

Important Liturgical Notes for 2008

Until Advent of 2008, we are in **Cycle A, Year II**

* See the Office of Worship website at <http://www.diocesefwsb.org/WORSHIP> for a calendar complete with every parish's titular feast, which should be treated as a solemnity in the parish.

Calendar Notes

Holy Days of Obligation

After Sundays, the following are Holy Days of Obligation in 2008:

- January 1 - The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God
- August 15 - The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- December 8 - The Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary
- December 25 – Christmas

* Please note that November 1st, All Saints Day, is not a holy day of obligation in 2008, because it falls on a Saturday. Also, Ascension is permanently transferred to Sunday in Indiana.

January 22nd — Day of Penance on the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*

From GIRM #373: "In all the dioceses of the United States of America, January 22...shall be observed as a particular day of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion, and of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life. The Mass "For Peace and Justice" (no. 21 of the "Masses for Various Needs") should be celebrated with violet vestments."

February 2rd — Observance of the Feast of the Presentation

This year, the Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas) falls on a Saturday; and as a Feast of the Lord, it is ranked above Sundays in Ordinary Time and takes precedence even during the Saturday evening vigil Mass timeslot. However, Bishop D'Arcy has given permission for Sunday vigil Masses during the evening of Saturday, February 2nd to be celebrated either as the Mass of the Presentation or as the Mass for the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Electing for the Mass of the Presentation will allow for the use of the candle blessing ritual at a major parish Mass. Either way, the Sunday obligation is fulfilled, as long as the Mass does not start before 4:00 PM.

February 3rd — Blessing of Throats on the Sunday

Although the optional memorial of St. Blaise is superseded by a Sunday this year, the Blessing of Throats may still be imparted during the Sunday Masses (see *Book of Blessings*, 1622-1655).

March 15th — Solemnity of St. Joseph

Because it falls during Holy Week, this year the Solemnity of St. Joseph is transferred from March 19th to Saturday, March 15th.

Observance of St. Patrick's Day

Since the optional memorial of St. Patrick (March 17th) falls during Holy Week this year, it will not be celebrated liturgically in most places. It may be observed as a solemnity on Friday, March 14th only in those places that customarily celebrate St. Patrick as a solemnity (e.g. those parishes named after St. Patrick, or who have him as the official patron). The solemnity may not be observed on March 16th (Palm Sunday) or the 15th (St. Joseph).

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

Important Liturgical Notes (continued)

Easter Vigil – Start Time

On March 22, sunset occurs at 7:55 PM in Fort Wayne and at 8:00 PM in South Bend. As such, this year's Easter Vigil absolutely should not begin earlier than 8:00 PM in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. The most appropriate start time is 8:30 PM, since civil twilight ends at 8:23 PM in FW and at 8:28 PM in SB (the end of civil twilight marks the time when the brightest stars become visible—true nightfall). All times are Eastern Daylight Time.

The Congregation for Divine Worship emphasized that the Easter Vigil must never be celebrated at the time during which the usual Sunday afternoon vigil Mass is held at a parish (see *Circular Letter Concerning the Preparation and Celebration of the Easter Feasts*, #78).

Also, no church may celebrate more than one Easter Vigil liturgy.

March 31st – Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord

Because the Annunciation (March 25th) falls during the Easter Octave this year, the solemnity is transferred to Monday, March 31st.

Other Notes

During Lent

- The *Gloria* and *Alleluia* are not to be used at liturgies during Lent. The exceptions are feasts and solemnities that fall during Lent (e.g. the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter on February 22nd, or the Solemnity of St. Joseph on March 15th), in which case the *Gloria* is used. The Creed is recited on March 15th, as on all solemnities.
- In the Dioceses of the United States of America, crosses in the church may be covered from the conclusion of the Mass for Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent (March 8th) until the end of the celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday.
- Images in the church may be covered from the conclusion of the Mass for Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent (March 8th) until the beginning of the Easter Vigil.
- Holy water fonts should **not** be drained or replaced with any other substance during Lent. To the contrary, the nature of Lent as a season of penance benefits greatly from access to the sacramental that symbolizes baptism. Holy water fonts should only be emptied of water during the Sacred Triduum—from Holy Thursday until they are refilled with the water blessed at the Easter Vigil.
- Marriages planned for Lent should take into consideration the special nature of the season.

Funerals and Ritual Masses (including marriages)

- Funeral Masses “may be celebrated on any day except for solemnities that are holy days of obligation, Holy Thursday, the Easter Triduum, and the Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Easter” (GIRM #380).
- Ritual Masses (including the ritual Mass for the sacrament of marriage) are not permitted on Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Easter, on solemnities, on the days within the Octave of Easter, on All Souls' Day, on Ash Wednesday, and during Holy Week (GIRM #372).
- The sacrament of marriage may be celebrated during a regular parish Mass (including Sundays of Christmas and Ordinary Time) as long as the Mass of the day is used, with the nuptial blessing included. One wedding reading may be substituted when appropriate, as described in the Rite of Marriage, #11.
- **Although the Mass for All Saints must be used, one marriage reading may be substituted for marriages on Saturday, November 1st, since it is not a holy day of obligation this year.**

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