



Important July Liturgical Calendar Updates

From the recent inquiries into the OOL, it appears that some of the most current Liturgical Calendar updates (and accompanying information) have unfortunately gone unobserved. So, please be attentive to the following information previously announced and published by the USCCB's Committee on Divine Worship:

† Thursday, July 22 – Saint Mary Magdalene

On June 3, 2016, Pope Francis raised the rank of the Memorial of St. Mary Magdalene to a feast. A new Preface was also promulgated entitled "The Apostle to the Apostles." The full text may be found at:

<https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year-and-calendar/saint-mary-magdalene>

† Sunday, July 25 – World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

Pope Francis has established throughout the Church the celebration of the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly beginning in 2021 on the fourth Sunday of July, near the liturgical memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus.

The first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly will be celebrated in circumstances in which it will still not be possible in many countries for the elderly to physically attend Mass.

The theme chosen by Pope Francis for the first annual World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly is: "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20).

Suggested Petitions for the Universal Prayer (throughout the Week):

- ❖ That married couples will be open to God's gift of life to build up their family and bless (or acknowledge) their parents with the noble title of "grandparent," we pray to the Lord,
- ❖ That the Holy Spirit may give His peace to grandparents who are apart from their grandchildren, we pray to the Lord,
- ❖ That grandparents may be strengthened by God through sacred scripture and the sacraments, we pray to the Lord,
- ❖ That the Lord Jesus will sustain grandparents who are living with pain or distress, either physically or emotionally, we pray to the Lord,
- ❖ That the Holy Spirit will assist grandparents in passing on the faith to their grandchildren as they uphold their families, we pray to the Lord,

❖ That grandchildren will not forget their grandparents and give them the precious gifts of their time and love, we pray to the Lord,

❖ For our deceased grandparents who have given us and our families life and faith, we pray to the Lord.

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Ways to Celebrate World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly (taken from the document promulgated by Pope Francis):

- The first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly will be celebrated in circumstances in which it will still not be possible in many countries for the elderly to physically attend Mass.
- In order for the message of closeness and consolation to reach everyone on this World Day – even those who are most isolated – we ask people to visit their grandparents and the elderly living alone in their community and to give them the Holy Father’s message.
- A visit is a tangible sign of a Church of outreach. At a time of social distancing because of the pandemic, a visit shows that there is a way of being close to older people while still observing safety measures.
- A visit is a personal choice to arise and go in haste to others (cf. Lk 1:39), just as Mary did when she visited her elderly cousin Elizabeth.
- A visit is an opportunity for a grandchild to say to his or her grandparent and for a young person to say to an elderly person they are visiting, “I am with you always”.
- A visit can be an opportunity to bring a gift, such as a flower, and to read the World Day prayer together.
- A visit can also be an occasion to offer the elderly, especially those who have not left their homes for a long time, an opportunity to receive the sacraments of reconciliation and the Eucharist.



Prayer for the First World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

I thank You, Lord,
for the comfort of Your presence:
even in times of loneliness,
You are my hope and my confidence,
You have been my rock and my fortress since my youth!
I thank You for having given me a family
and for having blessed me with a long life.
I thank You for moments of joy and difficulty,
for the dreams that have already come true in my life and for those that are still ahead of me.
I thank You for this time of renewed fruitfulness to which You call me.
Increase, O Lord, my faith,
make me a channel of your peace,
teach me to embrace those who suffer more than me, to never stop dreaming
and to tell of your wonders to new generations.
Protect and guide Pope Francis and the Church,
that the light of the Gospel might reach the ends of the earth. Send Your Spirit,
O Lord, to renew the world,
that the storm of the pandemic might be calmed,
the poor consoled and wars ended.
Sustain me in weakness
and help me to live life to the full
in each moment that You give me,
in the certainty that you are with me every day, even until the end of the age.
Amen.

† July 29 – Obligatory Memorial of Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus

On January 26, 2021, the Holy Father inscribed the new obligatory memorial of Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus (on the same day that was inscribed for St. Martha alone). Texts have been released in Latin. Interim texts are available – in English and Spanish-- on the USCCB website:
<https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year-and-calendar/saints-martha-mary-and-lazarus>