

The Year of Grace 2018

A Liturgical Year Calendar and Advisory



December 3, 2017– November 25, 2018

Catholic Diocese of Saginaw
Office of Liturgy

The Advent Season has a two-fold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered; and as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period of devout and joyful expectation.

(General Norms of the Liturgical Year and Calendar #39)



The Rite of Penance:

Since the Season of Advent originated as part of penitential preparation for the Last Judgment, a tradition developed and has remained for the Catholic faithful to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance in preparation for the solemn festival of Christmastide. The regularly scheduled parish celebrations of the Rite of Penance (“Rite of Reconciliation of Individual Penitents”) should be highlighted in parish communications throughout the Advent season. In addition, the ritual text **Rite of Penance** provides examples of non-sacramental penitential celebrations for the Season of Advent (cf: II – Penitential Celebrations During Advent #20-24) which may easily be adapted to celebrate an individual parish, cluster or vicariate “Rite of Reconciliation of Several Penitents with Individual Confession and Absolution.”

NB: (I) *The Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions provides an annual Advent & Lenten publication for the celebration of the Communal Rite of Penance. It is attached in pdf format and is also available on the diocesan website: [www.saginaw.org/offices & ministries/Liturgy](http://www.saginaw.org/offices&ministries/Liturgy) under the heading Liturgical Guides and Resources.*

The New Liturgical Year:

I: Principal Celebrations of the Liturgical Year from December 3, 2017 – December 2, 2018

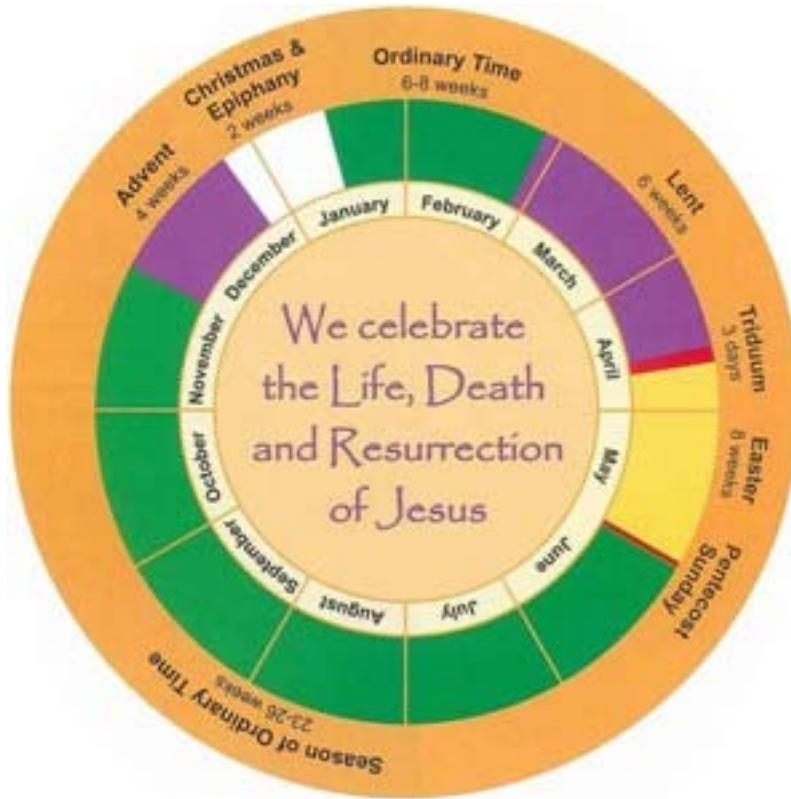
1 st Sunday of Advent:	December 3, 2017
Ash Wednesday:	February 14, 2018
Easter Sunday of the Lord's Resurrection:	April 1, 2018
Ascension of the Lord (Thursday):	May 10, 2018
Pentecost Sunday:	May 20, 2018
The Most Holy Trinity:	May 27, 2018
The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ:	June 3, 2018
First Sunday of Advent:	December 2, 2018

II: Cycles: Lectionary for Mass

Sunday Readings: Year B	December 3, 2017 – November 25, 2018
Weekday Readings: Cycle II	January 9, 2018 to February 13, 2018 and May 21, 2018 to December 1, 2018

III: Cycles: Liturgy of the Hours

Volume I (Advent-Christmas):	December 3, 2017 - January 8, 2018
Volume III (Ordinary Time, Weeks 1-6):	January 9, 2018 – February 13, 2018
Volume II (Lent-Triduum-Easter):	February 14, 2018 – May 20, 2018
Volume III (Ordinary Time, Weeks 7-17):	May 21, 2018 - August 4, 2018
Volume IV (Ordinary Time, Weeks 18-34):	August 5, 2018 - December 1, 2018



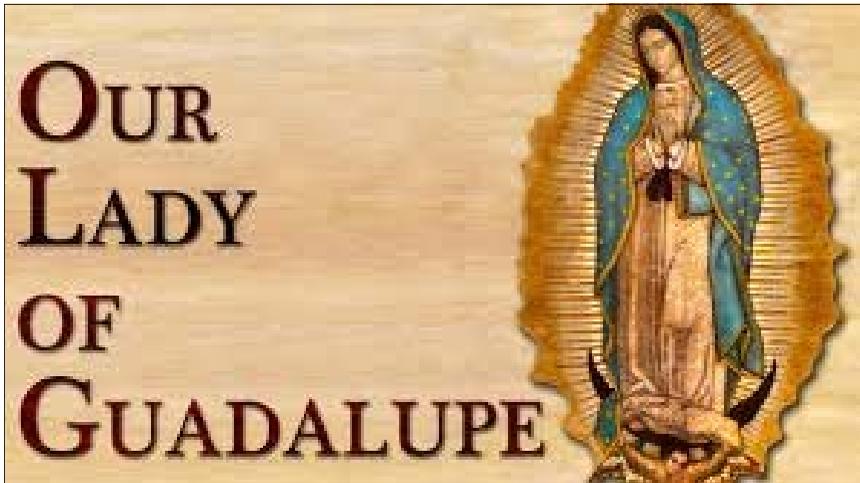
IV: Liturgical Dates Throughout the Advent/Christmas Season

Friday, December 8th: Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the BVM (Patronal Feast of the USA)

The Glory to God is sung (said).
The Creed is said.

Tuesday, December 12: Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

The date assigned in the liturgical calendar for the celebration of this feast is December 12th. The placement of her image in the liturgical space can call attention to this celebration. Intentions in the Prayer of the Faithful may appropriately include themes reflecting concern for unity in the Americas and may conclude with the Collect customarily used for the Mass of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Processions in honor of Our Lady may take place as well. Many other local traditions, including the re-enactment of the story of the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe may also take place.



You will find a complete schedule of feast day Masses throughout the diocese by visiting the diocesan website at this web address:

<http://www.saginaw.org/hispanic-ministry/hispanic-ministry.html>

The Christmas Season: next to the yearly celebration of the paschal mystery, the Church holds most sacred the memorial of Christ's birth and early manifestations. This is the purpose of the Christmas season.

(General Norms of the Liturgical Year and Calendar #32)



Sunday, December 24th & Monday, December 25th: The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord [Christmas]

Texts for a Mass after 4:00 pm on Sunday, December 24th, will properly be chosen from the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (in the *Roman Missal, 3rd Typical Edition*) – the Vigil Mass. After an earlier “Vigil Mass,” the Mass texts will be from “At the Mass During the Night,” or, “At the Mass at Dawn,” or “At the Mass During the Day” - respectively. Assigned readings accompany each of these Masses in the Lectionary (however they do not reflect the new titles found in the *Roman Missal III*).

The crèche is to be displayed outside the sanctuary; it may be blessed at the Vigil Mass with the appropriate texts from the **Book of Blessings** (*BB Chapter 48*).

NB: *(1) It is not appropriate to “Vigil” (that is, anticipate) more Masses than the number of Masses actually celebrated on the date of the actual feast or solemnity;*

(2) "The Proclamation of the Birth of Christ" may be chanted or recited (from the Ambo by the deacon, cantor or reader) after the greeting and introduction of the Christmas Mass at Midnight;

[For text and music see: Roman Missal, 3rd Typical Edition – "Appendix I: The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ" (from the Roman Martyrology), page 1450-1451 (USCCB edition)].

(3) Masses for the Vigil of Christmas may not be scheduled before 4:00 pm on Sunday, December 24th.



Sunday, December 31st: Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

At Mass on this Feast, it is permissible for the priest-celebrant to make use of the Blessing of a Family found in the **Book of Blessings**, #62-67, making the necessary adaptations or additions as needed.

Monday, January 1st: Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

On this day, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the BVM as the Mother of God as a Holy Day. This year we are excused from the obligation to attend Mass, however, parishes are encouraged to offer either Mass or Liturgy of the Hours to commemorate this Solemnity.



Sunday, January 7th: Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

Some parishes honor the custom of blessing homes, offices and classrooms this day. **The Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers** book (the revised edition of 2008) provides a source for these blessings, as well as many other liturgical planning resources.

***NB:** On the Epiphany there is an ancient custom of announcing the dates of movable feasts for the coming year. This proclamation has been used in connection with the blessing and distribution of calendars. The **"Announcement of Easter and the Moveable Feasts"** may take place at the ambo after the reading of the Gospel, or within or after the homily, by the deacon, the presider or some other minister.*

[*For text and music see: *Roman Missal, 3^d Typical Edition* – "Appendix I: The Announcement of Easter and the Moveable Feasts, page 1448-1449 (USCCB edition)."]

Monday, January 8th: Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

*****[Correction from an earlier publication]*****

This feast is a "bridge" between the Christmas Season and Ordinary Time. It is the conclusion of the Christmas Season.

***NB:** This is also a most appropriate day for the **"Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling of Water"** (*Roman Missal Appendix II*) or the **"Renewal of Baptismal Promises"** (especially if there will not be any infant baptisms scheduled to take place during the weekend Masses).*



V: Liturgical Dates Throughout the Liturgical Year

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins Thursday, January 18, 2018. Specific intercessions may be inserted into the general intercessions at Masses and the Liturgy of the Hours (see **ORDO**, pg. 31).

Monday, January 22, 2018: Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

The *Roman Missal* provides a “Mass for Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life,” also see the *Lectionary* nos. 887-891 (See **ORDO**, pg. 37).

Friday, February 2, 2018: Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

Everything proper to this Feast (e.g. text, rubrics and blessings, etc.) is found in the Roman Missal III. The option for “The Blessing of Candles and the Procession” is outlined in two forms: (1) “The Procession;” and (2) “The Solemn Entrance.”

Monday, April 9, 2018: Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord (Transferred from March 25th)

The recitation of the Creed is prescribed; the ministers and assembly genuflect at the words “by the power of the Holy Spirit ...”

Sunday, May 13, 2018: Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

In all but six (6) dioceses in the United States, the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord is celebrated on the Seventh Sunday of Easter. Thursday, May 10th is observed as Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter (*Lectionary* no. 294). However, in the Province of Michigan this Solemnity is transferred to the Seventh Sunday of Easter and is to be celebrated according to the notations in the **ORDO**.

Wednesday, August 15, 2018: Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

This solemnity falls on a Wednesday this year. As such, it is to be celebrated according to the notations in the *ORDO*.

Thursday, November 1, 2018: Solemnity of All Saints

This solemnity falls on a Thursday this year. As such, it is to be celebrated according to the notations in the *ORDO*.

VI: Masses in Honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Outside Advent, Christmas Time, Lent and Easter, on Saturdays which have no commemoration having the rank of Obligatory Memorial or higher, a “Mass in Honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary” may be selected from the *Collection of Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary*. The Liturgical Press (Collegeville, MN) has updated the two-volume edition (I: Missal; and II: Lectionary) to comply with the *Roman Missal III*.



VII: Obligatory Memorials

The **ORDO** makes a distinction between “Optional” [m] and “Obligatory” Memorials [M]. Obligatory Memorials, when the prayers of the saint(s) are to be said, the ferial Collect may be used to conclude the general intercessions, thus situating the Memorials within their seasonal context. While the **ORDO** does list the date assigned a Memorial both the readings of the day and the readings prescribed for the Memorial, the posting of readings on the USCCB website does not publish the prescribed readings. In the *Lectionary for Mass: Introduction*, it is clear that the choice of readings is that of the priest-celebrant (homilist). However, in paragraph #70 (“The Readings for Celebration of the Saints”) it states that the “Proper for Saints” provides the first series for solemnities, feasts or memorials. It is always a good liturgical practice to review the prescribed readings in the “Proper for Saints” of the Lectionary (Year I & II) in liturgical preparation for the celebration of Obligatory Memorials.

Liturgical and Pastoral Notes:

The **Book of Blessings**, particularly Chapters 47, 48 and 49, contain specific blessings and particular liturgical law with regard to the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

A custom re-introduced by Pope Benedict XVI is the “Blessing of the Images of the Infant Jesus” on the 4th Sunday of Advent. An adaptation from Chapter 35 of the **Book of Blessings** (“Order for the Blessing of an Image of our Lord Jesus Christ”) may be used.

The color for the Season of Advent is violet (purple). In order to distinguish between this season and the Season of Lent, a violet with bluer hues may be used. Any use of blue vestments is not authorized for use in the United States of America. Funeral Masses may choose to employ the use of violet vesture also (as given in #39 of the **Order of Christian Funerals**).

The color of the Season of Christmas is white. However, gold vesture may also be used in place of white.

“If the manger is set up in the Church, it must not be placed in the presbyterium. A place should be chosen that is suitable for prayer and devotion and is easily accessible to the faithful” (as prescribed in the **Book of Blessings**, #1544). This might be a good time for the parish Liturgy Committee, especially those in art and environment, to review the section in **Built of Living Stones** (“The Liturgical Year: Seasonal Decorations,” paragraphs 122-129/pages 43-44). Another helpful resource regarding Advent and Christmas art and environment is the updated version of: **To Crown the Year** [2nd Edition] by Peter Mazar [with revisions by Rev. J. Philip Horrigan], published by LTP, Chicago, IL (© by the Archdiocese of Chicago, 2015).

The reading of the Gospel at all Masses is to be proclaimed by a bishop, priest or deacon (cf: **GIRM**, #109). With the exception of the reading (or chanting) of the Lord’s Passion on Passion/Palm Sunday and Good Friday (which contains several options employing the use of multiple readers and voices), it is not permitted to have the Gospel (of the Nativity) proclaimed with multiple readers and voices.

As referenced above, the Masses for Christmas follow the traditional sequence (with the assigned readings from the **Lectionary** and prayers from the **Roman Missal**, 3rd **Typical Edition**):

The Nativity of the Lord
At the Vigil Mass
At the Mass During the Night
At the Mass at Dawn
At the Mass During the Day

Please refer to the **ORDO** for pastoral notes regarding the use of readings and prayers for the celebration of the Nativity of the Lord

Another very helpful resource (as referenced above) is: *2018 Sourcebook for Sundays, Seasons, and Weekdays - The Almanac for Pastoral Liturgy*, LTP, Chicago, IL © Archdiocese

Resources:

The Lectionary for the Mass (cf: “Introduction”)

The Roman Missal, 3rd Typical Edition (cf: “GIRM”)

The Order of Prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours & Celebration of the Eucharist
2018 (**Ordo**) [Province of Michigan]

2018 Sourcebook for Sundays and Seasons (An Almanac of Parish Liturgy) [LTP,
Chicago, IL]

Pastoral Patterns (seasonal publication/subscription) [World Library Publications – a
division of J.S. Paluch Company, Inc., Chicago, IL]

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)/Bishops’ Committee on
Divine Worship [Washington, DC] @ www.usccb.org

Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC) [Washington, DC] @
www.fdlc.org

APPENDIX

Frequently Asked Questions

Is it permissible to celebrate a Funeral Mass on Sunday or a Holy Day?

A: First, let us answer the question regarding funerals on Sundays. A Funeral Mass (as outlined in the *Order of Christian Funerals*) is allowed on most Sundays in “Ordinary Time” as prescribed by “The Order of Prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours and Celebration of the Eucharist.” Always consult the *Ordo* (notations R1, R2 and/or R3).

That being said, the scheduling of a Funeral Mass on Sunday should always be discouraged unless extremely serious pastoral needs necessitate making an exception to this liturgical and pastoral rule (and not simply for the sake of convenience).

Secondly, the celebration of a Funeral Mass is rarely (if ever) permitted on a Holy Day of Obligation because of the dignity and status afforded a “solemnity” on the Liturgical Calendar. Again, always consult the *Ordo* as some exceptions occasionally arise when the “Monday/Sunday Rule” is involved and the obligation to participate in the Holy Day Mass is abrogated.

Q: What are the particular dates or principal feasts of the Diocese of Saginaw?

A: According to the **ORDO**, they would be the following:

- May 20th Anniversary of the appointment of Bishop Joseph R. Cistone as the 6th Bishop of Saginaw

- July 23rd Anniversary of the Dedication of the Cathedral (from the parish church of Saint Mary to the Cathedral of Mary of the Assumption)

- July 28th Anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Joseph R. Cistone and the Anniversary of the Installation of Bishop Joseph R. Cistone as the 6th Bishop of Saginaw

- August 15th Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary – principal patroness of the Diocese of Saginaw

Q: What time can we celebrate this year's Easter Vigil?

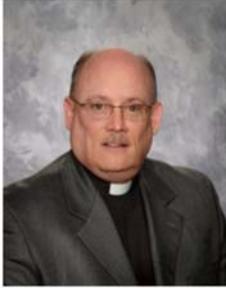
A: Holy Saturday is on March 31, 2018. The **Roman Missal, Third Edition**, states: "The entire celebration of the Easter Vigil must take place during the night, so that it begins after nightfall and ends before daybreak on the Sunday" (The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night, pg. 343, no. 3). The *Circular Letter Concerning the Preparation and Celebration of the Easter Vigil* (issued by the Vatican in 1988) is even stronger by insisting that the Easter Vigil must start only after it is dark: "This rule is to be taken according to its strictest sense. Reprehensible are those abuses and practices which have crept into many places in violation of this ruling, whereby the Easter Vigil is celebrated at a time of day that is customary to celebrate anticipated Sunday Masses."

The Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy (BCL) *Newsletter* (March 2001), states the Easter Vigil "is to take place in darkness ... that is, after the time in the evening when daylight is last visible. This time is roughly equivalent to [the end of] astronomical twilight as defined by the Naval Observatory. The time after which 'the sun does not contribute to sky illumination.'"

NB: (1) *The sun sets at 8:01pm on Saturday, March 31, 2018. Therefore, the starting time for the Easter Vigil 2018 in the Diocese of Saginaw is NO earlier than 8:30 p.m.*

(2) *Additional information for preparation for Lent and preparations for the Sacred Paschal Triduum will be forthcoming.*

**The Office of Liturgy Staff is here at the Diocese of Saginaw
to be of service to you,
so please feel free to contact us for any clarifications
and/or further information at (989) 797-6665**



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