



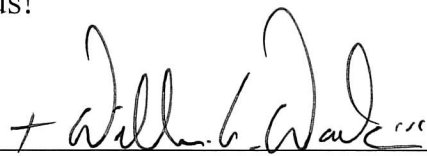
THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE
of
PENSACOLA-TALLAHASSEE

**PASTORAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THIS YEAR'S CELEBRATION OF
THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (December 8th) falls this year on the Second Sunday of Advent. Whenever a Solemnity falls on a Sunday, the celebration of that feast is normally transferred to the next day, as is the case for the Immaculate Conception this year. In the past, it was the understanding that the obligation to celebrate that solemnity was not transferred. Thus many have prepared their liturgical calendar for this year, believing that the Immaculate Conception was not a Holy Day of Obligation. Indeed, the Ordo (i.e., the directives for liturgy that are used by the church in the United States) states that it is not obligatory on that day this year. The question was put to the Vatican, and the response came back that the obligation aspect is indeed in force on the day of the solemnity when it is celebrated on Monday, December 9th this year.

I certainly encourage all Catholics to honor the Immaculate Conception by attending Mass on that day and encourage praying the rosary and other devotions directed at honoring the Mother of God. I also encourage parishes to retain the liturgical solemnity and joy of the celebration, even without the obligation. I realize that attending Mass on a weekday (especially the day after Sunday) may be difficult for many Catholics. **Therefore, I hereby dispense the faithful from the obligation to participate in Mass on that day (Dec. 9, 2024).** I am grateful for the many conscientious Catholics who will be able to attend Mass and hope that those who are not able to do so will still celebrate the gift given by our Lord to Mary so that she would be a worthy mother to our Lord and Savior Jesus.

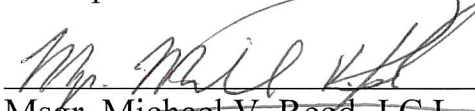
O Mary, the Immaculate Conception and Patroness of the United States, pray for us!



Most Reverend William A. Wack, CSC
Bishop of Pensacola-Tallahassee

Oct. 31, 2024

Date



Msgr. Michael V. Reed, J.C.L.
Chancellor

11/7/2024

Date