

Highlights for the Liturgical Calendar for 2008

This calendar is not intended to replace the use of the Ordo but instead to act as a supplement to it. Its purpose is to be an easy reference sheet and highlight for the rules concerning particular celebrations during the year. It also would be helpful to review both the General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar and the General Instruction of the Roman Missal concerning the issues of the liturgical year. Below are certain highlights to these documents.

Lectionary Readings: **Sunday:** Year A – **Weekday:** Year II

General Rules Concerning the Calendar

General

- The arrangement for celebrating the liturgical year is governed by the calendar. (GNLYC # 48)
- On Sundays, on weekdays of the Advent, Christmas, Lenten, and Easter Seasons, on feasts, and on obligatory memorials: If mass is celebrated with a congregation, the priest should follow the calendar of the church where he is celebrating. (GIRM # 354)
- Masses for Various Needs or Masses for Various Circumstances are used in certain situations either as matters arise or at fixed times. (GIRM #373)
- Please consult the Ordo for some options for Mass texts for various civil holidays, i.e. Labor Day, Independence Day....

Sundays and Solemnities

- The liturgical day runs from midnight to midnight, except for Sundays and Solemnities which begin with the evening of the preceding day (or the Vigil). (GNLYC #2)
- Because of its importance Sunday gives way only to solemnities and feasts of the Lord. (GNLYC #5)
- Solemnities are counted as the principal days in the calendar and their observance begins with the Evening Prayer I of the preceding day. (GNLYC # 11)

Ordinary Time

- On weekdays in Ordinary Time when there is an optional memorial or the Office is of the weekday, it is permissible to use any Mass or oration for various circumstances, though not from the Ritual Masses. (GIRM # 377)
- It is especially recommended to celebrate the commemoration of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday. (GIRM # 378)
- Votive Masses of the mysteries of the Lord or in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary or of the Angels or of any given Saint or of all the Saints may be said for the sake of the faithful's devotion on weekdays in Ordinary Time, even if an optional memorial occurs. (GIRM # 375)
- On memorials of Saints, the collect proper to the day is used or, if none is available, one from an appropriate Common. The prayer over the offerings, however, and the prayer after Communion unless they are proper, may be taken either from the Common or from the weekdays of the current Season. (GIRM # 363)
- On the weekdays in Ordinary Time, however, besides the orations from the previous Sunday, orations from another Sunday in Ordinary Time may be used, or one of the prayers for various needs provided in the Missal. It is always permissible, however, to use the collect alone from these Masses (GIRM #263)

Ritual Masses

- Ritual Masses are connected to the celebration of certain Sacraments or Sacramentals, i.e. Confirmation or Marriage. They are prohibited on Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Easter, on solemnities, on days within the octave of Easter, on the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Soul's Day), on Ash Wednesday, and during Holy Week, taking due account of the norms given in the ritual books or in the Masses themselves. (GIRM #372)

Choice of Eucharistic Prayer: (GIRM # 365)

- Eucharistic Prayer I, which may always be used, is especially suited on days when there is a proper text for the *Communicantes (In union with the whole Church)* or in Masses endowed with a proper form of the *Hanc Igitur (Father, accept this offering)* and also in the celebrations of the Apostles and Saints mentioned in the Prayer itself; with Eucharistic Prayer III it is especially appropriate on Sundays.
- Eucharistic Prayer II is more appropriately used on weekdays or in special circumstances.
- Eucharistic Prayer III is preferred for use on Sundays and feast days.
- Eucharistic Prayer IV may be used when a Mass has no Preface of its own and on Sundays in Ordinary Time. The preface that is proper to Eucharistic Prayer IV must always be used when it is prayed.

Holy Days of Obligations in the United States

Date	Feast
January 1	Mother Mary of God*
August 15	Assumption of Mary*
November 1	All Saints Day*
December 8	Immaculate Conception
December 25	Christmas
April/May	Ascension Thursday

Regulations for Holy Days

- Funeral Masses are not allowed;
- Ritual masses are forbidden both for the Holy Day and its Vigil, thus marriages celebrated within Mass must use the Mass of the day with nuptial blessing and the readings may not be changed. Marriage Rite outside of Mass may be used with no restrictions.
- Gloria is used
- Creed is used

*If this day falls on a Monday or Saturday, it is not a holy day of obligation.

Particular Calendar Information		
Season	Information	
Advent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This season has a two-fold character preparing for Christmas and the remembrance of the birth of Christ and his first coming and anticipation and awaiting Christ's Second coming. It is a season of joyful anticipation. • Violet or purple is used for vestments, except for particular feasts. • Preface Advent I is used from November 28 until December 16, inclusive. • Preface Advent II is used from December 17 until December 24, inclusive. • Gloria is omitted for Advent • Homilies especially recommended for the weekdays of Advent • "Floral decorations should be marked by a moderation suited to the character of the season" (GIRM no. 305) • Musical instruments "should be used with a moderation that is consistent with the character of the season" (GIRM no. 314) • Funeral Masses on Sundays not allowed 	
Date	Celebration	Information
December 2	First Sunday of Advent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For all the Sundays of Advent and their Vigils, ritual masses are forbidden, thus marriages celebrated within Mass must use the Mass of the day with nuptial blessing and one reading may be changed. Marriage Rite outside of Mass may be used with no restrictions. • Opening Celebration for Bicentennial of the Archdiocese
December 3-8		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During this week each parish is called to have three days of prayer connected to the Bicentennial
December 8 <i>Saturday</i>	Immaculate Conception <i>Solemnity</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holy Day of Obligation; • Funeral Masses are not allowed; • Ritual masses are forbidden, thus marriages celebrated within Mass must use the Mass of the day with nuptial blessing and the readings may not be changed. Marriage Rite outside of Mass may be used with no restrictions. • Gloria and Creed are used. • Masses from 4:00 P.M. are to be celebrated for the Second Sunday of Advent.
December 9	Second Sunday of Advent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For all the Sundays of Advent and their Vigils, ritual masses are forbidden, thus marriages celebrated within Mass must use the Mass of the day with nuptial blessing and one reading may be changed. Marriage Rite outside of Mass may be used with no restrictions.

December 16	Third Sunday of Advent – <i>Gaudete Sunday</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of rose vestments permitted. • For all the Sundays of Advent and their Vigils, ritual masses are forbidden, thus marriages celebrated within Mass must use the Mass of the day with nuptial blessing and one reading may be changed. Marriage Rite outside of Mass may be used with no restrictions. • Use Preface Advent II until December 24
December 23	Fourth Sunday of Advent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For all the Sundays of Advent and their Vigils, ritual masses are forbidden, thus marriages celebrated within Mass must use the Mass of the day with nuptial blessing and one reading may be changed. Marriage Rite outside of Mass may be used with no restrictions.

Season	Information	
Christmas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebration of Christ's birth and early manifestations • White is used for vestments, except for particular feasts. 	
Date	Celebration	Information
December 25 <i>Tuesday</i>	Christmas <i>Solemnity</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three Masses may be celebrated or concelebrated by a priest, provided Masses are celebrated at their proper time. (GIRM no. 204 d) • During the creed you genuflect rather than bow • Holy Day of Obligation; • Funeral Masses are not allowed; • Ritual masses are forbidden, thus marriages celebrated within Mass must use the Mass of the day with nuptial blessing and the readings may not be changed. Marriage Rite outside of Mass may be used with no restrictions.
December 30 <i>Sunday</i>	Holy Family <i>Feast</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Masses on this day are to be celebrated for the Holy Family.
January 1 <i>Tuesday</i>	Mary, Mother of God <i>Solemnity</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holy Day of Obligation; • Funeral Masses are not allowed; • Ritual masses are forbidden, thus marriages celebrated within Mass must use the Mass of the day with nuptial blessing and the readings may not be changed. Marriage Rite outside of Mass may be used with no restrictions. • Gloria and Creed are used.
January 6	Epiphany <i>Solemnity</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ritual masses are forbidden, thus marriages celebrated within Mass must use the Mass of the day with nuptial blessing and the readings may not be changed. Marriage Rite outside of Mass may be used with no restrictions.
January 13 <i>Sunday</i>	Baptism of the Lord <i>Feast</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End of the Christmas Season

Season	Information	
Ordinary Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This time is devoted to the Mystery of Christ in all its aspects, in contrast to the seasons which focus on a particular aspect of that mystery. • "ordinary" in this context simply relates to the Sundays being numbered, i.e. ordinal. • Green vestments are used 	
Date	Celebration	Information
January 14 <i>Monday</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First day of Ordinary Time
January 18-25		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

January 22 <i>Tuesday</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be observed as a particular day of penance. • The Mass for “Peace and Justice” should be celebrated with violet vestments as an appropriate liturgical observance. (GIRM no. 373)
February 2 <i>Saturday</i>	Presentation of the Lord <i>Feast</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blessing of Candles may be part of this celebration. • Gloria is used

Season	Information	
Lent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lent is a time of preparation for the celebration of Easter. For those who prepare for baptism at the Easter Vigil, the several stages, which occur during this time, ready them for that moment. The faithful are called to reflect on their own baptism through the penitential practices of the season. • Violet or purple is used for vestments, except for particular feasts. • Lent runs from Ash Wednesday until the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday. • The Gloria is not used, except on particular celebrations. • Alleluia is not said or sung in the liturgy. • Homilies on weekdays are recommended for Lent. • Use of floral decorations is forbidden, except for <i>Laetare Sunday</i>, solemnities, and feasts. • Musical instruments are to be used only for the supporting of singing, except for <i>Laetare Sunday</i>, solemnities, and feasts. • Abstinence required on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent for those over the age of 14. • Fasting is required for Ash Wednesday and Good Friday for those between the ages of 18 and 60. • Funeral Masses on Sundays not allowed 	
Date	Celebration	Information
February 6	Ash Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universal day of fasting and abstinence • Penitential Rite and Gloria omitted. • Ritual masses are forbidden, thus marriages celebrated within Mass must use the Mass of the day with nuptial blessing and one reading may be changed. Marriage Rite outside of Mass may be used with no restrictions. • Blessing of ashes reserved to priests or deacons. Lay ministers may be deputed for distribution of ashes. • Distribution of ashes in Mass takes place following the homily.
February 10	First Sunday of Lent	
February 17	Second Sunday of Lent	
February 24	Third Sunday of Lent	

March 2	Fourth Sunday of Lent – <i>Laetare Sunday</i>
March 9	Fifth Sunday of Lent
March 15 <i>Saturday</i>	Saint Joseph <i>Solemnity</i>

Holy Week	Information	
Date	Celebration	Information
March 16	Passion (Palm) Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of this week is to reflect on the passion of the Lord. • The Triduum runs from the celebration of the Lord's supper on Holy Thursday until Evening Prayer II on Easter Sunday. • The Easter Triduum of the passion and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ is the culmination of the entire Liturgical year. Thus the solemnity of Easter has the same kind of preeminence in the liturgical year that Sunday has in the week. • More detailed notes on the Triduum will be sent out
March 17 <i>Monday</i>	Monday of Holy Week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the Passion (Palm) Sunday and its Vigil ritual masses are forbidden, thus marriages celebrated within the Mass must use the Mass of the day with nuptial blessing and one reading may be changed. Marriage Rite outside of Mass may be used with no restrictions. • Since St. Patrick's day falls on Monday of Holy Week this year (2008), the celebration of the Monday of Holy Week liturgy takes precedence. Presiders are welcome to acknowledge the life and example of St. Patrick within the context of the celebration of the Monday of Holy Week liturgy. In other words, there will be no distinct celebration of St. Patrick's day liturgy within the Archdiocese of Boston this year.
March 20	Holy Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funeral Masses are prohibited. • If a funeral is pastorally necessary then use Funeral Liturgy outside Mass. This celebration may take place in the body of the Church. • White vestments are used for the celebration of the Lord's Supper. • No Masses other than the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, which is to be celebrated in the evening, should be celebrated without permission from the Archbishop. • Communion may be brought to the sick during anytime of the day. • The tabernacle should be empty for the celebration and enough hosts consecrated for both the celebration of the Lord's Supper and Good Friday.
March 21	Good Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funeral Masses are prohibited. • If a funeral is pastorally necessary then use Funeral Liturgy outside Mass. This celebration may take place in the body of the Church. • Red Vestments are used for the celebration of the Lord's Passion. • The altar should be completely bare. • Only one cross should be used for the veneration. • Communion may be brought to the sick during anytime of the day. • A bishop or priest is the ordinary presider for this celebration; it is not a role for the deacon
March 22	Holy Saturday/ Easter Vigil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funeral Masses are prohibited. • If a funeral is pastorally necessary then use Funeral Liturgy outside of Mass. This celebration may take place in the body of the Church. • During the day, Holy Communion can only be given as viaticum. • White vestments are used for the celebration of the Easter Vigil. • The Easter Vigil should start no earlier than 7:58 P.M. this year, due to the time of sunset. This is intended to be interpreted in its strictest sense, no pastoral discretion is granted to pastors.

Season	Information	
Easter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost are celebrated as one joyful feast day. • On Sundays in Easter, it is especially appropriate to use the sprinkling rite in place of the Penitential Rite, as a way of more fully connecting the Season with our baptism. • For the weekdays of Easter a homily is recommended • White is the color of vestments for the season, except for particular celebrations. Gold or silver vestments on Sundays may be appropriate due to the solemnity of the season. • Funeral Masses on Sundays not allowed 	
Date	Celebration	Information
March 23	Easter <i>Solemnity</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sequence is not optional • Creed is replaced by renewal of baptismal vows and sprinkling rite. • Dismissal with double alleluia • Ritual masses are forbidden both for the Holy Day and its Vigil, thus marriages celebrated within Mass must use the Mass of the day with nuptial blessing and the readings may not be changed. Marriage Rite outside of Mass may be used with no restrictions.
March 24-29 <i>Monday-Saturday</i>	Octave of Easter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solemnities of the Lord • Gloria • No creed • Dismissal with double alleluia • Ritual masses are forbidden, thus marriages celebrated within Mass must use the Mass of the day with nuptial blessing and one reading may be changed. Marriage Rite outside of Mass may be used with no restrictions.
March 30	Second Sunday of Easter <i>Divine Mercy Sunday</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last day of the Octave of Easter • Dismissal with double alleluia • For all the Sundays of Easter and their Vigils ritual masses are forbidden, thus marriages celebrated within Mass must use the Mass of the day with nuptial blessing and one reading may be changed. Marriage Rite outside of Mass may be used with no restrictions.
March 31 <i>Monday</i>	Annunciation of the Lord <i>Solemnity</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ritual masses are forbidden, thus marriages celebrated within Mass must use the Mass of the day with nuptial blessing and one reading may be changed. Marriage Rite outside of Mass may be used with no restrictions. • White Vestments • Gloria and Creed are used • During the creed you genuflect rather than bow

April 6	Third Sunday of Easter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For all the Sundays of Easter and their Vigils ritual masses are forbidden, thus marriages celebrated within Mass must use the Mass of the day with nuptial blessing and one reading may be changed. Marriage Rite outside of Mass may be used with no restrictions.
April 8 <i>Tuesday</i>	200 th Anniversary of the founding of the Diocese	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It would be appropriate to use the celebration for Dedication of Churches in commemoration of this event. It would be appropriate to pray the Gloria
April 13	Fourth Sunday of Easter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For all the Sundays of Easter and their Vigils ritual masses are forbidden, thus marriages celebrated within Mass must use the Mass of the day with nuptial blessing and one reading may be changed. Marriage Rite outside of Mass may be used with no restrictions.
April 20	Fifth Sunday of Easter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For all the Sundays of Easter and their Vigils ritual masses are forbidden, thus marriages celebrated within Mass must use the Mass of the day with nuptial blessing and one reading may be changed. Marriage Rite outside of Mass may be used with no restrictions.
April 27	Sixth Sunday of Easter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For all the Sundays of Easter and their Vigils ritual masses are forbidden, thus marriages celebrated within Mass must use the Mass of the day with nuptial blessing and one reading may be changed. Marriage Rite outside of Mass may be used with no restrictions.
May 1	Ascension Thursday <i>Solemnity</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holy Day of Obligation; Funeral Masses are not allowed; Ritual masses are forbidden both for the Holy Day and its Vigil, thus marriages celebrated within Mass must use the Mass of the day with nuptial blessing and the readings may not be changed. Marriage Rite outside of Mass may be used with no restrictions. Gloria is used Creed is used
May 4	Seventh Sunday of Easter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For all the Sundays of Easter and their Vigils ritual masses are forbidden, thus marriages celebrated within Mass must use the Mass of the day with nuptial blessing and one reading may be changed. Marriage Rite outside of Mass may be used with no restrictions.
May 11	Pentecost <i>Solemnity</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last Day of Easter Sequence is not optional Red vestments are used. Dismissal with double alleluia Ritual masses are forbidden both for Pentecost and its Vigil, thus marriages celebrated within Mass must use the Mass of the day with nuptial blessing and the readings may not be changed. Marriage Rite outside of Mass may be used with no restrictions.

Season	Information	
Ordinary Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This time is devoted to the Mystery of Christ in all its aspects, in contrast to the seasons which focus on a particular aspect of that mystery. • “ordinary” in this context simply relates to the Sundays being numbered, i.e. ordinal. • Green vestments are used 	
Date	Celebration	Information
May 12 <i>Monday</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ordinary Time begins • 6th week in Ordinary Time
May 18	Holy Trinity <i>Solemnity</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White Vestments • Ritual masses are forbidden, thus marriages celebrated within Mass must use the Mass of the day with nuptial blessing and one reading may be changed. Marriage Rite outside of Mass may be used with no restrictions.
May 25	Corpus Christi <i>Solemnity</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White Vestments • Ritual masses are forbidden, thus marriages celebrated within Mass must use the Mass of the day with nuptial blessing and the readings may not be changed. Marriage Rite outside of Mass may be used with no restrictions. • Sequence is optional
May 30 <i>Friday</i>	Sacred Heart of Jesus <i>Solemnity</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White Vestments • Ritual masses are forbidden, thus marriages celebrated within Mass must use the Mass of the day with nuptial blessing and one reading may be changed. Marriage Rite outside of Mass may be used with no restrictions. • Gloria and Creed are used
June 24 <i>Tuesday</i>	Nativity of John the Baptist <i>Solemnity</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White Vestments • Ritual masses are forbidden, thus marriages celebrated within Mass must use the Mass of the day with nuptial blessing and one reading may be changed. Marriage Rite outside of Mass may be used with no restrictions. • Gloria and Creed are used
June 29 <i>Sunday</i>	Saint Peter and Paul <i>Solemnity</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White Vestments • Ritual masses are forbidden, thus marriages celebrated within Mass must use the Mass of the day with nuptial blessing and one reading may be changed. Marriage Rite outside of Mass may be used with no restrictions. • Gloria and Creed are used

Date	Celebration	Information
August 6 <i>Wednesday</i>	Transfiguration of the Lord <i>Feast</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gloria used
August 15 <i>Friday</i>	Assumption of the Blessed Mother <i>Solemnity</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holy Day of Obligation; • Funeral Masses are not allowed; • Ritual masses are forbidden thus marriages celebrated within Mass must use the Mass of the day with nuptial blessing and the readings may not be changed. Marriage Rite outside of Mass may be used with no restrictions. • Gloria and Creed are used
September 14 <i>Sunday</i>	Exultation of the Holy Cross <i>Feast</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feast of the Lord so it is celebrated in place of the Sunday of Ordinary Time • Use Red Vestments
November 1 <i>Saturday</i>	All Saints Day <i>Solemnity</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not a Holy Day of Obligation • Ritual masses are forbidden thus marriages celebrated within Mass must use the Mass of the day with nuptial blessing and the readings may not be changed. Marriage Rite outside of Mass may be used with no restrictions. • Gloria and Creed are used
November 2 <i>Sunday</i>	All Soul's Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The commemoration of All Soul's day is celebrated in place of the Sunday of Ordinary time • Ritual masses are forbidden thus marriages celebrated within Mass must use the Mass of the day with nuptial blessing and one reading may be changed. Marriage Rite outside of Mass may be used with no restrictions.
November 23	Christ the King <i>Solemnity</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ritual masses are forbidden both for the Solemnity and its Vigil, thus marriages celebrated within Mass must use the Mass of the day with nuptial blessing and one reading may be changed. Marriage Rite outside of Mass may be used with no restrictions. • Celebration for the closing of the Bicentennial year of the Archdiocese of Boston