



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE

Year of Grace Liturgical Calendar

Diocese of Syracuse

2023-2024

The Church “celebrates the saving work of Christ on prescribed days and in the course of the year with sacred remembrance” (*Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the Calendar*, 1).

This celebration is governed by a calendar that is both general and particular (*Ibid.*, 48).

What follows are various general reminders for the new liturgical year as well as specific information that pertains to the celebration of liturgy in the Diocese of Syracuse.

Questions may be directed to The Office of Liturgy and the R.C.I.A.
(315-470-1420)

TABLE OF LITURGICAL DAYS

Key	
	Advent
	Christmas, Easter, Solemnities
	Ordinary Time
	Lent / Penitential Days
	Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Martyrs, etc.
	Feasts / Memorials
	Diocesan Celebrations

December 2023		
3	First Sunday of Advent	
8	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Solemnity Holyday of Obligation 2:30 PM
10	Second Sunday of Advent	Immaculata Award Ceremony The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
12	Our Lady of Guadalupe	Feast
17	Third Sunday of Advent	
18	“The Light is On For You” Campaign	4 PM – 7 PM in parishes around the diocese
20	Advent Ember Day	Prayer and Fasting for Eucharistic Revival
22	Advent Ember Day	Prayer and Fasting for Eucharistic Revival
23	Advent Ember Day	Prayer and Fasting for Eucharistic Revival

December 2023		
24	Fourth Sunday of Advent	
24	Vigil for the Nativity of the Lord	<i>Note: Vigil Masses are <u>not</u> to be celebrated before 4:00 PM.</i>
25	The Nativity of the Lord	Solemnity
	Octave of Christmas	
31	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	Feast <i>All Masses celebrated on this day are of the Holy Family. Evening Prayer I is of the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God.</i>

January 2024		
1	Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God; World Day of Peace	Solemnity <i>Note: This is not a Holyday of Obligation this year.</i>
7	The Epiphany of the Lord	Solemnity
8	The Baptism of the Lord	Feast <i>Note: When this Feast occurs on Monday of the First Week in Ordinary Time, the readings assigned to Monday may be joined to those of Tuesday so that the opening of each book will be read.</i>
18-25	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	
20	Mass, Holy Hour, and March for Life	9:30 AM The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
21	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sunday of the Word of God
22	Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of the Unborn	1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Mk 3:1-6 (313) or, for the Day of Prayer, any readings from the <i>Lectionary for Mass Supplement</i> , the Mass "For Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life," nos. 947A-947E, or the <i>Lectionary for Mass</i> (vol. IV), the Mass "For Peace and Justice," nos. 887-891
23	Saint Marianne Cope, Virgin	
28	World Leprosy Day	

February 2024		
2	The Presentation of the Lord World Day for Consecrated Life	Feast
8	International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking	
11	World Day of Prayer for the Sick	

February 2024		
11	World Marriage Day	2:00 PM The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
14	Ash Wednesday	
18	First Sunday of Lent	Rite of Election 2:30 PM The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
21	Lenten Ember Day	Prayer and Fasting for Eucharistic Revival
23	Lenten Ember Day	Prayer and Fasting for Eucharistic Revival
24	Lenten Ember Day	Prayer and Fasting for Eucharistic Revival
25	Second Sunday of Lent	Optional Rite of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion in parishes

March 2024		
3	Third Sunday of Lent	Scrutiny I
10	Fourth Sunday of Lent	Scrutiny II
	Diocesan Lenten Retreat with Bishop Lucia	
16	Mass for the Commemoration of Saint Patrick	10:00 AM The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
17	Fifth Sunday of Lent	Scrutiny III
19	Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Solemnity
24	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord	
25	“The Light is On For You” Campaign	4 PM – 7 PM in parishes around the diocese
26	Chrism Mass	11:00 AM The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
28	Holy Thursday	Thursday of the Lord’s Supper
29	Good Friday	Friday of the Passion of the Lord
30	Holy Saturday / Easter Vigil	<i>May begin at 8 PM or after</i>
31	Easter Sunday	

April 2024		
	Octave of Easter	Each day is a Solemnity
7	Second Sunday of Easter Divine Mercy Sunday	3:00 PM Holy Hour and Devotion The Parish of Divine Mercy and The Mission of Saint Bernadette, Central Square
8	Annunciation	Solemnity
14	Third Sunday of Easter	
21	Fourth Sunday of Easter World Day of Prayer for Vocations	2:30 PM Holy Hour The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
28	Fifth Sunday of Easter	National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for Mariners and People of the Sea

May 2024		
2	Diocesan May Crowning	1:30 PM The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
5	Sixth Sunday of Easter	
9	The Ascension of the Lord	Solemnity Holyday of Obligation
11	Ordination: Permanent Diaconate	10:00 AM The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
12	Seventh Sunday of Easter World Communications Day	
14	Mass for Religious Jubilarians	4:00 PM Immaculate Conception, Fayetteville
18	Ordination: Transitional Diaconate	10:00 AM Saint Patrick, Binghamton
24	World Day of Prayer for the Church in China	
19	Pentecost	Solemnity
22	Summer Ember Day	Prayer and Fasting for Eucharistic Revival
24	Summer Ember Day	Prayer and Fasting for Eucharistic Revival
25	Summer Ember Day	Prayer and Fasting for Eucharistic Revival
26	The Most Holy Trinity	Solemnity

June 2024		
1	Ordination: Priesthood	10:00 AM The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
2	The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ	Solemnity
	Mass for Priest Jubilarians	4:00 PM The Church of the Immaculate Conception, Fayetteville
4	Anniversary of the appointment of Bishop Lucia (2019)	
7	The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests	Solemnity
8	The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Memorial
22- 29	Religious Freedom Week	
24	The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist	Solemnity <i>All Masses celebrated on Sunday, June 23rd are of the Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Evening Prayer I on Sunday, June 23rd is of the Solemnity of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist.</i>
29	Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles	Solemnity <i>Masses celebrated after 4:00 PM on this day are of the Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Evening Prayer II is of the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul.</i>

July 2024		
14	Sea Sunday	
	Natural Family Planning Awareness Week	
28	World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly	

August 2024		
8	Anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination and Installation of Bishop Lucia (2019)	
15	The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Solemnity Holyday of Obligation

September 2024		
1	World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation	
14	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross	Feast
15	Catechetical Sunday	
18	Autumn Ember Day	Prayer and Fasting for Eucharistic Revival
20	Autumn Ember Day	Prayer and Fasting for Eucharistic Revival
21	Autumn Ember Day	Prayer and Fasting for Eucharistic Revival
25	Anniversary of the Dedication of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception (1910)	Feast; A Mass "On the Anniversary of the Dedication of a Church Outside the Church that was Dedicated" from the Common may be celebrated
27	World Tourism Day	
29	World Day of Migrants and Refugees	

October 2024		
6	Respect Life Sunday	
7	Our Lady of the Rosary	Memorial
16	World Food Day	
19	Saints John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues, Priests, and Companions, Martyrs	Memorial
20	World Mission Sunday	

November 2024		
1	All Saints	Solemnity Holyday of Obligation
2	The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)	<i>Masses celebrated after 4:00 PM on this day are of the Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time.</i>
17	World Day of Prayer for the Poor	
24	Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe	Solemnity
28	Thanksgiving Day	Rv 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a/Lk 21:20-28 (506) or, for Thanksgiving Day, any readings from the <i>Lectionary for Mass</i> (vol. IV), the Mass "In Thanksgiving to God," nos. 943-947

December 2024		
1	First Sunday of Advent	Year C – Weekdays I
9	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Solemnity <i>Note: This is not a Holyday of Obligation this year.</i>

Parish Celebrations		
Date	Parish Patronal Feast Day	This is celebrated as a Solemnity in each local parish. It may be celebrated on the day itself or, for pastoral reasons, transferred to the nearest Sunday (only Sundays in Ordinary Time)
Date	Anniversary of the Dedication of the Parish Church	This is celebrated as a Solemnity in each local parish church. It may be celebrated on the day itself or, for pastoral reasons, transferred to the nearest Sunday (only Sundays in Ordinary Time)

SUMMARY

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION 2023-2024:

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (8 December 2023)
The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (25 December 2023)
The Solemnity of the Ascension (9 May 2024)
The Solemnity of the Assumption (15 August 2024)
The Solemnity of All Saints (1 November 2024)

DIOCESAN LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS:

Diocesan Altar Server Celebration (1 October 2023)
Women’s Conference (11 November 2023)
Youth Rally (18 November 2023)
Immaculata Awards (10 December 2023)
The Light is On for You (18 December 2023)
Mass, Holy Hour, and March for Life (20 January 2024)
World Marriage Day (11 February 2024)
Rite of Election (18 February 2024)
Lenten Retreat
The Light is On For You (25 March 2024)
Chrism Mass (26 March 2024)
Divine Mercy Sunday (7 April 2024)
Holy Hour for Vocations (21 April 2024)
May Crowning (2 May 2024)
Ordination to the Diaconate (Permanent) (11 May 2024)
Mass for Religious Jubilarians (14 May 2024)
Ordination to the Diaconate (Transitional) (18 May 2024)
Ordination to the Priesthood (1 June 2024)
Mass for Priest Jubilarians
Anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination and Installation of Bishop Lucia (8 August)
Anniversary of the Dedication of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception (25 September)

LECTIONARY AND THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

2024 LECTIONARY CYCLES:

Sunday Cycle	YEAR B	3 December 2023 – 24 November 2024
Weekday Cycle	CYCLE II	9 January – 13 February 2024 20 May – 30 November 2024
Sunday Cycle	YEAR C	1 December 2024 – 23 November 2025

THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

3 December 2023 – 8 January 2024	Advent, Christmas	Volume I
9 January – 13 February 2024	Weeks 1-6, Ordinary Time	Volume III
14 February – 19 May 2024	Lent, Triduum, Easter	Volume II
20 May – 3 August 2024	Weeks 7-17, Ordinary Time	Volume III
4 August – 30 November 2024	Weeks 18-34, Ordinary Time	Volume IV
1 December 2024 – 12 January 2025	Advent, Christmas	Volume I

LITURGICAL SEASONS

ADVENT

“The **official color** for the season of Advent is violet. The use of blue vestments [candles, or banners] is not approved for the United States” (*Ordo*, 1).

Moderation should be observed in all liturgies (including weddings) with regard to the use of the organ and other musical instruments as well as decorating the altar with flowers.

Advent Preface I is used prior to 17 December. However, on Memorials of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the saints the corresponding preface may be used.

Communal celebrations of the Sacrament of Penance according to *Rite II* of the *Rite of Penance* are encouraged. They are not to be scheduled during or in place of “The Light is On For You” campaign. Moreover, these celebrations do not meet the conditions required for the valid reception of general absolution. Therefore, it is not permitted. (Canons 961-962 of the *Code of Canon Law* 1983).

CHRISTMAS

The **traditional Masses of Christmas** (during the Night, at Dawn, and during the Day) should be celebrated at their proper times.

A **Vigil Mass** may be celebrated on 24 December, but **no earlier than 4 PM**. Moreover, the number of vigil Masses celebrated should not serve as a substitute for encouraging the faithful to attend Mass on Christmas – 25 December.

Priests who (con-)celebrate the three traditional Masses may accept three Mass offerings (c. 951 §1).

Any **set of readings** from the Christmas Masses may be used according to the pastoral needs of each celebration (*Ordo*, 19).

Christmas pageants or Nativity plays should not take the place of the proclamation of the Gospel. “Care should be taken not to give the impression that the liturgy of the word is a play...” (*Lectionary for Masses with Children*, 52). Christmas is about the fact that Christ is born for us *today* (*Hodie, Christus natus est*). The celebration of the liturgy is to reflect this and, more importantly, draw those who are gathered to participate fully, actively, and consciously in the mystery of Christ present and active (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 41). What may be a suitable introduction to the Christmas Eve liturgy is the *Posada* – where the Holy Family seeks a place to dwell. The rite may precede the entrance procession. A copy of it will be included in the Advent – Christmas liturgical update.

ORDINARY TIME

“No particular aspect of the mystery of Christ is celebrated, but rather the mystery of Christ itself is honored in its fullness, especially on Sundays” (*Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the Calendar*, 43).

Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ – “The annual procession on the feast of *Corpus Christi*, or on an appropriate day near this feast, is desirable, in accordance with the law, when circumstances permit and when it can truly be a sign of common faith and adoration” (*Ordo*, 153).

LENT

Apart from the Fourth Sunday of Lent (i.e., *Laetare Sunday*), the altar should not be decorated with **flowers and musical instruments** should only be used to support singing.

The celebration of the **Sacrament of Matrimony** during this time should respect the austere nature of this liturgical season.

“**Lenten weekdays** are not commemorated on Solemnities and Feasts...All **Memorials of saints** occurring during Lent are observed as optional. Hence, they may be omitted or observed as commemorations” (*Ordo*, 67, 265). Accordingly, during the **Office of Readings** the proper reading may follow the patristic text and its responsory and the concluding Collect of the saint may be used. During **Morning and Evening Prayer** the ending of the concluding prayer may be omitted and the saint’s antiphon (from the Proper or Common) and the Collect of the saint may be added. During **Mass** the Collect of the saint may replace the Collect of the day.

Prayers over the People are provided. On weekdays, they are optional and may be used. On Sundays, they are required and must be used. The priest says, “The Lord be with you.” The priest or the deacon (if present) invites the assembly to “Bow down for the blessing.” The priest prays over the people. The priest concludes with, “And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you forever.” The priest or the deacon then dismisses the assembly in the usual way (e.g., “Go forth, the Mass is ended).

Communal celebrations of the Sacrament of Penance according to *Rite II* of the *Rite of Penance* are encouraged near the end of the season of Lent, before the Easter Triduum (not on Monday (The Light is On for You) or Tuesday (ChrisM Mass) of Holy Week or on the days of the Paschal Triduum). These celebrations do not meet the conditions required for the valid reception of general absolution. Therefore, it is not permitted. (Canons 961-962 of the Code of Canon Law 1983). When there is a genuine pastoral need, the Sacrament of Penance may be celebrated on Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

R.C.I.A. – the rite of election, scrutinies, presentation of the Lord’s Prayer and the Creed, and catechesis, serve as the immediate and final preparation for catechumens (not candidates for Confirmation) to receive the Sacraments of Initiation.

On **Ash Wednesday**, the Penitential Act is omitted. The priest says, “The Lord be with you...Let us pray...” Ashes are blessed and imposed after the homily.

On **Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**, three different forms of the commemoration of the Lord’s Entrance into Jerusalem are provided. The form chosen should be followed according to the rubrics in the *Roman Missal*.

THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM

“The **Paschal Fast** should be kept sacred. It is to be celebrated everywhere on Friday of the Lord’s Passion and, where appropriate, prolonged also through Holy Saturday as a way of coming, with spirit uplifted, to the joys of the Lord’s Resurrection” (*Roman Missal*).

The **liturgies of the Triduum** should be prepared with care so that the faithful understand them and are able to participate actively in them. They are not to be staged as “passion plays” (*Lectionary for Masses with Children*, 52).

Funeral Masses are not permitted on Holy Thursday morning or during the days of the Triduum.

Holy Thursday – Masses without a congregation are prohibited on this day. The Mass of the Lord’s Supper is celebrated in the evening. No additional Masses are to be scheduled without the presence of a serious pastoral need and the permission of the local ordinary (*Circular Letter Concerning the Preparation and Celebration of Paschal Feasts*, 47). The feet of some (e.g., 12) men and women – not all present – may be washed by the priest celebrant alone after the homily (Pope Francis, Decree *In Missa in Cena Domini*, 2016). Holy Communion is distributed to the faithful only during Mass, but may be brought to the sick at any hour of the day.

Good Friday – “The celebration of the Lord’s Passion is to take place in the afternoon, at about three o’clock. For pastoral reasons, an appropriate time will be chosen in order to allow the people to assemble more easily, for example, shortly after midday or in the late evening, however, not later than nine o’clock” (*Circular Letter*, 78). For pastoral needs, the diocesan bishop may permit a parish or other community to celebrate an additional Celebration of the Passion of the Lord. Only a priest is permitted to celebrate this liturgy. The Church does not celebrate the Sacraments on this day, except for Penance and Anointing of the Sick.

Holy Saturday – Holy Communion may only be given on this day as Viaticum.

The Easter Vigil – This is not an anticipated Mass, but a true vigil. It is not to begin before nightfall (8:00 PM) (*Circular Letter*, 78). One celebration in each church is permitted. When the need for multiple Paschal Candles to be blessed arises, the others may be prepared ahead of time and blessed alongside the main Paschal Candle. They may also be prepared and blessed privately. In any case, only one Paschal Candle is used. At least three readings (always including Exodus 14 with its canticle) from the Old Testament should be read and their respective Responsorial psalms sung. The celebration of the sacraments of initiation takes place. The rite of reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church for baptized Christians as well as the completion of initiation for baptized Catholics may take place. However, it is not generally recommended (National Statutes for the Catechumenate, 26, 32-33). In any case, pastors, parochial vicars, and priest chaplains have the faculty, by law, to confirm those seven years or older whom they baptize or those baptized persons whom they receive into the full communion of the Catholic Church. They also are delegated to confirm baptized Catholics 16 years of age or older who are uncatechized at the Easter Vigil. In these circumstances, the priest celebrant alone is to celebrate the sacraments of initiation in their entirety. Accordingly, deacons are not to baptize those whom the priest confirms.

Easter Sunday – the rite of the renewal of baptismal promises, used at the Easter Vigil, may take the place of the Creed after the homily.

EASTER

Octave – each liturgy celebrated during the Octave of Easter concludes with a double alleluia. The sequence, *Victimae Paschali* is obligatory at Mass on Easter Sunday, but optional during the other days of the octave. Easter Preface I is used (“on this day”).

The **Paschal Candle** remains in the sanctuary near the altar or ambo through Vespers on Pentecost Sunday.

The **Regina Coeli** takes the place of the *Angelus*.

The period of time **after the Ascension through the Saturday before Pentecost** is a time of preparation for the coming of the Holy Spirit (via novenas, singing the *Veni Creator Spiritus*, etc.).

The Easter season ends with the conclusion of Vespers on Pentecost.

PENTECOST

During Mass on Pentecost, pastors, parochial vicars, and priest chaplains are delegated to confirm baptized Catholics 16 years of age or older who are uncatechized.

MEMORIALS

RECENT ADDITIONS AND CHANGES TO THE UNIVERSAL CALENDAR AND THE UNITED STATES PROPER CALENDAR

Optional Memorial of Saint Gregory of Narek (27 February)

Optional Memorial of Saint John of Avila (10 May)

Optional Memorial of Saint Paul VI (29 May)

Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church (Monday after Pentecost)

Obligatory Memorial of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha (14 July)

Feast of Saint Mary Magdalene (22 July)

Memorial of Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus (29 July)

Optional Memorial of Saint Hildegard of Bingen (17 September)

Optional Memorial of Saint Faustina Kowalska (5 October)

Optional Memorial of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos (5 October)

Optional Memorial of Saint John XXIII (11 October)

Optional Memorial of Saint John Paul II (22 October)

Optional Memorial of Our Lady of Loreto (10 December)

Prayer texts and readings may be found at:

<https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year-and-calendar>

and in the liturgical year updates sent from the Office of Liturgy and the R.C.I.A.

SAINT MARIANNE COPE

Roman Missal – from the Common of Virgins: For One Virgin, or from the Common of Holy Men and Women: For Those Who Practiced Works of Mercy. **Collect:** *O God, who called us to serve your Son in the least of our brothers and sisters, grant, we pray, that by the example and intercession of the Virgin Saint Marianne Cope, we may burn with love for you and for those who suffer. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son...*

Lectionary – aside from the usual Mass readings of the day, any Lectionary readings from the Common of Virgins or the Common of Holy Men and Women: For Those Who Worked for the Underprivileged may be used for St. Marianne Cope (see Lectionary for Mass Supplement, no. 517A).

Office of Readings – Second Reading: From an address of Pope Benedict XVI (May 16, 2005: *Insegnamenti di Benedetto XVI*, I [2005], 111-112). Available at: <http://www.usccb.org/about/divine-worship/liturgical-calendar/saint-marianne-cope.cfm>

MASSES IN HONOR OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Outside Advent, Christmas Time, Lent, and Easter Time, 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 celebrated. This is indicated in the calendar by “BVM.” The readings and prayers may be selected from the *Collection of Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary*.

REMINDERS

VIGIL MASSES

The proper Vigil Masses for the Epiphany, the Ascension, and Pentecost are to be celebrated when Mass is offered in the evening on the day before these solemnities.

DAYS OF FAST AND ABSTINENCE

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence.

DISPENSATIONS

For a just cause, presbyters, who are pastors, can dispense their subjects as well as any visitors within their boundaries from the obligation to observe a feast day, for example, Sunday or a holy day of obligation. They can also dispense them from the obligation to observe a day of penance, for example, fasting and abstaining on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday and abstaining on Fridays during Lent. Or, they can commute these obligations to other pious works (c. 1245).

SACRAMENTS AND OTHER ACTS OF DIVINE WORSHIP

CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENTS WITHIN MASS

On certain days, namely, those listed below, *the Mass of the Day must be celebrated*. Consequently, the prayers, readings, and color of the day are to be used. The celebration of other sacraments (e.g. Confirmation, Marriage), when permitted, may take place according to the prescribed ritual after the homily.

Sundays of Advent	Holy Thursday	Sundays of Easter
The Nativity of the Lord	Good Friday	The Ascension
The Epiphany	Easter Vigil	Pentecost
Sundays of Lent	Easter Sunday	Holydays of Obligation

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

The **RCIA process** is the normative way that one is prepared to celebrate the sacraments of initiation. For any other process (e.g., private instructions) a dispensation from the Bishop is needed.

The **Rite of Election** will take place for catechumens on Sunday, 6 March at 2:30 PM at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The **Rite of Sending** of the Catechumens for Election may be celebrated in parishes.

The **Rite of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion** may be celebrated by the pastor of the parish in communities where there are no catechumens with baptized but previously uncatechized adults who wish to complete their Christian initiation or with those who wish to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church.

The **scrutinies** are to be celebrated for Catechumens on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent in order to complete the conversion of the elect and deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ” (RCIA, 141).

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

“First Communion should always be **administered by a priest** and never outside the celebration of Mass” (*Redemptionis Sacramentum*, 87).

“It is appropriate that children receive their First Communion on one or other of the **Sundays of Easter**” (*Circular Letter Concerning the Preparation and Celebration of the Paschal Feasts*, 103).

“Apart from exceptional cases, it is **not particularly appropriate** for First Communion to be administered on **Holy Thursday of the Lord’s Supper**. Another day should be chosen instead, such as a Sunday between the Second and Sixth Sunday of Easter, or the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, or the Sundays of Ordinary Time, since **Sunday is rightly regarded as the day of the Eucharist**” (*Redemptionis Sacramentum*, 87).

WEDDINGS

The role of the deacon at a wedding that takes place during Mass is to assist the priest in the usual manner (e.g., proclaim the Gospel). Deacons should not act as the official witness for the Church by receiving the couple's consent (FDLC, <i>Presiding at the Wedding Liturgy: A Guide for Deacons</i> , 69).
The Sacrament of Matrimony may be celebrated on any day of the liturgical year except on Good Friday and Holy Saturday.
When weddings are celebrated at Masses on Sundays in Ordinary Time , one Scripture reading that explicitly speaks of marriage may be taken from <i>The Order of Celebrating Matrimony</i> (OCM 144-187; cf. <i>Lectionary for Mass, Volume IV</i> , nos. 801-805) and the Nuptial Blessing is added.
The character of the liturgical season governs the celebration of marriage (e.g., the penitential nature of Lent; OCM 32).
The Ritual Mass "For the Celebration of Marriage" impacts various elements of the liturgical season (e.g., the Gloria is sung/said and white vestments are used for a wedding on a weekday in Advent).

The Ritual Mass "For the Celebration of Marriage" is NOT PERMITTED on the following days. The celebration of the Sacrament of Matrimony, however, may take place within Mass when it is permitted. The prayers and readings must be from the liturgical day (except one reading from Matrimony when permitted).	
Sundays of Advent	Weekdays within the Octave of Easter
The Immaculate Conception	Sundays of Easter
The Nativity of the Lord	The Ascension
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God	Pentecost
The Epiphany	The Most Holy Trinity
Ash Wednesday	The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
Sundays of Lent	The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
Solemnity of Saint Joseph	The Nativity of John the Baptist
The Annunciation	The Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul
Palm Sunday	The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Weekdays of Holy Week	All Saints
Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday	Commemoration of the Faithful Departed (All Souls)
Easter Sunday	Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

FUNERAL MASSES

Whenever a funeral Mass is celebrated, the readings and prayers of the Funeral Mass must be used. On certain days, namely, those listed below, funeral Masses are NOT PERMITTED . Funeral rites outside of Mass, however, may take place in cases of necessity.		
Sundays of Advent	Good Friday	The Ascension
The Nativity of the Lord	Easter Vigil	Pentecost
Sundays of Lent	Easter Sunday	Holydays <i>of Obligation</i> *
Holy Thursday	Sundays of Easter	

*When there is no obligation to attend Mass on a Holyday, a funeral Mass may be permitted.

SUNDAY CELEBRATION IN THE ABSENCE OF A PRIEST

“In circumstances in which there is **no reasonable opportunity** to provide for the celebration of Mass, **local bishops may judge** it necessary to provide for other Sunday celebrations in the absence of a priest” (*Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest*, 10). Such celebrations may only take place if, “in the judgement of the diocesan bishop, it is not practical or possible for the community to participate in the celebration of Mass in a church nearby (Ibid., 14). Accordingly, these celebrations are **not to be scheduled** without the permission of the bishop.

January 23
SAINT MARIANNE COPE, VIRGIN

From the Common of Holy Men and Women: For Those Who Practiced Works of Mercy

Entrance Antiphon

Come, you blessed of my Father, says the Lord:
I was sick and you visited me.
Amen, I say to you: Whatever you did
for one of the least of my brethren you did it for me.

Cf. Mt 24:34, 36, 40

COLLECT

**O God, who called us to serve your Son
in the least of our brothers and sisters,
grant, we pray, that by the example and intercession
of the Virgin Saint Marianne Cope,
we may burn with love for you and for those who suffer.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.**

**PRAYER OVER
THE OFFERINGS**

**Receive, O Lord, the offerings of your people,
and grant that we, who celebrate
your Son's work of boundless charity,
may, by the example of blessed Marianne Cope,
be confirmed in love of you and of our neighbor.
Through Christ our Lord.**

Preface of Holy Virgins and Religious

Communion Antiphon

This is how all will know that you are my disciples:
if you have love for one another, says the Lord.

Cf. Jn 13:35

**PRAYER AFTER
COMMUNION**

**Grant, we pray, O Lord,
that we, who are renewed by these sacred mysteries,
may follow the example of blessed Marianne Cope
who honored you with tireless devotion
and, by surpassing charity, was of service to your people.
Through Christ our Lord.**

January 23
SAINT MARIANNE COPE
Liturgy of the Hours: from the Common of Virgins

Second Reading

From an address of Pope Benedict XVI

(May 16, 2005: Insegnamenti di Benedetto XVI, I [2005], 111-112)

Witness to sacrificial love

It is with great joy that I welcome you to Rome, dear brothers and sisters, for the Beatification of Mother Marianne Cope. I know that your participation in Saturday's solemn liturgy, so significant for the universal Church, will have been a source of renewed grace and commitment to the exercise of charity which marks the life of every Christian.

Marianne Cope's life was one of profound faith and love which bore fruit in a missionary spirit of immense hope and trust. In 1862 she entered the Congregation of the Franciscan Sisters of Syracuse where she imbibed the particular spirituality of St. Francis of Assisi, dedicating herself wholeheartedly to spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Her own experience of consecrated life saw an extraordinary apostolate unfold, adorned with heroic virtue.

As is well known, while Mother Marianne was Superior General of her Congregation, the then-Bishop of Honolulu invited the Order to come to Hawaii and work among the lepers. Leprosy was spreading rapidly and causing unspeakable suffering and misery among the afflicted. Fifty other Congregations received the same plea for assistance, but only Mother Marianne, in the name of her Sisters, responded positively.

True to the charism of the Order and in imitation of St. Francis, who had embraced lepers, Mother Marianne volunteered herself for the mission with a trusting, "Yes!" And for 35 years, until her death in 1918, our new Blessed dedicated her life to the love and service of lepers on the islands of Maui and Molokai.

Undoubtedly the generosity of Mother Marianne was, humanly speaking, exemplary. Good intentions and selflessness alone, however, do not adequately explain her vocation. It is only the perspective of faith which enables us to understand her witness—as a Christian and as a Religious—to that sacrificial love which reaches its fullness in Jesus Christ. All that she achieved was inspired by her personal love of the Lord, which she in turn expressed through her love of those abandoned and rejected by society in a most wretched way.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us today be inspired by Bl. Marianne Cope to renew our commitment to walk the path of holiness.

May the Virgin Mary obtain for us the gift of continual fidelity to the Gospel. May she help us to follow the example of the new Blesseds and to strive tirelessly towards holiness.

Responsory

I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me,
ill and you cared for me.

—Amen, I say to you: whatever you did for one of the least of my brethren,
you did it for me.

This is my commandment:
love one another as I love you.

—Amen, I say to you...

Prayer

O God, who called us to serve your Son
in the least of our brothers and sisters,
grant, we pray, that by the example and intercession
of the Virgin Saint Marianne Cope,
we may burn with love for you and for those who suffer.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.