



THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO

OFFICE OF WORSHIP

ONE PETER YORKE WAY, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94109 (415) 614-5586

April 23, 2010

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION – 2011

The following solemnities will be observed as Holy Days of Obligation in 2011.

November 1, **All Saints**, (Tuesday)

December 8, **The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary** (Thursday)

December 25, **The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)** (Sunday)

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING POINTS IN THIS REGARD:

1. *January 1, 2011*, the Solemnity of **Mary, the Mother of God**, falls on a Saturday and is not a holy day of obligation. Likewise *August 15, 2011*, the Solemnity of **the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary** falls on a Monday and is not a holy day of obligation. According to the 1992 general decree of the NCCB, the precept to attend Mass is dispensed when these solemnities fall on a Saturday or a Monday.
A complete explanation of the rationale for determining holy days of obligation in the United States is given on the back of this page.
2. The Solemnity of **The Ascension of the Lord** is observed on Sunday, *June 5, 2011* for our Metropolitan Province as approved by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (now USCCB) and confirmed by the Congregation for Bishops.

SPECIAL DAYS OF PRAYER

The following dates have been designated as Special Days of Prayer for the Archdiocese of San Francisco. These are not days of obligation to attend Mass.

- January 1, 2011 **Day of Prayer for World Peace** (*Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God*)
- March 13, 2011 **Day of Prayer for the General Needs of Humankind** (*First Sunday of Lent*)
- September 5, 2011 **Day of Prayer for Human Rights and Labor** (*Labor Day*)
- November 24, 2011 **Day of Prayer for the Fruits of the Earth** (*Thanksgiving Day*)

The faithful of the Archdiocese are asked to observe these Special Days of Prayer in their devotions or other private prayer, in the General Intercessions of the Mass and through the selection of other liturgically proper prayers for the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours.

Holy Days of Obligation

The following brief description of Holy Days of Obligation in the dioceses of the United States of America is designed to provide some clarification.

January 1 (**Mary, the Mother of God**),
August 15 (**the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**),
and November 1 (**All Saints**) are days of obligation only when they fall on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, or Sunday.

The **Ascension** is observed on the Seventh Sunday of Easter for our Metropolitan Province as approved by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and confirmed by the Congregation for Bishops.

December 8 (**Immaculate Conception**) is always a day of obligation, except in years when December 8 falls on Sunday and the solemnity is observed on December 9.

Christmas is always a day of obligation.

Excerpted and adapted from the NCCB Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy Newsletter, Volume XXXII, Sept. 1997.

Weddings and Funerals on Sundays and Solemnities

GIRM #372: Ritual Masses are connected to the celebration of certain Sacraments or Sacramentals. They are prohibited on Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Easter, on solemnities, on the days within the Octave of Easter, on the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day), on Ash Wednesday, and during Holy Week, taking due account of the norms given in the ritual books or in the Masses themselves.

GIRM #374: In cases of serious need or pastoral advantage, at the direction of the diocesan Bishop or with his permission, an appropriate Mass may be celebrated on any day except solemnities, the Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Easter, days within the Octave of Easter, the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day), Ash Wednesday, and Holy Week.

GIRM #380: Among the Masses for the Dead, the Funeral Mass holds first place. It may be celebrated on any day except for solemnities that are holy days of obligation, Holy Thursday, the Easter Triduum, and the Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Easter, with due regard also for all the other requirements of the norm of the law.

#34 of the second edition of the *Ordo Celebrandi Matrimonium* provides that when marriage is celebrated within Mass, the ritual Mass ("Wedding Mass,") is used with white vestments or those of a festive color. (Unofficial translation): "But on the days listed in nos. 1-4 of the table of liturgical days [cf. *General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar*], the Mass of the day is used with its proper readings; the nuptial blessing is given during the Mass and, as circumstances suggest, the proper formulary of the solemn blessing is used. During the season of Christmas and in Ordinary Time, when a marriage is celebrated within Sunday Mass in which the parish community participates, the Mass of the Sunday is used.

"The liturgy of the word designed for the celebration of marriage has great impact on catechesis about the sacrament itself and about inculcating marital duties. When the ritual Mass for Marriage, ("Wedding Mass,") is not used, one of the readings may be taken from the texts provided for the celebration of marriage."