

2018 Liturgical Calendar Reminders for the Diocese of Lexington

The 2018 liturgical year begins on the First Sunday of Advent, December 3, 2017. This resource is not meant to replace the use of the *ordo* but is meant as a supplement. The official documents that guide the arrangement of the Church's liturgical year are the *Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the General Roman Calendar*, and the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*.

Cycles – Lectionary for Mass

Sunday Cycle: YEAR B (December 3, 2017 to November 25, 2018)

Weekday Cycle: Cycle II (January 9, 2018 to February 13, 2018;
May 21, 2018 to December 1, 2018)

Holy Days of Obligation in the United States

<u>Date</u>	<u>Solemnity</u>
December 8	The Immaculate Conception
December 25	The Nativity of the Lord
January 1	Mary, the Holy Mother of God *
May 10, 2018	The Ascension of the Lord **
August 15	The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
November 1	All Saints *

* If these days fall on a Monday or Saturday, it is not a Holy Day of obligation.

** In the Diocese of Lexington, the celebration of the Ascension is always transferred to the Sunday (May 13, 2018), and the Thursday is celebrated as an Easter Weekday.

Regulations for Holy Days

- Gloria and Creed are used; Funeral Masses are not allowed; Ritual Masses are forbidden both for the Holy Day and its Vigil, thus marriages celebrated within Mass must use the Mass of the day with one reading from the Lectionary for the Marriage Ritual Mass which explicitly speaks of marriage (* in the marriage rite) being used. Marriage Rite outside of Mass may be used with no restrictions.

Solemnities and Feasts, Other Special Days

Solemnities are counted among the most important days, whose celebration begins with First Vespers (Evening Prayer I) on the preceding day. Some solemnities are also endowed with their own Vigil Mass, which is to be used on the evening of the preceding day, if evening Mass is celebrated. Feasts are celebrated within the limits of the natural day. For feasts, the Gloria is sung or said; for solemnities, the Gloria and Creed are sung or said.

Friday, December 8, 2017	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of obligation)
Tuesday, December 12, 2017	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Tuesday, December 26, 2017	Feast of St. Stephen, the first Martyr
Wednesday, December 27, 2017	Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
Thursday, December 28, 2017	Feast of the Holy Innocents

Solemnities and Feasts continued

Sunday, December 31, 2017	Feast of the Holy Family (always celebrated on the 1 st Sunday after Christmas)
Monday, January 1, 2018	Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God (NOT a Holy Day of obligation this year)
Sunday, January 7, 2018	Solemnity of the Epiphany
Monday, January 8, 2018	Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
Monday, January 22, 2018	Day of prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children
Thursday, January 25, 2018	Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul
Friday, February 2, 2018	Feast of the Presentation of the Lord
Wednesday, February 14, 2018	Ash Wednesday
Thursday, February 22, 2018	Feast of the Chair of Peter
Friday, March 2, 2018	30 th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Cathedral and of the Establishment of the Diocese of Lexington
Monday, March 19, 2018	Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Sunday, March 25, 2018	Palm Sunday
Tuesday, March 27, 2018	Diocesan Chrism Mass (10:30 am Cathedral of Christ the King)
Wednesday, March 28, 2018	Hold date for Tenebrae at the Cathedral of Christ the King
Thursday, March 29, 2018	Holy Thursday
Friday, March 30, 2018	Good Friday
Saturday, March 31, 2018	Easter Vigil may begin at 8:45 pm in Lexington
Sunday, April 1, 2018	Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
Monday, April 9, 2018	Solemnity of the Annunciation (transferred from Palm Sunday, March 25, 2018)
Thursday, May 3, 2018	Feast of Sts. Philip and James, Apostles
Saturday, May 5, 2018	Third Anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop John Stowe, OFM, Conv.
Sunday, May 13, 2018	Observe Solemnity of Ascension
Monday, May 14, 2018	Feast of St. Matthias, Apostle
Sunday, May 20, 2018	Solemnity of Pentecost
Sunday, May 27, 2018	Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity
Thursday, May 31, 2018	Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Saturday, June 3, 2018	Hold date for ordinations to the Diaconate (10:30 am CTK)
Sunday, June 3, 2018	Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
Friday, June 8, 2018	Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
Sunday, June 24, 2018	Solemnity of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist
Friday, June 29, 2018	Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul
Tuesday, July 3, 2018	Feast of St. Thomas, Apostle
Wednesday, July 25, 2018	Feast of St. James, Apostle
Monday, August 6, 2018	Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord
Wednesday, August 15, 2018	Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy Day of obligation)
Friday, August 24, 2018	Feast of St. Bartholomew, Apostle

Saturday, September 8, 2018	Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Friday, September 14, 2018	Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Friday, September 21, 2018	Feast of St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
Saturday, September 29, 2018	Feast of Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels
Thursday, October 18, 2018	Feast of St. Luke, Evangelist
Thursday, November 1, 2018	Solemnity of All Saints (Holy Day of obligation)
Friday, November 2, 2018	Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed
Friday, November 9, 2018	Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
Sunday, November 25, 2018	Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Titular Feasts and Anniversary of Dedication

The name of a particular church is called their “titular”, and the memorial or feast day of that particular name is celebrated as a solemnity for that particular church only. The same is true of the anniversary date of the church’s dedication. The parish celebrates the Mass of the feast (titular)/one of the Masses for the Anniversary of Dedication found among the Commons in the *Roman Missal*. #58 in the *Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and Calendar* states, “For the pastoral good of the faithful it is permissible to observe on the Sundays in Ordinary Time (*emphasis added*) those celebrations that fall during the week and have special appeal to the devotion of the faithful, provided the celebrations take precedence over these Sundays in the Table of Liturgical Days. The Mass for such celebrations may be used at all the Masses at which a congregation is present.”

Advent

- “Advent has a two-fold character, for it is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ’s Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight.” (*Universal Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Roman Calendar*, 39)
- The four Sundays of Advent are: December 3, 2017, December 10, 2017, December 17, 2017 and December 24, 2017.
- Prior to 17 December, Advent Preface I is used. On Memorials of the BVM and the saints, however, in this or any other season, the corresponding Preface in the *Roman Missal* may be used in place of the weekday or seasonal Preface.
- The use of organ and other musical instruments and the decoration of the altar with flowers should be done in a moderate manner, as is consonant with the character of the season, without anticipating the full joy of Christmas. (*Ceremonial of Bishops*, 236). Parishes should refrain as much as possible from decorating the church for Christmas until after all Masses on the fourth Sunday of Advent.
- The official color for the season of Advent is violet. The use of blue vestments for Advent is not approved for the Dioceses of the United States. Rose vestments may be used on the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday).
- Ritual Masses (ex. for Confirmation and Marriage) are prohibited on Sundays of Advent. (*GIRM* 372)
- The Advent Wreath may be placed in the narthex/gathering area, or in the sanctuary placed so that it does not interfere with the celebration of the liturgy or does not obscure the altar, ambo or presider’s chair. It may be suspended from the ceiling or placed on a stand. See the *Book of Blessings* 1509 –

1540 for the appropriate blessing of the Advent Wreath on the first Sunday of Advent or on the evening before the first Sunday of Advent. On the Second Sunday and succeeding Sundays of Advent the candles are lighted either before Mass begins or immediately before the opening prayer, no additional rites or prayers are used. (BB 1513)

Christmas

- The Christmas Season extends from Evening Prayer I of Christmas through the Baptism of the Lord.
- The Vigil Mass of Christmas is celebrated in the evening (at or after 4 PM) of December 24th. The Christmas Masses During the Night, at Dawn and During the Day each have their own appropriate prayers in the *Roman Missal*.
- The announcement of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ (martyology) may be sung or proclaimed most appropriately on December 24 during the celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours. It may also be chanted or recited before the beginning of Christmas Mass during the Night. (see *Roman Missal, Appendix I* The nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ)
- In the Nicene Creed, at the words “and by the Holy Spirit...became man”, all genuflect at all Masses celebrating the Nativity of the Lord.
- Regarding the Christmas manger or nativity scene (crèche): see *Book of Blessings* 1541 - 1569
 - It may be blessed, according to pastoral circumstances, on the Vigil of Christmas or at another suitable time, during the celebration of the word of God, during Mass or even during another service (ex. a carol service).
 - The manger must not be placed in the presbyterium (sanctuary). A place should be chosen that is suitable for prayer and devotion.
- Since the Mass as celebrated throughout the liturgical year is not a historical reenactment of the events of salvation history, anything that alludes to that (travelling kings, Christmas pageants during the Liturgy of the Word, etc.) should be avoided. Secular notions of Santa Claus should also not be introduced into the Christmas liturgy.
- The *Blessing of Families*, as found in the *Book of Blessings* 62-67 may be adapted and is appropriate on the Feast of the Holy Family Sunday, December 31, 2018.
- The *Announcement of Easter and the Moveable Feasts* may take place on Epiphany Sunday, January 7, 2018. After the Gospel, a Deacon or cantor announces from the ambo the formula found in Appendix I of the *Roman Missal*.
- It is appropriate to use the Sprinkling Rite on the Baptism of the Lord, Monday, January 8, 2018. See *Roman Missal, Appendix II: Rite for the Blessing and Sprinkling of Water*. If this rite is celebrated, it takes the place of the Penitential Act and Kyrie.

Lent and Easter

Lent

- With the exception of the fourth Sunday, and of solemnities and feasts, the altar should not be decorated with flowers, and musical instruments may be played only to give necessary support to the singing. Note that the removal of holy water from the font/stoups is not permitted, since Lent is also a season rich in the symbolism of water and baptism. The Baptismal font/stoups should be emptied after the Mass on Holy Thursday in preparation of the blessing of the water at the Easter Vigil. On the Sundays of Lent, a Prayer Over the People is given for each week to be said as a Solemn Blessing. These are given as optional on the weekdays of Lent.

- Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2018: Day of fast and abstinence. Ashes are blessed and imposed after the homily. Either of the two Eucharistic Prayers for Reconciliation are appropriate for Mass. These may be used with their given Preface, or with the Prefaces of Lent. There is a Prayer Over the People for the Solemn Blessing this day. When circumstances require, the blessing and distribution of ashes may take place apart from Mass, during a celebration of the Word of God (see Book of Blessings #1656 – 1678). The priest or deacon blesses the ashes; extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion may assist in the imposition of ashes if needed. One of the following formulas is used: “Repent and believe in the Gospel”, or “Remember you are dust, and to dust you will return”
- Friday, March 2, 2018 30th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Cathedral and Establishment of the Diocese of Lexington: Solemnity in the Cathedral only (Gloria and Creed); Feast for other parishes in the Diocese (Gloria). Use the Common of the Dedication of a Church (Common I for the Cathedral and Common II for others), and the Preface of Dedication of a Church (I for the Cathedral and II for others). Three readings are chosen from Lectionary #701 – 706.
- February 17/18, 2018 First Sunday of Lent: The Rite of Sending to the Rite of Election/Call to Continuing Conversion may be celebrated. Parishes should not have a Book of the Elect for Catechumens to sign – there is a diocesan book signed at the Rite of Election later on Sunday.
- Sunday, February 18, 2018 Rite of Election/Call to Continuing Conversion 4:00 PM at the Cathedral of Christ the King:
 - The Rite of Election is a mandatory rite for any unbaptized person who has previously celebrated the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens (also a mandatory rite) at the parish, and who expect/are committed to be fully initiated at this year’s Easter Vigil on March 31, 2018. Participants for this rite must be free of all impediments, therefore any marriage issues must have been completely resolved prior to participating in the Rite of Election, since in the rite the Bishop promises them in the name of the Church, initiation at the next Easter Vigil. Godparents must accompany the participating catechumens, who will become the Elect during this rite.
 - The Call to Continuing Conversion is an optional rite for those validly baptized Christians who seek full communion in the Catholic Church (candidates): making a profession of faith and receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and first Eucharist, or for those baptized Catholics who seek to complete their initiation through the reception of Confirmation and first Eucharist, both of whom expect this initiation some time during the 2017 Easter Season. Once again, participants must be free of all impediments and must have the firm commitment to come into full communion in order to participate. Sponsors should accompany the participating candidates.
 - RCIA Coordinators will be contacted in early January as to the names of any participants.
- March 4, March 11 and March 18, 2018: 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of Lent: Scrutinies for the Elect are celebrated: Three scrutinizes are mandatory for the Elect: those unbaptized/formerly called catechumens who are to be baptized, confirmed and receive first Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. **These are to be celebrated on the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent** within the ritual Mass, “Christian Initiation: the Scrutinies” and the readings and chants are those given for these Sundays in the Lectionary for Mass, Year A. When, for pastoral reasons these ritual Masses cannot be celebrated on their proper Sundays, they are celebrated on other Sundays of Lent or even on convenient days during the week, always using the ritual Mass and keeping the given sequence.

Only the Bishop may dispense from one of the Scrutinies (in case of serious obstacles only). The outline of the rite and texts for the Scrutinies may be found in the RCIA #141-146, #150 – 156, #164 – 170, and #171 – 177. The Scrutinies are for the Elect only, and are not celebrated with candidates for full communion.

- March 17/18, 2018 5th Sunday of Lent: In the dioceses of the United States, crosses and images of saints may be covered starting from the first Mass of the fifth Sunday of Lent. Crosses remain covered until the end of the celebration of the Lord's passion on Good Friday, but images remain covered until just before the beginning of the Easter Vigil. (Because of the mention in the Roman Missal of the processional cross being decorated on Palm Sunday and its use in processing to the altar of repose on Holy Thursday, indications are that the processional cross is not veiled.) If not covered at this time, the crosses are to be removed or covered in red or violet after the celebration of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday when the altar is stripped, and no candles should be lit before images of saints. Once again, the crosses are uncovered after the celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday.
- Holy Week :
 - March 24/25, 2018 Palm Sunday: Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance takes one of three forms found in the Roman Missal for Palm Sunday, #2-18.
 - Tuesday, March 27, 2018 Diocesan Chrism Mass 10:30 am at the Cathedral of Christ the King: **All priests are expected to concelebrate and all deacons are invited to vest representing their order.** Vesting is downstairs in the Parish Life Center – bring your Diocesan 25th Anniversary vestments. Procession lines up at 10:20 am. Parishes/missions are invited to have a representative to carry their parish/mission banner as well as have a designee receive the holy oils to be taken back to the parish. More information will be sent via email during Lent. Catholic schools in Lexington will be invited to send students, especially Confirmation candidates.
 - Wednesday, March 28, 2018 Hold date for Diocesan Tenebrae Celebration: Time TBD, held at the cathedral of Christ the King. Tenebrae is a service of prayer and song reflecting on Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for each of us. The word tenebrae itself means "darkness" in reference to the darkness that came upon the earth when the Lord died on the cross and the darkness held in the heart of the church during the days and hours of our Lord's passion, death and resurrection.
 - The Sacred Triduum:
 - Note that once the Mass of the Lord's Supper is celebrated during the Triduum only the Sacraments of the Anointing of the Sick and Penance are allowed until the Easter Vigil. This means any needed convalidations should have taken place prior to this time.
 - March 29, 2018 Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper: No other Mass may be celebrated on Holy Thursday. A reception of the oils may take place before the Mass of the Lord's Supper. The text for this may be found at <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/triduum/reception-of-holy-oils.cfm>. The washing of the feet at this Mass is optional, but per Pope Francis may take place with the priest washing the feet of a representation of the parish: men and women, young and old, healthy and sick, clergy, religious and laity. (see the decree at

http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/ccdds/documents/rc_con_ccdds_doc_20160106_decreto-lavanda-piedi_en.html)

- March 30, 2018 Friday: The Celebration of the Lord's Passion is the central celebration of this day, and normally takes place in the afternoon about 3 pm, but may be celebrated at another time during the day never later than 9 pm. This may not be celebrated by a deacon as the presider. Priest wears stole and chasuble. Any other services should not take the place of nor impede/encourage people from attending the Celebration of the Lord's Passion. (However, the Office of Readings and Morning Prayer are appropriately celebrated with the people. Evening Prayer is celebrated only with those who do not participate in the Celebration of the Lord's Passion.) There are two forms for the showing of the Cross: the cross veiled with a violet cloth is used only in form one where the cross comes from the sacristy and is brought to the center of the sanctuary, where it is unveiled and the acclamation is sung each time. Form two is with the unveiled cross being processed from the church door, stopping at the door, the middle of the church, and before entering the sanctuary for the singing of the acclamation. Only one cross should be used for adoration. The rubrics do not specify that the cross is a crucifix.
- March 31, 2018 Easter Vigil: Start time for the Vigil is 45 minutes after sunset. On Saturday, March 31, 2018 sunset is at 8:01 PM in Lexington (remember we are always on daylight savings time) , therefore the Easter Vigil may begin around 8:45 PM. To check on a particular city's time of sunset, (remember to account for daylight savings if applicable) go to http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/docs/RS_OneYear.html. It is strongly encouraged that parishes do all 7 of the Old Testament readings. There are inserts for EP I. There is a Solemn Blessing and the double alleluia is sung for the dismissal tonight. The Creed is omitted since the people renew their Baptismal Promises. The Easter/Paschal Candle is placed next to the ambo and remains there until after the last Mass on Pentecost. The baptismal water blessed at the Easter Vigil should remain in the font until Pentecost if at all possible.

✓ **Regarding requesting the faculty to confirm at the Easter Vigil:**

- Pastors need only request the faculty to confirm from the Bishop when they are confirming a person previously baptized in the Catholic Church, *but never having received Holy Communion or Confirmation*. (The celebration of Confirmation for a Catholic is always reserved to the Bishop). The request for the faculty to confirm is to be in the form of a letter from the Pastor to the Bishop, stating the name of the person to be confirmed, their place and time of Baptism, and the particular circumstance/story as to why they never received Holy Communion and Confirmation, and stating the specific date of the intended celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation within Mass. This letter should be sent to the Bishop in advance of Holy Week.
- Priests who baptize a person age 7 or older are bound by Canon Law to celebrate Confirmation and Eucharist with them in the same Mass. (Canon Law 885, 2; cf Canon 852, 1 for the age of reason) Since children age 7 or older are entitled by law, they are not to be denied the graces and benefits of these sacraments. In sum, confirmation and first

communion may not licitly be delayed following the baptism of anyone who is age 7 or older and has the use of reason.

- Priests also already possess the faculty and may confirm a person validly baptized in another Christian church. There is no need to request the faculty from the Bishop.
- The Easter Vigil is not the place for celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation with those Catholics who were previously baptized and have received Holy Communion, never leaving the Church but simply have not been confirmed. These candidates for Confirmation may be confirmed with the youth at the normally scheduled Mass with the Bishop for Confirmation in the parish, or at the Cathedral at Pentecost when the Bishop usually confirms adults.
- The Easter Vigil is also not the place for celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation for a Catholic who may have fallen away from the Church, even as a young person after receiving first Eucharist and who has now returned, (ex. Catholics Returning Home). A candidate such as this should be welcomed back to the Church through the Sacrament of Reconciliation and begin participating fully in the life of the Church, then may be prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation, receiving the Sacrament either with the youth at the normally scheduled Mass with the Bishop for Confirmation in the parish, or at the Cathedral at Pentecost when the Bishop usually confirms adults.

Easter

- April 1, 2018 Easter Sunday: The Sequence is sung by the cantor at the ambo before the Gospel Acclamation today. There are inserts for EP I. The double alleluia is sung for the dismissal for all Masses this day. There is an option for the people to renew their Baptismal Promises after the homily; if this option is exercised the Creed is omitted.
- Monday, April 2 – Sunday, April 8: The Octave of Easter: All Masses for these 8 days are treated special. The Gloria is sung. There are inserts for EP I. The double alleluia is sung for the dismissal for all Masses this week, then not again until Pentecost. The Sequence is optional.
- The Easter Season lasts through Pentecost on May 20, 2018: The Easter Candle remains in place near the ambo through Pentecost. The Sprinkling Rite is suggested for use on Sundays during the Easter Season. It takes the place of the Penitential Act and Kyrie. If using the water blessed at the Easter Vigil, the water need not be blessed again. For the sprinkling rite (found in appendix II in the Missal) the priest may simply omit the blessing part of the prayer and begin after it: ex. option 1: “Almighty and ever-living God, (skip to) Renew the living spring of your grace within us...”; Option 2: begin with, “Grant, O Lord, in your mercy,...”; and the option for Easter Time: “Lord our God, in your mercy be present to your people’s prayers, (skip to) For you created water to make the fields fruitful... OR the priest may give an introduction that instructs the people regarding the sprinkling rite and its connection to Baptism, especially at the Easter Season, and omit the text in the *Missal* until after the sprinkling, where the concluding text is spoken as in the *Missal* Appendix.
- Saturday, May 19, 2018 Vigil of Pentecost: See the Roman Missal for the extended celebration of this Vigil. There is also a simple form. The Sequence may be omitted. The double alleluia is sung for the dismissal. In places where the only Mass for the weekend is on Saturday and the readings are that of Pentecost Sunday, the Sequence is to be sung before the Gospel Acclamation by the cantor at the ambo.

- Sunday, May 20, 2018 Pentecost:
 - The Sequence is sung from the ambo by a cantor. As this is the end of the Easter Season, the double alleluia is sung for the dismissal. At the final Mass this day the Easter Candle may be carried out in the Recessional Procession, then placed near the Baptismal Font where it remains.
 - Hold for Confirmation of Adults at 11:15 am Mass at the Cathedral of Christ the King: It is the usual practice for the Bishop to confirm any adults who missed the Sacrament as a youth as well and have been prepared for the Sacrament either at their parish or through the Diocesan Worship Office, as any of the prepared youth who had to miss the celebration of the Sacrament this year at their parish. Contact the Worship Office for more information or to register names for this.