated date on which all Masses in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend will be a Mass of Thanksgiving in Honor of Blessed John Paul II. This Mass is to replace the observance of the Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time—including all evening Masses on Saturday, October 15th.

There is a proper collect for this Mass, which is attached to this mailing and ready for printing. The other Mass prayers, including the Preface, are to be taken from the Common of Pastors. The readings for this Mass may be either those of the 29th Sunday, or selected from the Common of Pastors. The particular readings from the Common of Pastors recommended by the Congregation for Divine Worship are:

First Reading—Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalm 96:1-2a,2b-3,7-8a,10

Alleluia Verse—John 10:14

Gospel—John 21:15-17

If using these recommendations, the second reading may be taken from the New Testament selection in the Common of Pastors (no. 722 in the Lectionary), or the second reading for the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (1 Thes 1:1-5b) may be used.

Lastly, there is a special second reading for the Office of Readings that the Congregation for Divine worship has issued for the liturgical commemoration of Blessed John Paul II. This is also attached, along with a biography of the Pope, and should be used on October 16th.

Important Dates (continued)

- Friday, December 9th is the anniversary of the dedication of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, and should be observed as a Feast outside the Cathedral, using Option 2.B. in the Common of the Dedication of a Church.
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Upcoming Holy Days of Obligation

- Tuesday, November 1 — All Saints
- Thursday, December 8 — The Immaculate Conception

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15) falls on a Monday this year, and so is not a holy day of obligation. In addition, the Nativity of the Lord (December 25) and the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God (Jan. 1, 2012) fall on Sundays.

The Feast of the Holy Family will be observed on Friday, December 30, and the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord will be observed on Sunday, January 8.

A Clarification on Liturgical Practice at School Masses

Please note that at school Masses, it is not appropriate to have entire classes of children who have not yet received First Holy Communion (e.g. kindergarteners or 1st graders) come forward in lines for a blessing during the distribution of Holy Communion.

While it is laudable to desire strong liturgical participation among these children, having such large groups come forward without the intent to receive Holy Communion can be disruptive and contrary to the purpose of the Communion procession, and also places undue emphasis on the fact that they cannot yet receive the Sacrament. These children may instead be taught to make a spiritual communion, and interiorly prepare themselves for the day when they shall receive Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

Looking Ahead to 2012

- **Rite of Election/Call to Continuing Conversion:**
Fort Wayne: Sunday, February 26, 2:00 PM — Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
South Bend: Sunday, March 4, 2:00 PM — St. Matthew Co-Cathedral
- **Chrism Masses:**
South Bend: Monday, April 2, 7:30 PM — St. Matthew Co-Cathedral
Fort Wayne: Tuesday, April 3, 7:30 PM — Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Easter Vigil, 2012

Easter Vigil Time: On April 7, 2011, the end of civil twilight occurs at 8:41 PM EDT on the Fort Wayne side, and 8:46 PM EDT on the South Bend side. As such, in the interest of practicality, the Vigil may begin at 8:45 PM throughout the Diocese.

Rather than mere sunset, true darkness is essential to the nature of the Vigil. The Roman Missal & the Congregation for Divine Worship's *Circular Letter Concerning the Preparation and Celebration of the Easter Feasts* state, "The entire celebration of the Easter Vigil takes place at night." The USCCB Committee on Divine Worship even encourages waiting an extra 15-30 minutes after civil twilight ends, if possible.

Please contact the Office of Worship at (260) 399-1426 with any questions