

**Diocese of Rockford**  
**Office of Divine Worship**  
**Significant Liturgical Dates: 2015/2016 – Cycle C, Year II**

First Sunday of Advent – Sunday, November 29, 2015

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception – Tuesday, December 8, 2015  
(Patronal Feast Day of the United States of America and the Diocese of Rockford)  
(Opening of the Holy Jubilee Year of Mercy in the Diocese of Rome)

Third Sunday of Advent – *Gaudete* Sunday – Sunday, December 13, 2015  
(Opening of the Holy Jubilee Year of Mercy in the Diocese of Rockford)

Christmas Eve – Thursday, December 24, 2015 (Anticipated Masses may be celebrated after 4 p.m.)  
The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day) – Friday, December 25, 2015 (Holy Day of Obligation)

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God – Friday, January 1, 2016 (Holy Day of Obligation)

Ash Wednesday – Wednesday, February 10, 2016

Rite of Election – Saturday, February 13, 2016 – 10 a.m. – Aurora, Elgin, and McHenry Deaneries  
Saturday, February 13, 2016 – 12:30 p.m. – DeKalb, Rockford, Freeport, and Sterling Deaneries  
Sunday, February 14, 2016 – 1:30 p.m. – Hispanic

Palm Sunday – Sunday, March 20, 2016

Holy Thursday – Thursday, March 24, 2016  
Good Friday – Friday, March 25, 2016  
Holy Saturday – Saturday, March 26, 2016  
Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord – Sunday, March 27, 2016

Ordination of Transitional Deacons – Saturday, May 21, 2016 - 11 a.m.

The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord – (Observed on) Sunday, May 8, 2016

Pentecost Sunday – Sunday, May 15, 2016

Ordination of Priests – Saturday, June 4, 2016 - 11 a.m.

Solemnity of the Most Precious Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ (Corpus Christi) – (Observed on) Sunday,  
May 29, 2016

The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Monday, August 15, 2016 (NOT a Holy Day of  
Obligation)

Permanent Diaconate Ordination – Saturday, September 24, 2016 – 11 a.m.

The Anniversary of the Dedication of the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Rockford, Illinois – Tuesday, October 11, 2016  
*Celebrated as a Solemnity within the Cathedral itself. Celebrated as a Feast outside the Cathedral.*

The Solemnity of All Saints – Tuesday, November 1, 2016.

### **Nota Bene: Funerals**

The funeral Mass is not permitted on solemnities that are holy days of obligation, on Holy Thursday and the Easter Triduum, and on the Sundays of Advent, Lent, and the Easter season (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal, third typical edition, no. 380 and Order of Christian Funerals, no. 178, 271*). The funeral liturgy outside Mass may be used on these days.

### **Choice of Day for the Rite of Marriage**

Whenever marriage is celebrated during Mass, white vestments are worn and the wedding Mass is used. In the Diocese of Rockford, Sunday weddings are not permitted. If the marriage is celebrated on a solemnity, the Mass of the day is used with the nuptial blessing and where appropriate, the special final blessing.

The liturgy of the word is extremely helpful in emphasizing the meaning of the sacrament and the obligation of marriage. When the wedding Mass may not be used, one of the readings from the Rite of Marriage (nos. 67-105) may be chosen, except from Holy Thursday to Easter and on the feast of Christmas, Epiphany, Ascension, Pentecost, Corpus Christi, and other holy days of obligation. However, the Rite of Marriage outside Mass may be celebrated on the above days except during the Easter Triduum.

When a marriage is celebrated during Advent or Lent or other days of penance, the parish priest should advise the couple to take into consideration the special nature of these times (Rite of Marriage, no. 11, emphasis added).

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### **The Anniversary of the Dedication of the Cathedral.**

In the Cathedral itself, a solemnity, outside the Cathedral it is celebrated as a feast. For other parishes on the day of their particular anniversary it is a solemnity. Consult the "Table of Liturgical days" on page five of this calendar for the days that may impede this celebration. The anniversary of the Dedication of the Cathedral of St. Peter is October 11.

### **Other Masses**

When choosing the Mass texts for Ritual Masses, Masses for Various Needs and Occasions, and Masses for the Dead, please see the chart on page five.

### **The Choice of the Mass and Its Parts**

The pastoral effectiveness of a celebration will be greatly increased if the texts of readings, the prayers, and the liturgical songs correspond as closely as possible to the needs, spiritual preparation, and culture of those taking part. The priest, therefore, in planning the celebration of Mass, should have in mind the common spiritual good of the people of God, rather than his own inclinations. He should, moreover, remember that the selection of different parts is to be made in agreement with those who have some role in the celebration, including the faithful, in regard to the parts that more directly belong to each.

Since, indeed, a variety of options is provided for the different parts of the Mass, it is necessary for the deacon, the lectors, the psalmist, the cantor, the commentator, and choir to be completely sure before the celebration

about those texts for which each is responsible and is to be used and that nothing is improvised. Harmonious planning and carrying out of the rites will be of great assistance in disposing the faithful to take part in the Eucharist (GIRM 352).

**TABLE OF LITURGICAL DAYS**  
**ACCORDING TO THEIR ORDER OF PRECEDENCE**  
**General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar #59**

**I**

1. Easter Triduum of the Lord's Passion and Resurrection
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 saints listed in the General Calendar  
All Souls (Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed)
4. Proper Solemnities, namely:
  - a. Solemnity of the principal patron of the place, i.e., the 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

**II**

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 congregation
9. Weekdays of Advent from 17 December to 24 December, inclusive. Days within the Octave of Christmas.  
Weekdays of Lent

**III**

10. Obligatory memorials in the General Calendar
11. Proper obligatory memorials, namely:
  - a. Memorial 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
12. Optional Memorials; but these may be celebrated even on the days listed in no. 9, in the special manner described by the General Instruction of the Roman Missal and of the Liturgy of the Hours. In the same manner obligatory memorials may be celebrated as optional memorials if they happen to fall on the Lenten weekdays.
13. Weekdays of Advent up to 16 December inclusive  
Weekdays of the Christmas season from 2 January until the Saturday after Epiphany.  
Weekdays of the Easter Season from Monday after the Octave of Easter until the Saturday before Pentecost inclusive.  
Weekdays in Ordinary Time.

**TABLE OF RUBRICS  
 GOVERNING THE USE  
 OF RITUAL MASSES,  
 MASSES FOR VARIOUS  
 NEEDS,  
 MASSES FOR VARIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES, AND  
 MASSES FOR THE DEAD**  
*Ceremonial of Bishops, Appendix III, 1989*  
*General Instruction of the Roman Missal, Third Typical Edition,*  
*2010*

V1 = Ritual Masses (GIRM 372); MVNO and VM in case of serious pastoral need or advantage at the direction of the local ordinary or with his permission (GIRM 374)

V2 = MVNO and VM in cases of serious need or pastoral advantage, at the discretion of the rector of the church or the priest celebrant (GIRM 376)

V3 = MVNO and VM chosen by the priest celebrant in favor of the devotion of the people (GIRM 373 & 375) D1 = Funeral Mass (GIRM 380)

D2 = D1 and Mass on the occasion of news of a death, final burial, or the first anniversary (GIRM 381) D3 = Daily Mass for the Dead (GIRM 381).

When D1 and D2 are not permitted, neither is R3.

(+) = permitted (-) = not permitted

Holy Thursday, Easter Triduum	V1 - D1 -
Sundays of Advent, Lent, and the Easter Season	V1 - D1 -
Solemnities of precept	V1 - D1 -
Solemnities not of precept, All Souls	V1 - D1 +
Ash Wednesday, weekdays of Holy Week	V1 - D1 +
Days in the Easter Octave	V1 - D1 +
Sundays of Christmas, and in Ordinary Time	V1+, V2- D1+,
D2-	
Feasts	V1+, V2-, D1+,
D2-	
Weekdays December 17-24	V1+, V2- D1+,
D2+	
Days in the Christmas Octave	V1+, V2- D1+,
D2+	
Weekdays of Lent	V1+, V2- D1+,
D2+	

Obligatory Memorials D2+	V1+, V2+ D1+, D2+
Weekdays of Advent to December 16 D2+	V1+, V2+ D1+, D2+
Weekdays of Christmas from January 2 D2+	V1+, V2+ D1+, D2+
Weekdays of the Easter Season D2+	V1+, V2+ D1+, D2+
Weekdays in Ordinary Time D1+, D2+, D3+	V1+, V2+, V3+ D1+, D2+, D3+