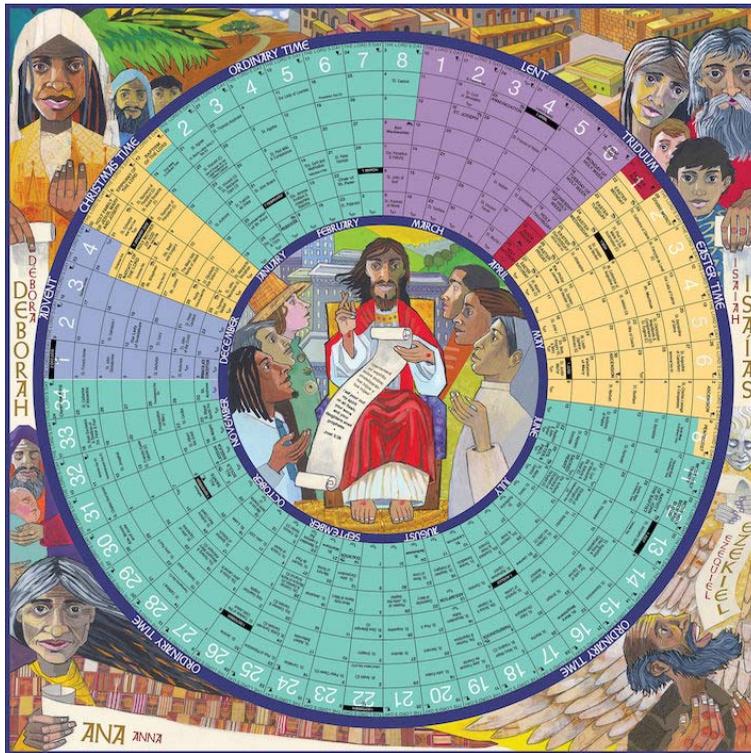


# The Year of Grace 2019

## A Liturgical Year Calendar and Advisory



*December 2, 2018– December 1, 2019*

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:** (1) *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 2, 2018 – December 1, 2019

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent:	December 2, 2018
Ash Wednesday:	March 6, 2019
Easter Sunday of the Lord's Resurrection:	April 21, 2019
Ascension of the Lord (Thursday):	May 30, 2019
Pentecost Sunday:	June 9, 2019
The Most Holy Trinity:	June 16, 2019
The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ:	June 23, 2019
First Sunday of Advent:	December 1, 2019

### II: Cycles: Lectionary for Mass

Sunday Readings: Year C	December 2, 2018 – November 24, 2019
Weekday Readings: Cycle I	January 14, 2019 to March 5, 2019 and June 10, 2019 to November 30, 2019

### III: Cycles: Liturgy of the Hours

Volume I (Advent-Christmas):	December 2, 2018 - January 13, 2019
Volume III (Ordinary Time. Weeks 1-8):	January 14, 2019 – March 5, 2019
Volume II (Lent-Triduum-Easter):	March 6, 2019 – June 9, 2019
Volume III (Ordinary Time, Weeks 10-17):	June 10, 2019 - August 3, 2019
Volume IV (Ordinary Time, Weeks 18-34):	August 4, 2019 - November 30, 2019
Volume I (Advent-Christmas):	December 1, 2019—January 12, 2020



## IV: Liturgical Dates Throughout the Advent/Christmas Season

**Saturday, December 8th:  
Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception  
of the BVM (Patronal Feastday of the USA)**

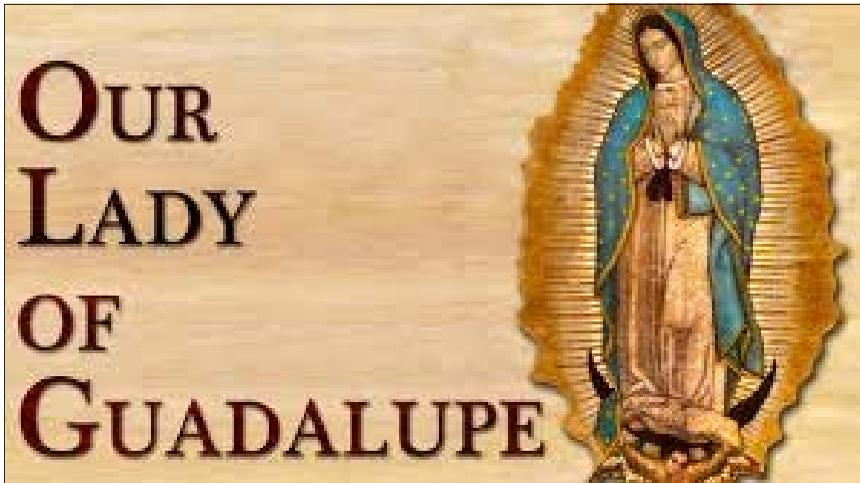
**Holy Day of Obligation**

***Solemnity***

**Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38 (689) Pss Prop**

## **Wednesday, December 12: Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**

The date assigned in the liturgical calendar for the celebration of this feast is December 12<sup>th</sup>. The placement of her image in the liturgical space can call attention to this celebration. Intentions in the Universal Prayer 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)*



## **Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>: The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord [Christmas]**

Texts for a Mass after 4:00 pm on Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, will properly be chosen from the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (in the *Roman Missal, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup>.*



## **Sunday, December 30th: 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.

## **Tuesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>: 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 is a Holy day of obligation.



## **Sunday, January 6th: 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<sup>d</sup> Typical Edition* – "Appendix I: The Announcement of Easter and the Moveable Feasts, page 1448-1449 (USCCB edition)."]

## **Sunday, January 13th: Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**

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 Friday, January 18, 2019. Specific intercessions may be inserted into the Universal Prayer at Masses and the Liturgy of the Hours (see **ORDO**, pg. 33).

### **Tuesday, January 22, 2019: 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).

### **Saturday, February 2, 2019: 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, March 25, 2019: Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord**

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

### **Sunday, June 2, 2019: 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 30th 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**.

## Thursday, August 15, 2019: Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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

## Friday, November 1, 2019: Solemnity of All Saints

This solemnity falls on a Friday 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 Universal Prayer, 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 *Lectiary 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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** [2<sup>nd</sup> 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**, 3<sup>rd</sup> **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: *2019 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> Typical Edition* (cf: “GIRM”)

The Order of Prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours & Celebration of the Eucharist  
2019 (**Ordo**) [Province of Michigan]

*2019 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](http://www.usccb.org)

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

July 23<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the Dedication of the Cathedral (from the parish church of Saint Mary to the Cathedral of Mary of the Assumption)

August 15<sup>th</sup> Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary – principal patroness of the Diocese of Saginaw

**Q: What are the guidelines for celebrating Wedding Masses?**

A: Always consult the **ORDO** (notations V<sub>1</sub>, V<sub>2</sub>, or V<sub>3</sub>).

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

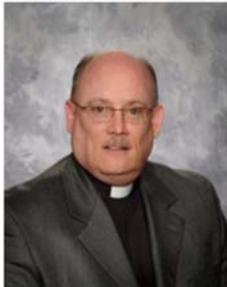
**A:** Holy Saturday is on April 20, 2019. The **Roman Missal, Third Edition**, states: “The entire celebration of the Easter Vigil must take place during the night, so that it begins after nightfall and ends before daybreak on the Sunday” (The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night, pg. 343, no. 3). The *Circular 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 8:25pm on Saturday, April 20, 2019. Therefore, the starting time for the Easter Vigil 2019 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**



**Father Jim Bessert,  
Director**



**Father Pat O'Connor,  
Associate for Liturgical Art/Environment**



**Sister Esther Mary Nickel, RSM  
Associate to the Director**



**Pam Bourcheidt  
Associate for Liturgical Music**



**Deb Popielarz  
Office Assistant**

