

LITURGICAL CALENDAR: 2026 (+ = SEE CALENDAR ADVISORY ON PP. 2-4)

Advent	First Sunday of Advent	Nov 30, 2025	Sunday Lectionary Cycle A Weekday Lectionary Year II
	Immaculate Conception+	Dec 8 (Mon)	Holy Day of Obligation
Christmastime	Christmas+	Dec 25	Holy Day of Obligation Proclamation of the Nativity See Missal, Appendix I
	Feast of the Holy Family	Dec 28	Closing of the Holy Year
	Mary, Mother of God	Jan 1, 2026	Holy Day of Obligation
	Solemnity of the Epiphany	Jan 4	Proclamation of Date of Easter See Missal, Appendix I
	Feast of the Baptism of the Lord	Jan 11	
Ordinary Time	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	Jan 18-25	
	Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children	Jan 22 (Thur)	See Missal—Proper of Time for norms to follow
	3 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Jan 25	Sunday of the Word of God
Lent	Ash Wednesday	Feb 18	Day of Fast and Abstinence
	First Sunday of Lent	Feb 22	Rite of Election
	Second Sunday of Lent	Mar 1	Penitential Rite for Candidates
	Third Sunday of Lent	Mar 8	First Scrutiny of the Elect* Daylight Saving Time begins
	Fourth Sunday of Lent	Mar 15	Second Scrutiny of the Elect*
	Fifth Sunday of Lent	Mar 22	Third Scrutiny of the Elect*
	Palm Sunday	Mar 29	
	Chrism Mass	Mar 30 (Mon)	At the Cathedral
	<i>*If the Scrutinies are celebrated, the prayer texts for the Ritual Mass and the Cycle A readings are used.</i>		
Triduum	The Sacred Triduum (Holy Thursday–Easter Sunday) is celebrated April 2-5.		
	The Easter Vigil can begin no earlier than 8:15 p.m. on the night of April 4.		
	Easter	Apr 5	<i>Obligatory use of new Order of the Anointing of the Sick and of their Pastoral Care.</i>
Eastertime	Second Sunday of Easter	April 12	Divine Mercy Sunday
	Ascension of the Lord	May 17	Replaces 7 th Sunday of Easter
	Pentecost	May 24	The Paschal Candle remains in the sanctuary next to the ambo until the conclusion of Vespers II
	The BVM, Mother of the Church+	May 25 (Mon)	See below
Ordinary Time	Solemnity of SS. Peter & Paul+	June 29 (Mon)	See below
	Assumption of the BVM+	Aug 15 (Sat)	NOT a Holy Day of Obligation
	Anniv. Ordination of Bp. Walsh	Sept 27	See below.
	All Saints+	Nov 1 (Sun)	See below.
			Daylight Savings Time Ends
	Anniversary of the Dedication of the Cathedral	Nov 15 (Sun)	Solemnity at the Cathedral Feast for the Diocese; see below
	Christ the King	Nov 22	Last Sunday of Liturgical Year
Advent	First Sunday of Advent	Nov 29, 2026	Lectionary: B / I
	Immaculate Conception	Dec 8 (Tue)	Holy Day of Obligation

CALENDAR ADVISORIES FOR 2026December 7-8, 2025

Even though the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary falls on a Monday, it retains its obligation. Therefore, there are back-to-back obligations with Sunday. One should fulfill both obligations by assisting at two Masses, one for each of the two days (the Sunday evening Mass may “count” for either but not both). Ritual and funeral Masses are not permitted. A marriage or funeral may be celebrated outside of Mass using the texts from the Rite of Marriage or the Order of Christian Funerals. On the night of Sunday, December 7, EP II for the 2nd Sunday of Advent is celebrated, as is the Mass for that Advent Sunday.

	Morning Prayer	Mass before 4pm	Mass after 4pm	Evening Prayer
Sunday, Dec 7	2 nd Sunday of Advent	2 nd Sunday of Advent		EP II of the 2 nd Sunday of Advent
Monday, Dec 8	Immaculate Conception	Immaculate Conception		EP II of Immaculate Conception

December 24-25

For prayers, the Missal has five different Masses for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The Mass for December 24 is the proper text for Masses in the morning of December 24. The proper text for Masses in the evening (= after 4 p.m.) of December 24 is the Christmas – Vigil Mass. The texts for Christmas – Mass during the Night are to be used for Masses beginning “at night,” preferably on or around midnight between December 24 and 25. The proper texts for the first Mass in the morning of December 25 are those for Christmas – Mass at Dawn. Later Masses on December 25 should use the texts for Christmas – Mass during the Day.

The Mass during the Night may be preceded by a more prolonged vigil, taken from the Office of Readings (see the General Instruction of the Liturgy of the Hours #71-73, 98, 215). This extended vigil is the preferred time for the blessing of the crèche (Book of Blessings, ch. 48, §1542-44).

The Lectionary for Mass provides 4 sets of readings for Christmas: the Vigil, the Mass at Night, the Mass at Dawn, and the Mass during the Day. It is strongly recommended that the readings be used as assigned, in particular that the Vigil readings be used at the Vigil. That being said, based on pastoral need, and acknowledging that the Mass that any person attends will be “their” Christmas Mass, the *Homiletic Directory* (#110) allows for the use of any of the 4 sets of readings at any of the four Masses.

On December 25, Ritual Masses (i.e., marriage, confirmation) and funeral Masses are prohibited. A marriage or funeral may be celebrated outside of Mass using the texts from the Order of Celebrating Matrimony or the Order of Christian Funerals.

May 25

This new obligatory Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, is celebrated every year on the Monday after Pentecost. Please see <https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year-and-calendar/mother-of-the-church> for the Mass texts.

June 28-29

The Solemnity of SS. Peter and Paul falls on Monday, June 29. It is therefore not a holy day of obligation, and so may not be anticipated. Funeral Masses are permitted, but ritual Masses (such as weddings) are not. If we lived in a country where Ss. Peter and Paul were a day of precept, the Vigil Mass of Ss Peter and Paul would have precedence on Sunday evening. However, we do not, so the Sunday Mass, which is of precept takes precedence.

	Morning Prayer	Mass before 4pm	Mass after 4pm	Evening Prayer
Sunday, June 28	MP for 13 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	13 th Sunday in Ordinary Time		EP I for SS. Peter and Paul
Monday, June 29	MP for SS. Peter and Paul	SS. Peter and Paul		EP II for SS. Peter and Paul

August 15

Because it falls on a Saturday, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the BVM is NOT a Holy Day of Obligation this year. Because the obligation is lifted, funeral masses are permitted. However, ritual Masses (i.e., marriage, confirmation) are not. A marriage may be celebrated outside of Mass using the texts from the Order of Celebrating Matrimony.

	Morning Prayer	Mass before 4pm	Mass after 4pm	Evening Prayer
Saturday, Aug 15	MP for Assumption BVM	Assumption BVM	20 th Sunday in Ordinary Time*	EP II Assumption BVM
Sunday, Aug 16	MP 20 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	20 th Sunday in Ordinary Time		EP II for 20 th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*A regularly scheduled Anticipated Sunday Mass must be for the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time as it is a day of precept and the Assumption is not a day of precept this year. It is still possible to have a Mass for the Assumption after 4pm, but it is not to be at the time of a regularly scheduled Anticipated Sunday Mass.

Nov 1

All Saints falls on a Sunday this year, and is a Holy Day of Obligation. Both Ritual Masses (i.e., marriage, confirmation) and funeral Masses are prohibited. A marriage or funeral may be celebrated outside of Mass using the texts from the Order of Celebrating Matrimony and Order of Christian Funerals, respectively.

	Morning Prayer	Mass before 4pm	Mass after 4pm	Evening Prayer
Saturday, Oct 31	Saturday, 30 th Week of Ordinary Time	Saturday, 30 th Week of Ordinary Time	All Saints	EP I All Saints
Sunday, Nov 1	MP All Saints	All Saints		EP II All Saints

A NOTE ON PARTICULAR CALENDARS

Please refer to the “Table of Liturgical Days According to Their Order of Precedence” (reproduced on page 7) and the *Norms Governing Liturgical Calendars* for details.

Parishes are also reminded that the Anniversary of Dedication of their church and the title of their church are celebrated as Solemnities for that community. Because these outrank Sundays in Ordinary Time, those celebrations can be moved to the Sunday of the week they fall in as long as we are in Ordinary Time (*Norms Governing Liturgical Calendars*, § 58).

The feast of the principal patron of the diocese and the anniversary of the dedication of the cathedral are also to be observed. For the Diocese of Davenport, the Feast of the Anniversary of the Dedication of the Cathedral is observed on November 15 (of course, at the Cathedral itself it is observed as a Solemnity—and may be transferred to the preceding Sunday). The diocese has no patron.

*Because November 15 falls on a Sunday this year, the Sunday takes precedence (except at the Cathedral itself), and so the feast is not observed in the rest of the diocese.

In addition, the *Ceremonial of Bishops* states that the anniversary of the bishop’s episcopal ordination should be celebrated in each church. The Mass for Various Needs and Occasions, I. For the Church, 3. For the Bishop is used – except on days listed in #’s 1-6 on the Table (§ 1167). Bishop Walsh’s Anniversary of Ordination is September 27.

*Therefore, because September 27 falls on a Sunday this year, the Sunday Mass is to be used. It would be appropriate to remember the bishop in the universal prayer.

The *Ceremonial* also states that each year the anniversary of the last *deceased* bishop be observed, unless he had been transferred to another diocese (§ 1168). In our case, that would be Bishop O’Keefe, whose anniversary of episcopal ordination is July 2.

A NOTE ON THE OBLIGATION TO ATTEND MASS ON SUNDAYS AND HOLY DAYS

The obligation to attend Mass applies to the day, not the Mass being celebrated or the texts used. For Sundays and Solemnities, the observation of the liturgical day runs from 4:00 p.m. of the calendar day before to midnight of the day itself – a period of 32 hours.

For example, attendance at a Wedding Mass after 4 p.m. on Saturday would fulfill the Sunday obligation. Likewise, if a parish celebrated the Ritual Mass of Confirmation on Sunday, the obligation would be fulfilled. Please recall that Ritual Masses are not permitted on the Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Eastertide.

Only in the case of Christmas and the Immaculate Conception would a Holy Day of Obligation fall on a Saturday or Monday and create back-to-back obligations with Sunday. One should fulfill both obligations by assisting at two Masses, one for each of the two days. Situations arise, of course, in which fulfilling Mass obligations on consecutive days is either impractical or impossible for an individual or a family. The Church allows parish pastors to “grant in individual cases a dispensation from the obligation of observing a feast day or a day of penance or can grant a commutation of the obligation into other pious works” for a just cause and subject to any regulations laid down by the Diocesan Bishop (canon 1245; see canon 87 §1). Members of the Catholic faithful who can only attend one Mass to fulfill their obligations (whether that of Sunday or of the holy day) should speak with their pastor to seek alternate accommodations.

TABLE OF LITURGICAL DAYS

1. Easter triduum
2. Christmas, Epiphany, Ascension, and Pentecost
Sundays of Advent, Lent, and the Easter Season
Ash Wednesday; Weekdays of Holy Week from Monday to Thursday inclusive
Days within the octave of Easter
3. Solemnities of the Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the saints listed in the General Calendar; All Saints
4. Proper solemnities, namely:
 - a. Solemnity of the principal patron of the place (city or state)
 - b. Solemnity of the dedication of a particular church and the anniversary**
 - c. Solemnity of the title of a particular church**
 - d. Solemnity of the title, or of the founder, or of the principal patron of a religious order or congregation
5. Feasts of the Lord in the General Calendar
6. Sundays of the Christmas Season and Sundays in Ordinary Time
7. Feasts of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of the saints in the General Calendar
8. Proper feasts, namely:
 - a. Feast of the principal patron of the diocese
 - b. Feast of the anniversary of the dedication of the cathedral**
 - c. Feast of the principal patron of a region or province, or a country, or of a wider territory
 - d. Feast of the title, founder, or principal patron of an order or congregation and of a religious province without prejudice to the directives in no. 4
 - e. Other feasts proper to an individual church
 - f. Other feasts listed in the calendar of a diocese or of a religious order or congregation
9. Weekdays of Advent from 17 December to 24 December inclusive.
Days within the octave of Christmas; Weekdays of Lent
10. Obligatory memorials in the General Calendar
11. Proper obligatory memorials, namely:
 - a. memorials of a secondary patron of the place, diocese, region, or province, country, or wider territory, or of an order or congregation and of a religious province
 - b. obligatory memorials listed in the calendar of a diocese, or of an order or congregation

Norms on the Obligation to Attend Mass on Holy Days and on the Celebration of Ritual Masses and Masses for the Dead Courtesy of the Archdiocese of Dubuque Worship Office	
December 8 The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remains a day of obligation when it falls on a Saturday or Monday • Ritual Masses (i.e., marriage, confirmation) and funeral Masses are prohibited. Marriages celebrated during Mass on that day must use the readings and orations of the holy day. A marriage or funeral may be celebrated outside of Mass using the texts from the Rite of Marriage or the Order of Christian Funerals. • If the Immaculate Conception falls on a Sunday, the feast transfers to the next unimpeded free day (December 9) and the obligation to attend Mass is abrogated.
December 25 The Nativity of the Lord	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remains a day of obligation when it falls on a Saturday or Monday • Ritual Masses (i.e., marriage, confirmation) and funeral Masses are prohibited. • A marriage or funeral may be celebrated outside of Mass using the texts from the Rite of Marriage or the Order of Christian Funerals.
January 1 Mary, the Mother of God	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The obligation to attend Mass is abrogated when it falls on a Saturday or a Monday. • When the obligation is abrogated, ritual Masses (i.e., marriage, confirmation) are still prohibited. A marriage may be celebrated outside Mass using texts from the Rite of Marriage. • Funeral Masses may be celebrated when the obligation is abrogated.
Holy Thursday and the Triduum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mass other than the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper is prohibited on Holy Thursday without the permission of the bishop. • Funeral Masses and ritual Masses (marriages) are prohibited on Holy Thursday and the days of the Triduum.
Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the Diocese of Davenport this solemnity is celebrated on the Seventh Sunday of Easter. • Ritual Masses and Funeral Masses are prohibited. Marriages celebrated at Mass must use the Scripture readings and orations of the day. • A marriage or funeral may be celebrated outside of Mass using the texts from the Rite of Marriage or the Order of Christian Funerals.
August 15 The Assumption of Mary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The obligation to attend Mass is abrogated when it falls on a Saturday or Monday. • When the obligation is abrogated, ritual Masses (i.e., marriage, confirmation) are still prohibited. • Marriage may be celebrated outside of Mass using texts from the Rite of Marriage. • Funeral Masses may be celebrated when the obligation is abrogated.
November 1 The Feast of All Saints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The obligation to attend Mass is abrogated when it falls on a Saturday or Monday. • When the obligation is abrogated, ritual Masses (i.e., marriage, confirmation) are still prohibited. • Marriage may be celebrated outside of Mass using texts from the Rite of Marriage. • Funeral Masses may be celebrated when the obligation is abrogated.

	V1	V2	V3	D1	D2	D3
1. Solemnities of precept						
2. Sundays in the seasons of Advent, Lent and Easter	X	X	X	X	X	X
3. Holy Thursday, Easter Triduum						
4. Solemnities not of precept, All Souls						
5. Ash Wednesday, weekdays of Holy Week	X	X	X	✓	X	X
6. Days in the octave of Easter						
7. Sundays of Christmas and Sundays in Ordinary Time	✓	X	X	✓	X	X
8. Feasts						
9. Weekdays in the season of Advent from 17 to 24 December	✓	X	X	✓	✓	X
10. Days in the octave of Christmas						
11. Weekdays in the season of Lent						
12. Obligatory memorials						
13. Weekdays in the season of Advent to 16 December	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	X
14. Weekdays in the season of Christmas from 2 January						
15. Weekdays in the season of Easter						
16. Weekdays in Ordinary Time	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

V1=Ritual (V2 w. Ordinary OK) / V2= MVNO & Votive (serious need) / V3 = MVNO/Votive
D1 = Funeral Mass / D2 = special Masses for the Dead / D3 = daily Mass for Dead

MASSES PERMITTED	DAYS
Only “Mass of the Day” is permitted	Solemnities of Precept [in the US: Immaculate Conception (Dec 8), Christmas (Dec 25); Mary, Mother of God (Jan 1); Epiphany (Sun); Ascension; Corpus Christi (Sun); Assumption (Aug 15), All Saints (Nov 1)] Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Easter Season; Holy Thursday & Triduum
Funeral Masses Allowed	Solemnities not of precept; All Souls; Ash Wednesday; Weekdays of Holy Week; Days in the Easter Octave
Ritual Masses Allowed (others need Ordinary’s approval)	Sundays of Christmas & Sundays in Ordinary Time; Feasts
Special Masses for the Dead Allowed (<i>Mass on the occasion of the news of death, final burial, or first anniversary</i>)	Weekdays December 17-24; Days in the Christmas Octave; Weekdays of Lent;
Masses for Various Needs and Occasions and Votive Masses allowed if serious pastoral need – at discretion of the pastor or priest-celebrant	Obligatory Memorials; Weekdays of Advent to December 16; Weekdays of Christmas from January 2; Weekdays of Easter
Any Mass, including Mass for the Dead	Optional Memorials; Weekdays in Ordinary Time

Days of Prayer and Special Observances

(<https://www.usccb.org/committees/divine-worship/special-observances>)

Although not exhaustive, the following list includes many common observances promoted by the Holy See and the USCCB. Dates given are those shared with the universal Church except as indicated, where the USCCB has approved alternate dates in the United States for a couple of the special observances.

January

- January 1 — World Day of Peace
- January 18–25 — Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- January 22 — Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children (USA)
- Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (between January 21–27) — Sunday of the Word of God
- Last Week in January — Catholic Schools Week (USA)

February

- Sunday following February 2 (USA) — World Day for Consecrated Life
- February 7–14 — National Marriage Week USA
- Second Sunday in February — World Marriage Day
- February 8 — World Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking
- February 11 — World Day of the Sick

April

- entire month — Child Abuse Prevention Month
- Fourth Sunday of Easter (variable date in April or May) — World Day of Prayer for Vocations

May

- May 22 — National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for Mariners and People of the Sea (USA)
- May 24 — World Day of Prayer for the Church in China
- Seventh Sunday of Easter (variable date in May or June) — World Communications Day

June

- Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus — World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests
- June 22–29 — Religious Freedom Week (USA)

July

- Week of July 25 — Natural Family Planning Awareness Week (USA)

September

- September 1 — World Day of Prayer of the Care of Creation [start of Season of Creation, to Oct. 4]
- September 9 — Day of Prayer for Peace in Our Communities (USA)
- First Sunday after Labor Day — World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly (in US; moved from Last Sunday in July)
- Third Sunday in September (USA) — Catechetical Sunday
- Last Sunday in September — World Day of Migrants and Refugees
- Last Week in September — National Migration Week (USA)

October

- entire month — Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- entire month — Respect Life Month
- First Sunday in October — Respect Life Sunday
- Penultimate Sunday in October — World Mission Sunday
- Last Sunday in October — Priesthood Sunday

November

- entire month — Black Catholic History Month
- Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time — World Day of the Poor
- Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe — Global Celebration of Youth and Young Adults (World Youth Day)

History

Since the Second Vatican Council, the celebration of ember and rogation days continue to exist as ways for the Church "to entreat the Lord for the various needs of humanity" (*Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the Calendar*, no. 45), though the scheduling of such days was delegated to Conferences of Bishops. In the United States, that authority rests with each Diocesan Bishop (see *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* [GIRM], no. 373), as they are better able to discern what special intentions need to be prayed for in the respective dioceses and regions. Even as each diocese maintains its list of such special observances, the terminology of ember days and rogation days has shifted to that of "Days of Prayer." The Holy See has also recommended to the universal Church a number of such days, often termed "World Days of Prayer" and frequently promoted by Popes. The USCCB and its committees have offered additional special observances for the United States.

Liturgical Considerations

No liturgical texts or requirements are attached to these observances with the exception of the U.S. day of prayer each January 22. However, these important commemorations can certainly be noted in the homily and universal prayer at Mass, and through other community events. Optionally, some of the special observances can be emphasized by drawing from the Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions in the *Roman Missal*, but those that fall on Sundays of Ordinary Time would require the permission of the Diocesan Bishop for an appropriate Mass (see GIRM, no. 374). On days where an observance coincides with an Optional Memorial or a weekday in Ordinary Time, a celebrant would be free to select a fitting Mass (see GIRM, no. 377), although consideration must be given to the fact that many Days of Prayer are scheduled on days when the daily liturgy is quite appropriate (i.e., World Day of the Sick on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, World Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking on the feast of St. Josephine Bakhita, etc.).