

Some Liturgical Dates and Notes for the Liturgical Year 2012 (Nov. 27, 2011 through Dec. 1, 2012)

November 27 (Sunday): First Sunday of Advent.

December 8 (Thursday): The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Holy Day of Obligation.

December 25 (Sunday): Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord. Holy Day of Obligation.

January 1 (Sunday): Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God.

January 18-25: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

January 23 (Monday): *NB: Transferred from January 22.* To be observed as a day of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion, and of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life. The Mass "For Peace and Justice" (n. 22 of the "Masses for Various Needs") should be celebrated with violet vestments as an appropriate liturgical observance for this day. (See GIRM, n.373)

February 2 (Thursday): World Day for Consecrated Life.

February 11 (Saturday): World Day of the Sick.

February 22: Ash Wednesday. Catholics who have celebrated their 14th birthday are to abstain from meat on this day; also, those who have celebrated their 18th birthday, until they celebrate their 59th birthday, are to fast (to fast means eating only one full meal, and, if necessary, two smaller meals to maintain strength according to one's needs; eating solid foods between meals is not permitted).

February 26 (Sunday): Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, Cathedral of St. Joseph, 3:00 p.m.

March 2 (Friday): Day of Prayer and Penance for Diocesan and Universal Church needs. (Note: this observance is the Friday of the first week of Lent, not Friday after Ash Wednesday.)

March 26 (Monday): *NB: Transferred from March 25.* Sol. of the Annunciation. (Not a Holy Day of Obligation.)

April 3 (Tuesday): Chrism Mass, 10:30 a.m., Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman.

April 7 (Saturday): Easter Vigil. Sunset in La Crosse on Saturday, April 7 is to be at 7:40 p.m. So that the vigil may begin in darkness, 8:00 should be the earliest beginning time for the vigil, while 8:30 is ideal.

April 29 (Sunday): World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

May 1 (Tuesday): Saint Joseph the Worker, principal patron of the Diocese. The proper Mass for this solemnity, with its proper orations and readings, the *Gloria*, Creed, and the Preface of St. Joseph, is to be celebrated throughout the Diocese on this day. In the Liturgy of the Hours, the *Te Deum* is said in the Office of Readings. Proper psalms and readings are taken, where lacking, from the Office for the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Husband of Mary, on March 19.

May 7 (Monday): Feast of the Anniversary of the Dedication of the Cathedral, observed throughout the Diocese outside of the Cathedral as a feast (See *General Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar*, Table of Liturgical Days, II.8.b). The orations and readings for the Mass are taken from the Common of the Dedication of a Church. The *Gloria* is recited and the *Te Deum* is said in the Office of Readings. White vestments are worn.

May 20 (Sunday): Solemnity of the Ascension. The bishops of the ecclesiastical province of Milwaukee have transferred the Solemnity of the Ascension to the Seventh Sunday of Easter. Consequently, the Solemnity of the Ascension will be celebrated this year on Sunday, May 20, using the liturgical texts proper to the Ascension; Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter (May 17) is celebrated as an Easter weekday.

August 5 (Sunday): Peace Day, Diocese of La Crosse.

August 15 (Wednesday): Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Holy Day of Obligation.

September 26 (Wednesday): Rural Life Day, day of thanksgiving for blessings received. Prayer texts from *The Mass for Various Needs and Occasions: After the Harvest* (n.27) can be used with the Preface for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (P33). The readings may be taken from *After the Harvest* in the Lectionary (n.20), numbers 917-921. The *Gloria* also ought to be said.

October 4 (Thursday): Saint Francis of Assisi, secondary patron of the Diocese, celebrated as a Memorial.

October 7: Respect Life Sunday.

October 14: Vocation Awareness Sunday.

October 21: World Mission Sunday.

November 1 (Thursday): Solemnity of All Saints; Holy Day of Obligation.

Also...

- The title of a parish church is celebrated with the rank of solemnity. (See *General Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar*, Table of Liturgical Days, I.4.c)
- The anniversary of a church's dedication is celebrated with the rank of a solemnity. (See *Rite for the Dedication of a Church*, n.27; *General Norms for the Liturgical Year...*, Table of Liturgical Days, I.4.b)
- An annual celebration of Eucharistic adoration over a number of days is encouraged in every parish. (See Legislation of the Fifth Diocesan Synod, n.115)

Christopher Carstens, Director Office of Sacred Worship PO Box 4004 La Crosse, WI 54602 Phone: 608.791.2674 worship@dioceseoflacrosse.com
