

**TABLE OF LITURGICAL DAYS
ACCORDING TO THEIR ORDER OF PRECEDENCE AND COLOR
IN THE DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH**
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Praenotanda

The attached “Table of Liturgical Days According to Their Order of Precedence and Color in the Diocese of Pittsburgh” has been approved by Bishop Zubik. The purpose of the Table is to help when planning liturgies, as questions often arise as to what Masses may be celebrated on particular days. Questions about the Table can be addressed to the Department for Worship at either worship@diopitt.org or 412-456-3041.

Section I, **Section II**, and **Section III** are delineations from *The Roman Missal*. “Section I” denotes Solemnities (page 2), “Section II” denotes Feasts (page 3), and “Section III” denotes Memorials (page 5). Please pay attention to the **bolded** commentary spread throughout these three sections.

Numbers 1-10 state that the only celebrations permissible are those of the Day itself. Therefore, if a confirmation, for instance, would take place on these days, it would be “Mass with Ritual” – meaning that the orations, readings, and color are of the day, with the ritual taking place after the homily.

Numbers 11-17 would permit a Funeral Mass to “trump” the Mass of the day. Draw your attention to 17.b.ii. Not many parishes pay attention to the date of the dedication of their current church building. If the date is known, it should be honored.

Numbers 18-25 would let one of the Ritual Masses enumerated “trump” the day. Therefore at the Ritual Mass, the orations, readings, and color (white) are of the Ritual Mass, ignoring the texts of the day. As an example, if February 2 were on a Saturday, at the Mass “For the Celebration of Marriage” one would use the ritual’s proper orations, readings, and color (white).

Numbers 26-32 suggest that for pastoral advantage and at the discretion of the principal celebrant, the forty-nine (49) “Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions” and the nineteen (19) “Votive Masses” enumerated in *The Roman Missal* may “trump” the day. Therefore, the orations and color (usually white) are of the Mass selected, with the readings either from the day or from the appropriate matching section of Volume IV of *The Lectionary* (Ritual, Votive, Commons).

Section I

On these days, only the Mass of the Day is permitted:

1. (UN #1) The Paschal Triduum of the Passion and Resurrection of the Lord:
 - a. Thursday of the Lord's Supper, At the Evening Mass (White)
 - b. Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Red)
 - c. Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord:
 - i. The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night (White)
 - ii. At the Mass during the Day (White)
2. (UN #2) The Nativity of the Lord, December 25, (White)
3. The Epiphany, Sunday, date varies, (White)
4. The Ascension, Thursday, date varies (White)
5. Pentecost, Sunday, date varies (Red)
6. Sundays of Advent (Purple)
7. Sundays of Lent (Purple)
8. Sundays of Easter (White)
9. Solemnities of Precept: (** See also #15 below)
 - a. **Mary, Mother of God, January 1 (White)
 - b. Immaculate Conception, December 8 (White)
 - c. The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (*Corpus Christi*), Sunday, date varies (White)
 - d. **Assumption, August 15 (White)
 - e. **All Saints, November 1 (White)
10. Thursday of Holy Week, The Chrism Mass (White)

On the following days, the Funeral Mass is permitted in addition to the Mass of the Day:

11. Ash Wednesday (Purple)
12. Weekdays of Holy Week (Purple)
13. Days within the Octave of Easter (White)
14. (UN #3) Solemnities inscribed in the General Calendar, whether of the Lord, of the Blessed Virgin Mary, or of Saints.
 - a. St. Joseph, March 19 (White)
 - b. The Annunciation of the Lord, March 25 (White)
 - c. The Most Holy Trinity, Sunday, date varies (White)
 - d. Nativity of St. John the Baptist, June 24 (White)
 - e. Ss. Peter and Paul, June 29 (Red)
 - f. The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, date varies (White)
 - g. Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, date varies (White)
 - h. [Immaculate Conception, December 9 (White)]
15. **Solemnities that fall on a Saturday or Monday:
 - a. Mary, Mother of God, January 1 (White)
 - b. Assumption, August 15 (White)
 - c. All Saints, November 1 (White)
16. The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, November 2 (Purple, White,

Black)

17. (UN #4) Proper Solemnities, namely:
- a. The Solemnity of the principal Patron of the place, city, or state.
 - b. The Solemnity of the dedication and of the anniversary of the dedication of one's own church.
 - i. CATHEDRAL ONLY: October 24 (white)
 - ii. Particular Parish Church.
 - c. The Solemnity of the Title of one's own church.
 - d. The Solemnity either of the Title or of the Founder or of the principal Patron of an Order or Congregation.

Section II

On the following days, in addition to the Funeral Mass and the Mass of the Day, a Ritual Mass may be celebrated:

[Ritual Masses as enumerated in The Roman Missal:

For the Conferral of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation:

For the Conferral of Baptism

For the Conferral of Confirmation

For the Conferral of the Anointing of the Sick

For the Administering of Viaticum

For the Conferral of Holy Orders

For the Celebration of Marriage

For the Blessing of an Abbot or an Abbess

For the Consecration of Virgins

For Religious Procession

For the Institution of Lectors and Acolytes

For the Dedication of a Church and an Altar]

18. (UN #5) Feasts of the Lord inscribed in the General Calendar.
- a. Baptism of the Lord, date varies (White)
 - b. The Presentation of the Lord, February 2 (White)
 - c. The Transfiguration of the Lord, August 6 (White)
 - d. The Exultation of the Holy Cross, September 14 (Red)
 - e. The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica, November 9 (White)
 - f. The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, either Sunday after Christmas or December 30 (White)
19. (UN #6) Sundays of Christmas Time
20. Sundays in Ordinary Time
21. (UN #7) Feasts of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of the Saints in the General Calendar.
- a. Conversion of St. Paul, January 25 (White)
 - b. Chair of St. Peter the Apostle, February 22 (White)
 - c. St. Mark, April 25 (Red)
 - d. Ss. Philip and James, May 3 (Red)
 - e. St. Matthias, May 14 (Red)

- f. The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, May 31 (White)
 - g. St. Thomas, July 3 (Red)
 - h. St. James, July 25 (Red)
 - i. St. Lawrence, August 10 (Red)
 - j. St. Bartholomew, August 24 (Red)
 - k. The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, September 8 (White)
 - l. St. Matthew, September 21 (Red)
 - m. Ss. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, September 29 (White)
 - n. St. Luke, October 18 (Red)
 - o. Ss. Simon and Jude, October 28 (Red)
 - p. St. Andrew, November 30 (Red)
 - q. Our Lady of Guadalupe, December 12 (White)
 - r. St. Stephen, December 26 (Red)
 - s. St. John, December 27 (Red)
 - t. The Holy Innocents, December 28 (Red)
22. (UN #8) Proper Feasts, namely:
- a. The Feast of the principal Patron of the diocese.
 - b. The Feast of the anniversary of the dedication of the cathedral church.
 - i. DIOCESE AT LARGE: St. Paul Cathedral, October 24 (White)
 - c. The Feast of the principal Patron of a region or province, or a country, or of a wider territory.
 - d. The Feast of the Title, Founder, or principal Patron of an Order or Congregation and of a religious province, without prejudice to the prescriptions given below.
 - [The days of the week that follow Sunday are called weekdays; however, they are celebrated differently according to the importance of each.
 - a) Ash Wednesday and the weekdays of Holy Week, from Monday up to and including Thursday, take precedence over all other celebrations.
 - b) The weekdays of Advent from December 17 up to and including December 24 and all the weekdays of Lent have precedence over Obligatory Memorials.
 - c) Other weekdays give way to all Solemnities and Feasts and are combined with Memorials.]
 - e. Other Feasts proper to an individual church.
 - f. Other Feasts inscribed in the Calendar of each diocese or Order or Congregation.
23. (UN #9) Weekdays of Advent from December 17 up to and including December 24 (Purple)
24. Days within the Octave of Christmas (White)
25. Weekdays of Lent (Purple)

Section III

On the following days Masses for Various Needs and Occasions and Votive Masses may supersede the day, at the discretion of the Pastor or principal celebrant:

26. (UN #10) Obligatory Memorials in the General Calendar
27. (UN #11) Proper Obligatory Memorials, namely:
 - a. The Memorial of a secondary Patron of the place, diocese, region, or religious province.
 - b. Other Obligatory Memorials inscribed in the Calendar of each diocese, or Order or congregation.
28. (UN #12) Optional Memorials, which, however, may be celebrated, in the special manner described in the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* and of the Liturgy of the Hours, even on the days listed in no. 22.

In the same manner Obligatory Memorials may be celebrated as Optional Memorials if they happen to fall on Lenten weekdays.
29. (UN #13) Weekdays of Advent up to and including December 16
30. Weekdays of Christmas Time from January 2 until the Saturday after the Epiphany
31. Weekdays of the Easter Time from Monday after the Octave of Easter up to and including the Saturday before Pentecost
32. Weekdays in Ordinary Time

NOTES:

If several celebrations fall on the same day, the one that holds the highest rank according to the Table of Liturgical Days is observed. However, a Solemnity impeded by a liturgical day that takes precedence over it should be transferred to the closest day not listed under nos. 1-21 in the Table of Precedence, provided that what is laid down below is observed.

[Because of its special importance, the celebration of Sunday gives way only to Solemnities and Feasts of the Lord; indeed, the Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Easter have precedence over all Feasts of the Lord and over all Solemnities. In fact, Solemnities occurring on these Sundays are transferred to the following Monday unless they occur on Palm Sunday or on Sunday of the Lord's Resurrection.]

As to the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, whenever it falls on any day of Holy Week, it shall always be transferred to the Monday after the Second Sunday of Easter.

Other celebrations are omitted in that year.

Should on the other hand, Vespers (Evening Prayer) of the current day's Office and First Vespers (Evening Prayer I) of the following day be assigned for celebration on the same day, then Vespers (Evening Prayer) of the celebration with the higher rank in the Table of Liturgical Days takes precedence; in cases of equal rank, Vespers (Evening Prayer) of the current day takes precedence.