

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION FOR THE YEAR 2012

The following information on Holy Days of Obligation is taken from the provisions of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (© 2011) that govern the celebration of weddings and funerals on Sundays and solemnities. These notes are the application of those principles for the key dates in 2012:

On any day when the Ritual Mass is prohibited, the Ritual of Marriage outside Mass may be used with no restriction. If the marriage occurs in Advent or Lent, however, people should keep the nature of the liturgical seasons in mind when planning celebrations.

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2012

Ritual Masses, including the wedding Mass, are prohibited on Ash Wednesday (GIRM #372). Since this is a major penitential day and one of the two days of fast and abstinence in the U.S., this would not be an appropriate day to celebrate marriage.

Funeral Masses are permitted. (GIRM #380).

SUNDAYS OF LENT

Ritual Masses are prohibited. For couples who must plan a wedding that day, there are several options:

- a. The wedding ritual outside Mass may be celebrated, keeping in mind the special penitential nature of the season of Lent.
- b. If the wedding during Mass is chosen, the ritual Mass of the day is used. Presidential prayers, preface, and two of the readings are taken from the Mass of the day (Sunday of Lent). One reading may be chosen from the readings for the wedding Mass, and the Nuptial Blessing is given at the usual time (GIRM #372 and the Rite of Marriage [OM] #11). The general law does not limit which reading may be changed. Funeral Masses are not permitted (GIRM #380).

HOLY WEEK – APRIL 2-7, 2012

It seems inappropriate to celebrate weddings during this time. Ritual Masses are prohibited. For further restrictions, cf. the Roman Missal (on Good Friday and Saturday morning all Masses are prohibited). In other circumstances, the Mass of the day is celebrated and one reading may be changed on only on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday of Holy Week (OM #11). The wedding ritual outside Mass may be used, keeping in mind the character of the week. Funeral Masses are permitted only on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week. (GIRM #380).

EASTER SUNDAY – APRIL 8, 2012

Ritual Masses are prohibited. Cf. the options and restrictions for Sundays of Lent. One reading may be changed for weddings during Mass (OM #11). Funeral Masses are not permitted (GIRM #380).

OCTAVE OF EASTER – APRIL 9-15, 2012

Ritual Masses are prohibited, even on Saturday. Cf. the options and restrictions for Sundays of Lent:

- a. The wedding ritual outside Mass may be used with no restrictions.
- b. One reading may be changed for weddings during Mass (OM #11). Funeral Masses are permitted (GIRM #380).

ASCENSION OF THE LORD - APRIL 20, 2012

Replaces the Seventh Sunday of Easter in the Dioceses of the Province of Chicago

ASSUMPTION – WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2012

This is a solemnity and a day of obligation – cf. options and restrictions for Easter. For Mass, the Mass of Assumption is used and no readings may be changed. (GIRM #372, OM #11). Funeral Masses are not permitted (GIRM #380).

ALL SAINTS – THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2012

This is a solemnity and a day of obligation – cf. options and restrictions for Easter. For Mass, the Mass of All Saints is used and no readings may be changed (GIRM #372, OM #11). Funeral Masses are not permitted (GIRM #380).

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2012

This is a solemnity and a day of obligation – cf. options and restrictions for Easter 2012. For weddings during Mass, no readings may be changed. Funeral Masses are not permitted.

CHRISTMAS, DECEMBER 25, 2012

This is a solemnity and a day of obligation – cf. options and restrictions for Easter 2012. For weddings during Mass, no readings may be changed. Funeral Masses are not permitted.

SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME AND SUNDAYS OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

The wedding outside Mass may be celebrated with no restrictions. If the wedding during Mass is chosen, the Mass of the Sunday is used but one of the readings may be changed. If the Mass is not a parish Mass, the entire wedding Mass may be used (OM #11).