

Calendar Notes for Advent and Christmas 2018

As of the First Sunday of Advent (Dec. 2, 2018), **The Missal Romano, tercera edición** – the Spanish translation of the Third Edition of the Roman Missal – is the only approved translation for Masses in Spanish. No other translation may be used for Masses in Spanish.

In 2018, the Solemnity of the **Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary** is Saturday, Dec. 8. Among other things, this is the National Patronal feast, and thus is a Holy Day of Obligation no matter on what day of the week it falls.

Please Note: Masses during the day on Dec. 8 are for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. However, Masses on Saturday evening are to be the anticipatory Masses for the 2nd Sunday of Advent since the Sundays of Advent take precedence over the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

Please Note: Participating in Mass on Saturday evening, Dec. 8 does not fulfill both the obligation for the Solemnity and the Sunday obligation.

Vigil Masses for Christmas: The *General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar* note that the “liturgical day runs from midnight to midnight, but the observance of Sunday and solemnities begins with the evening of the preceding day” (No.3). Based upon this norm, the policies of the Archdiocese of Chicago note that “the time for the vigil liturgy is ordinarily between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m., but not earlier than 4 p.m.” (202.7, Book IV, Archdiocesan Policies and Procedures, *The Sanctifying Office of the Church*). Observance of this policy is necessary not only for the liceity of the Mass, but also to maintain the integrity of the Feast of Christmas itself. Requests for permission to celebrate an earlier anticipatory Mass should be directed to your Episcopal Vicar.

The **Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph** will be observed on Sunday, Dec. 30 and the **Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God** on Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2019. The **Solemnity of Epiphany** is celebrated on Sunday, Jan. 6, 2019; remember that the Roman Missal includes a proper for the *Vigil Mass of Epiphany*.

The season of Christmas closes with the **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord** on Sunday, Jan. 13, and Ordinary Time resumes on Monday, Jan. 14. The following Sunday, Jan. 20, is the *Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*.

The Book of Blessings

During the last weeks of this Calendar Year, and the first weeks of the new Liturgical Year, there are various liturgical celebrations that would enhance the

liturgical life of the parish. Consider celebrating these occasional rites either during Mass or in other parish settings (catechetical gatherings, parish meetings, etc.).

Some Orders of blessing that might be used include:

*The Order for Blessing of Food on Thanksgiving Day

*The Order of Blessing an Advent Wreath may be used within or outside of Mass.

Most parishes bless the Advent wreath on the first Mass of the First Sunday of Advent. However, consider inviting families to bring their advent wreaths from home and use this order for blessing either within Mass or after all the Masses.

*The Order for Blessing a Christmas Manger or Nativity Scene,

*The Order for Blessing a Christmas Tree

*The Order for the Blessing of Homes During the Christmas or Easter Seasons may all be used during the Christmas Season.