

## Calendar Notes for Advent and Christmas 2022

In 2022, the Solemnity of the **Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary** is Thursday, December 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.

The **Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe** is celebrated on Monday, December 12. Because the liturgy for the third Sunday of Advent takes precedence over other celebrations, Masses and Readings on the evening of December 11 are to be for the third Sunday of Advent. Certainly, Guadalupe can figure into the hymns, preaching, intercessions and environment of the church for these days.

### **Saturday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)**

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 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm, but not earlier than 4:00 p.m.” Please consult your Episcopal Vicar in regard to Christmas Eve Masses earlier than 4:00pm.

Because there is no Sunday, this year, between the Solemnity of Christmas and the Octave Day of January 1, the **Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph** will be observed on Friday the 30<sup>th</sup> of December.

The **Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God** is Sunday, January 1, 2023.

The **Solemnity of Epiphany** is celebrated on Sunday, January 8, 2023; remember that the Roman Missal includes a new proper for the *Vigil Mass of Epiphany*.

The season of Christmas closes with the **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord** on Monday, January 9, and Ordinary Time resumes on Tuesday, January 10. The following Sunday, January 15, 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 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.

