



ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE

OFFICE OF LITURGY

Year of Grace Liturgical Calendar Diocese of Syracuse 2019-2020

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 Father Seibt in the Office of Liturgy (315-470-1420; cseibt@syrdio.org)

Table of Liturgical Days

December 2019		
1	First Sunday of Advent	
8	Second Sunday of Advent	Immaculata Awards: 2:30 PM at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
9	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Solemnity; <i>Transferred</i> ; NOT a Holyday of Obligation this year
10	Feast of Our Lady of Loreto	<i>New Optional Memorial</i> ; See below
16	“The Light is On For You” Campaign	4 PM – 7 PM in parishes around the diocese
25	Christmas	Solemnity; Holyday of Obligation
	Octave of Christmas	

January 2020		
1	Solemnity of Mary, the Most Holy Mother of God; World Day of Peace	Holyday of Obligation
5	The Epiphany of the Lord	
12	The Baptism of the Lord	
18- 25	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	
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	See below
26	Sunday of the Word of God; World Leprosy Day	



February 2020		
2	The Presentation of the Lord; World Day for Consecrated Life	Feast Note: The Blessing of Candles and the Procession is to take place according to the rubrics provided in the <i>Roman Missal</i>
8	International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking	
11	World Day of Prayer for the Sick	
16	World Marriage Day	2:30 PM at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
26	Ash Wednesday	

March 2020		
1	First Sunday of Lent	Rite of Election: 2:30 PM at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
15	Third Sunday of Lent	Scrutiny I
17	Saint Patrick	Commemoration
19	Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Solemnity
22	Fourth Sunday of Lent	Scrutiny II
25	Annunciation of the Lord	Solemnity
29	Fifth Sunday of Lent	Scrutiny III

April 2020		
5	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord	
6	“The Light is On For You” Campaign	4 PM – 7 PM in parishes around the diocese
7	Chrism Mass	7:00 PM at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
9	Holy Thursday	
10	Good Friday	
11	Holy Saturday / Easter Vigil	May begin at 8 PM or after
12	Easter Sunday	
	Octave of Easter	Each day is a Solemnity
18	Ordination: Transitional Diaconate	10:00 AM at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
25	Ordination: Permanent Diaconate	10:00 AM at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

May 2020		
3	World Day of Prayer for Vocations	
21	The Ascension of the Lord; World Communications Day; Day of Prayer for the Church in China	Solemnity; Holyday of Obligation
31	Pentecost	Solemnity

June 2020		
1	The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church	Memorial; the Memorial of Saint Justin, Martyr, is omitted; see USCCB.org/motherofthechurch
4	Anniversary of the Appointment of Bishop Lucia (2019)	
6	Ordination: Priesthood	10:00 AM at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
7	The Most Holy Trinity	Solemnity
14	The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ	Solemnity
19	The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus	Solemnity
20	The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Memorial
24	The Nativity of John the Baptist	Solemnity
29	Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles	Solemnity

July 2020		
4	Independence Day	Am 9:11-15/Mt 9:14-17 (382) or, for Independence Day, any readings from the Lectionary for Mass (vol. IV), the Mass “For the Country or a City,” nos. 882-886, or “For Peace and Justice,” nos. 887- 891
14	Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin	Memorial

August 2020		
6	The Transfiguration of the Lord	Feast
8	Anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination and Installation of Bishop Lucia (2019)	A Mass “For the Bishop” (no. 3 of the Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions) may be celebrated
15	The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Solemnity; <i>Not</i> a Holyday of Obligation this year
22	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Memorial
29	The Passion of Saint John the Baptist	Memorial

September 2020		
1	World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation	
8	The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Feast
13- 20	52 nd International Eucharistic Congress (Budapest, Hungary)	
14	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross	Feast
15	Our Lady of Sorrows	Memorial
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 Day of Migrants and Refugees; World Tourism Day	
29	Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels	Feast

October 2020		
2	The Holy Guardian Angels	Memorial
7	Our Lady of the Rosary	Memorial
18	World Mission Sunday	
19	Saints John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues, Priests, and Companions, Martyrs	Memorial

November 2020		
1	All Saints	Solemnity; Holyday; Obligation fulfilled via attendance at Sunday Mass
2	The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls’ Day)	
9	The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica	Feast
15	World Day of the Poor	
21	The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Memorial
22	Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe	Solemnity
26	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 2020		
29	First Sunday of Advent	
8	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Solemnity; Holyday of Obligation

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 2019-2020:

Christmas (25 December 2019)
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (1 January 2020)
The Ascension (21 May 2020)
All Saints' Day (1 November 2020)
Immaculate Conception (8 December 2020)

DIOCESAN LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS:

Immaculata Awards (8 December 2019)
The Light is On for You (16 December 2019)
Memorial of Saint Marianne Cope (23 January 2020)
World Marriage Day (16 February 2020)
Rite of Election (1 March 2020)
The Light is On for You (6 April 2020)
Chrism Mass (7 April 2020)
Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate (18 April 2020)
Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate (25 April 2020)
Ordination to the Priesthood (6 June 2020)
Anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination and Installation of Bishop Lucia (8 August 2020)
Anniversary of the Dedication of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception (25 September 2020)

LECTIONARY AND THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

2020 LECTIONARY CYCLES:

Sunday Cycle	YEAR A	1 December 2019 – 22 November 2020
Weekday Cycle	CYCLE II	13 January – 25 February 2020 1 June – 28 November 2020
Sunday Cycle	YEAR B	29 November 2020 – 21 November 2021

THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

1 December 2019 – 12 January 2020	Advent, Christmas	Volume I
13 January – 25 February 2020	Weeks 1-7, Ordinary Time	Volume III
26 February – 31 May 2020	Lent, Triduum, Easter	Volume II
1 June – 1 August 2020	Weeks 9-17, Ordinary Time	Volume III
2 August – 28 November 2020	Weeks 18-34, Ordinary Time	Volume IV
29 November 2020 – 10 January 2021	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 within Mass are NOT PERMITTED. “The Mass is not a historical reenactment of the events of salvation history and care should be taken not to give the impression that the liturgy of the word is a play...[Moreover,] the Christmas Mass should not be presented as a **birthday party of Jesus**, nor should secular **notions of Santa Claus** be introduced into the Christmas liturgy” (*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).

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.

LENT (CONTINUED...)

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) 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” (*Lectioary 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.

THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM (CONTINUED...)

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

NEW OPTIONAL MEMORIAL: OUR LADY OF LORETO

In the Decree on the inscription of the celebration of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Loreto in the General Roman Calendar, the Vatican “announced on October 31, 2019, that 10 December will be added to the Roman Calendar as the Feast of Our Lady of Loreto.” This is an *optional memorial* that “will help all people, especially families, youth and religious to imitate the virtues of that perfect disciple of the Gospel, the Virgin Mother, who, in conceiving the Head of the Church also accepted us as her own.” The shrine of the Holy House of Loreto “recalls the mystery of the Incarnation, leading all those who visit it to consider ‘the fullness of time,’ when God sent his Son, born of a woman, as well as to meditate both on the words of the Angel announcing the Good News and on the words of the Virgin in response to the divine call. Overshadowed by the Spirit, the humble handmaid of the Lord so became the dwelling-place of divinity, the purest image of the holy Church.

Interim guidelines: Roman Missal – the Collect prayer for the new celebration is identical to one already found in the Roman Missal, in the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary for Advent (“O God, who, fulfilling the promise made to our Fathers...”). If Our Lady of Loreto is celebrated, the rest of the formulary – Prayer over the Offerings, Preface, Prayer after Communion, and Entrance and Communion Antiphons – can be drawn from the same Mass formulary as the Collect. White vestments are worn.

Interim guidelines: Lectionary – aside from the usual Mass readings of the day, any Lectionary readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary may be used for Our Lady of Loreto. The following readings are also recommended by the Holy See (with citations from nos. 707-712 of the Lectionary for Mass): First Reading – Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10 (no. 707-7); Responsorial Psalm – Luke 1:46-47, 48-49, 50-51, 52-53, 54-55 (no. 709-5); Gospel Acclamation – See Luke 1:28 (no. 711-1); Gospel – Luke 1:26-38 (no. 712-4).

Interim guidelines: The Liturgy of the Hours – psalmody of the day. Other elements are from the Psalter of the day or the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, except for the following prayer: *O God, who, fulfilling the promise made to our Fathers, chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to become the Mother of the Savior, grant that we may follow her example, for her humility was pleasing to you and her obedience profitable to us. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son...*

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).

SAINT MARIANNE COPE (CONTINUED...)

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 is needed.

The **Rite of Election** will take place for catechumens on Sunday, 1 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” (*RCLA*, 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, Presiding at the Wedding Liturgy: A Guide for Deacons*, 69).

When weddings are celebrated at **Masses on Sundays in Ordinary Time**, one Scripture reading that explicitly speaks of marriage may be taken from *The Order of Celebrating Matrimony* (*OCM* 144-187; cf. *Lectionary for Mass, Volume IV*, 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).

WEDDINGS (CONTINUED...)

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.	
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

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” (<i>Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest</i> , 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.
