



## DIOCESE OF ERIE

### The Liturgical Year 2026

*Issued by the Office for Divine Worship to assist you in forming the liturgical calendar for your parish or congregation.*

With Evening Prayer I of the First Sunday of Advent, the New Year of the Church for 2026 begins.  
It runs from Sunday, November 30, 2025 through November 28, 2026.

#### Principal Celebrations of the Liturgical Year 2026

|                                        |                   |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------|
| First Sunday of Advent                 | November 30, 2025 |
| Ash Wednesday                          | February 18, 2026 |
| Easter Sunday                          | April 5, 2026     |
| The Ascension of the Lord (Thursday)   | May 14, 2026      |
| Pentecost Sunday                       | May 24, 2026      |
| The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ | June 7, 2026      |
| First Sunday of Advent                 | November 29, 2026 |

#### Cycles of the Lectionary for Mass

|               |          |                                                                            |
|---------------|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday Cycle  | YEAR A   | November 30, 2025 to November 22, 2026                                     |
| Weekday Cycle | CYCLE II | January 12, 2026 to February 17, 2026<br>May 25, 2026 to November 28, 2026 |

#### Liturgy of the Hours

|                                      |                               |            |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| November 30, 2025 - January 11, 2026 | Advent, Christmas             | Volume I   |
| January 12, 2026 - February 17, 2026 | Weeks 1 to 6, Ordinary Time   | Volume III |
| February 18, 2026 - May 24, 2026     | Lent, Triduum, Easter         | Volume II  |
| May 25, 2026 - August 1, 2026        | Weeks 8 to 17, Ordinary Time  | Volume III |
| August 2, 2026 - November 28, 2026   | Weeks 18 to 34, Ordinary Time | Volume IV  |

## Holy Days of Obligation

In addition to Sunday, the days to be observed as Holy Days of Obligation in the Latin Rite dioceses of the United States of America, in 2026, in conformity with Canon 1246, are as follows:

|              |                                                                   |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January 1    | Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God                                  |
| May 14, 2026 | Solemnity of the Ascension (Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter) |
| August 15    | Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary            |
| November 1   | Solemnity of All Saints                                           |
| December 8   | Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception                            |
| December 25  | Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ                |

Following the 1991 decision of the USCCB and with the 1992 confirmation of the Congregation for Bishops, when:

- the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (January 1st);
- the Solemnity of the Assumption (August 15th);
- the Solemnity of All Saints (November 1st);

falls on a Saturday or Monday, the precept to attend Mass is abrogated (removed.)

As December 8, 2025 falls on a Monday,  
Immaculate Conception **is** a Holy Day of Obligation.

January 1, 2026 falls on a Thursday, and therefore,  
the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God **is** a Holy Day of Obligation.

August 15, 2026 falls on a Saturday, and therefore,  
the Solemnity of the Assumption **is not** a Holy Day of Obligation.

## Miscellaneous Notes

- In a notification dated December 8, 1998, of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments (Prot. n. 2671/98/L), the Obligatory Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary becomes an Optional Memorial in years when it conflicts with another Obligatory Memorial. Therefore, Saturday, June 13 is a weekday in Ordinary Time, as well as the Optional Memorials of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, of Saint Anthony of Padua, Priest and doctor of the Church, and of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday, thus giving the Priest Celebrant the freedom to choose what is appropriate for the circumstances.
- Saturday, August 15 is the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This year, the obligation to attend Mass on this date is abrogated, in accord with the complementary norm to canon 1246 §2 confirmed for the dioceses for the United States of America.

## Miscellaneous Notes

- The Anniversary of the Dedication of Saint Peter Cathedral is celebrated on May 17.
  - ◊ In the Diocese of Erie, this day is ranked as a feast in all places outside the Cathedral.
  - ◊ At Saint Peter Cathedral, it is observed as a solemnity.

However, in 2026, May 17 falls on the Seventh Sunday of Easter. Therefore, the celebration of the Cathedral's dedication is transferred to Monday, May 18, and observed **only** at Saint Peter Cathedral.
- Weddings, whether within Mass or outside of Mass, **may not be celebrated on Sundays**. On Saturdays, they **must begin no later than 3:00 pm** to avoid conflict with confessions and the Vigil Mass, which may start as early as 4:00 pm. This policy takes effect immediately.
- As noted on the previous page, *the Ascension of the Lord is celebrated on Thursday*, and not transferred to the Seventh Sunday of Easter.
- The paschal candle must be new each year and receive its blessing at the Easter Vigil. Old paschal candles may not be reused at the Easter Vigil. *Paschale Solemnitatis*, the 1988 Circular Letter concerning the preparation and celebration of the Easter feasts, states that the paschal candle must “be made of wax, never be artificial, be renewed each year, be only one in number, and be of sufficiently large size so that it may evoke the truth that Christ is the light of the world” (no. 82). This does not mean that the old candle must be thrown away. Most suppliers of candles accept the return of used candles. These suppliers will then recycle the wax to produce new candles. If, for some reason, a parish is unable to recycle the candle wax, then the old paschal candle, as a blessed object (a sacramental) must be appropriately disposed. This could involve burning the candle in a devotional manner (privately as opposed to publicly and liturgically) or even burying the candle in blessed ground. Candles are made to be burned, however, and it is better to find a way to either recycle or burn the wax.

## Funeral Masses on Holy Days

“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, Thursday of Holy Week (Holy Thursday), the Paschal Triduum, ...with due regard also for all the other requirements of the norm of the law.” (GIRM 380; emphasis added.)

On these days, the body of the deceased may be brought to the church and the *Funeral Liturgy Outside Mass* may be celebrated. Funeral Masses are permitted on Holy Days only when the precept to attend Mass is abrogated.

## Funeral Masses on Sundays

GIRM 380 prohibits Funeral Masses on the Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Easter. Furthermore, in the Diocese of Erie, Funeral Masses are not allowed after 3:00 pm Saturday and all day Sunday. Sunday is the day of the community, the parish assembly, and its ministers. If there is a need for a Sunday funeral in the judgment of the pastor, the regional Episcopal Vicar is to be consulted.

## Ritual Masses on Sundays and Solemnities

“Ritual Masses are connected to the celebration of certain Sacraments or Sacramentals. They are prohibited on the 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, and furthermore, due regard is to be had for the norms set out in the ritual books or in the Masses themselves.” (GIRM 372)

### *Holy Matrimony*

Holy Matrimony, both within Mass as well as outside of Mass is not to begin later than 3:00 pm on Saturdays and are not to be celebrated at all on Sundays in the Diocese of Erie.

### *Baptism and Confirmation*

The same principle (GIRM 372) applies to ritual Masses for the conferral of Baptism or Confirmation. When the ritual Mass is not celebrated, one of the readings may be replaced by one chosen from the *Lectionary for Ritual Masses* appropriate to the sacrament celebrated. The final blessing proper to the ritual Mass may always be used.

### *First Communion*

It is appropriate that children should receive their First Communion on a Sunday of Easter (see *Circular Letter Concerning the Preparation and Celebration of Paschal Feasts* #103.) Above all, First Holy Communion should unite families, the parish, and all communicants more closely to the Lord's Supper on Sunday, the Lord's Day.

## **Additions to the Third Typical Edition of the Roman Missal in English since 2011**

After the reforms of the Second Vatican Council, the General Roman Calendar was first promulgated in 1969 by Pope Saint Paul VI, and has subsequently been amended over the years by the Holy See with new celebrations. The last major revision was in 2002, but since the publication of the Roman Missal, Third Edition, the following celebrations have been added to the General Roman Calendar or otherwise changed:

### **Saint Marianne Cope**

**January 23**

On July 10, 2013, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments confirmed the inscription of Saint Marianne Cope, Virgin, into the Proper Calendar for the Dioceses of the United States of America. Her proper liturgical texts in English and Spanish were confirmed the following day.

St. Marianne Cope is celebrated every year as an Optional Memorial on January 23. This is also the date of the Optional Memorial of Saint Vincent, Deacon and Martyr, which was transferred from January 22 in order to allow for the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. (In years when the Day of Prayer is transferred to January 23, the liturgical celebrations of both St. Vincent and St. Marianne Cope are omitted.)

#### *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,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

### **Saint Gregory of Narek**

**February 27**

On January 25, 2021, Pope Francis ordered the inscription of Saint Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church, into the General Roman Calendar. St. Gregory is celebrated each year as an Optional Memorial on February 27.

#### *Collect*

Almighty ever-living God,  
who were pleased to imbue with mystical doctrine Saint Gregory of Narek,  
the teacher and glory of the Armenian people,  
grant us, by his teaching,  
to learn the art of speaking with you  
and constantly to fortify our life  
with the Sacraments of the Church.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

## Saint John De Avila

May 10

On January 25, 2021, Pope Francis ordered the inscription of Saint John De Avila, Priest and Doctor of the Church, into the General Roman Calendar. St. John is celebrated each year as an Optional Memorial on May 10.

### *Collect*

O God, who gave to your clergy and people Saint John De Avila,  
a teacher outstanding for the holiness and zeal of his life,  
grant, we pray, that in our own time  
the Church may increase in holiness  
by the exceptional devotion of your ministers.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

## Saint Paul VI

May 29

On January 25, 2019, Pope Francis ordered the inscription of Saint Paul VI, Pope, into the General Roman Calendar. St. Paul is celebrated each year as an Optional Memorial on May 29.

### *Collect*

O God, who entrusted the governance of your Church  
to Pope Saint Paul the Sixth,  
a steadfast apostle of the Gospel of your Son,  
grant, we pray, that enlightened by his teachings,  
we may work together with you  
to spread the culture of love throughout the world.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

## Mary, Mother of the Church

On February 11, 2018, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments inscribed a new obligatory Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, into the General Roman Calendar. This memorial is celebrated every year on the Monday after Pentecost.

For Mass, the Prayers for the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church may be found in the Roman Missal under Votive Masses: #10. Blessed Virgin Mary, B. Our Lady, Mother of the Church (page 1191 in the Catholic Book publication).

### Proper readings with options are assigned for the day as follows:

*First Reading:* Genesis 3:9-15, 20 (The mother of all the living)

or

Acts 1:12-14 (All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer with Mary, the mother of Jesus)

*Responsorial Psalm:* Psalm 87: 1-2, 3 and 5, 6-7. Glorious things are told of you...

*Gospel Acclamation:* O happy Virgin, you gave birth to the Lord...

*Gospel:* John 19:25-34 Behold, your Son. Behold, your mother.

## Saint Kateri Tekakwitha

July 14

On May 26, 2023, the Holy See's Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments confirmed English and Spanish texts of an expanded Mass formulary for the Memorial of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin, celebrated yearly on July 14. While the Roman Missal, Third Edition contains a Collect prayer (with other elements drawn from the Common of Virgins), the expanded formulary now includes proper texts for the Entrance Antiphon, Prayer over the Offerings, Communion Antiphon, and Prayer after Communion. The Collect prayer has also been emended.

### *Entrance Antiphon*

How beautiful you are, O virgin of Christ,  
who were worthy to receive the Lord's crown,  
the crown of perpetual virginity.

### *Collect*

O God, who willed the Virgin Saint Kateri Tekakwitha  
to flower in a life of innocence  
among the Native peoples of North America,  
grant, through her intercession,  
that all gathered in your Church  
from every nation, tribe and tongue,  
may glorify you in a single canticle of praise.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

### *Prayer over the Offerings*

Graciously accept, O Lord,  
this offering of your holy people,  
honoring Saint Kateri,  
through whose intercession we ask the grace  
to do always what is pleasing to you.  
Through Christ our Lord.

### *Communion Antiphon*

Behold, the Bridegroom is coming;  
come out to meet Christ the Lord.  
(Cf. Mt 25:6)

### *Prayer after Communion*

Refreshed by the heavenly food  
of the Body and Blood of your beloved Son,  
we humbly beseech you, O Lord,  
that following the example of Saint Kateri  
we may live the mystery we celebrate.  
Through Christ our Lord.

## Saint Mary Magdalene

July 22

On June 3, 2016, the Holy See raised the liturgical rank of the Memorial of Saint Mary Magdalene to a Feast, with the date remaining on July 22. A new Preface before the Eucharistic Prayer for the Feast was also promulgated in Latin.

The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments confirmed the English translation of the Preface for the Feast of St. Mary Magdalene on September 21, 2019. It may be used during Masses in honor of St. Mary Magdalene, especially her Feast on July 22, beginning in 2020.

The proper liturgical text in English of the Preface in honor of Saint Mary Magdalene is found below:

*Preface for the Feast of Saint Mary Magdalene*

*Preface: Apostle to the Apostles*

V. The Lord be with you. R. And with your spirit.

V. Lift up your hearts. R. We lift them up to the Lord.

V. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. R. It is right and just.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
to glorify you in all things, almighty Father, whose mercy is not less than your power,  
through Christ our Lord.

He appeared in the garden and revealed himself to Mary Magdalene,  
who had loved him in life, witnessed him dying on the Cross,  
sought him as he lay in the tomb,  
and was the first to adore him, newly risen from the dead.

He honored her with the office of being an apostle to the Apostles,  
so that the good news of new life might reach the ends of the earth.  
And so, Lord, with all the Angels and Saints,  
we, too, give you thanks, as in exultation we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts...

## Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus

July 29

On January 26, 2021, Pope Francis ordered the inscription of Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus into the General Roman Calendar, to replace the existing celebration of Saint Martha alone. Sts. Martha, Mary and Lazarus are celebrated each year as an Obligatory Memorial on July 29.

The Holy See released the proper liturgical texts in Latin, and on September 30, 2024, the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments confirmed the English translation of those texts. (An approval and confirmation process is still required for a Spanish translation.) Some existing texts have remained the same - the entrance and Communion antiphons at Mass, and indications in the Lectionary—while most have been adjusted slightly or included for the first time.

### *Entrance Antiphon*

Jesus entered a village,  
where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home.  
(Cf. Lk 10:38)

### *Collect*

O God, whose Son  
called Lazarus back to life from the grave  
and was pleased to be a guest in the home of Martha,  
grant us, we pray,  
that, faithfully serving him in our brothers and sisters,  
we, with Mary, may be found worthy to be nourished  
by the contemplation of his word.  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

### *Prayer over the Offerings*

As we proclaim your wonders in your Saints, O Lord,  
we humbly implore your majesty,  
that, as their homage of love was pleasing to you,  
so, too, our dutiful service may find favor in your sight.  
Through Christ our Lord.

### *Communion Antiphon*

Martha said to Jesus: You are the Christ, the Son of God,  
who is coming into this world.  
(Jn 11:27)

### *Prayer after Communion*

May the holy reception of the Body and Blood  
of your Only Begotten Son, O Lord,  
turn us away from the cares of this fallen world,  
so that, following the example of Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus,  
we may grow in sincere love for you on earth  
and rejoice to behold you for eternity in heaven.  
Through Christ our Lord.

## Saint Hildegard of Bingen

September 17

The Holy See released the proper liturgical texts in Latin and on September 30, 2024, the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments confirmed the English translation of those texts. (An approval and confirmation process is still required for a Spanish translation.)

### *Collect*

O God, fount of life,  
 who imbued the Virgin Saint Hildegard  
 with a spirit of prophecy,  
 grant us, we pray, by her example and intercession,  
 to know your ways,  
 and in the darkness of this age  
 to perceive the splendor of your light.  
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
 who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 God, for ever and ever.

## Saint Faustina Kowalska

October 5

On May 18, 2020, Pope Francis ordered the inscription of Saint Faustina Kowalska, Virgin, into the General Roman Calendar. St. Faustina is celebrated each year as an Optional Memorial on October 5.

### *Collect*

O God,  
 who entrusted Saint Faustina with spreading the immense riches  
 of your infinite mercy,  
 grant, at her intercession, that after her example we may fully trust in your goodness  
 and generously perform works of charity.  
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
 who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 God, for ever and ever.

## Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos

October 5

On July 25, 2014, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments confirmed the inscription of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, Priest, into the Proper Calendar for the Dioceses of the United States of America. He is celebrated each year as an Optional Memorial on October 5.

### *Collect*

O God, who made your Priest Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos  
 outstanding in love,  
 that he might proclaim the mysteries of redemption  
 and comfort those in affliction,  
 grant, by his intercession,  
 that we may work zealously for your glory  
 and for the salvation of mankind.  
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
 who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 God, for ever and ever.

## **Saint John XXIII**

**October 11**

On May 29, 2014, Pope Francis ordered the inscription of Saint John XXIII, Pope, into the General Roman Calendar. St. John is celebrated each year as an Optional Memorial on October 11.

### *Collect*

Almighty ever-living God,  
 who in Pope Saint John the Twenty-Third  
 has given a living example of Christ, the Good Shepherd,  
 to shine throughout the whole world,  
 grant us, we pray,  
 that, through his intercession,  
 we may joyfully pour out  
 an abundance of Christian charity.  
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
 who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 God, for ever and ever.

## **Saint John Paul II**

**October 22**

On October 12, 2012, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments confirmed the inscription of Saint John Paul II, Pope, into the Proper Calendar for the Dioceses of the United States of America. Two years later, on May 29, 2014, Pope Francis ordered the inscription of Saint John Paul II into the General Roman Calendar. St. John Paul II is celebrated each year as an Optional Memorial on October 22.

### *Collect*

O God, rich in mercy,  
 who willed that Pope Saint John Paul the Second  
 should preside over your universal Church,  
 grant, we pray, that instructed by his teaching,  
 we may confidently open our hearts to the saving grace of Christ,  
 the sole Redeemer of the human race.  
 Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 God, for ever and ever.

## **Our Lady of Loreto**

**December 10**

On October 7, 2019, Pope Francis ordered the inscription of Our Lady of Loreto into the General Roman Calendar. She is celebrated each year as an Optional Memorial on December 10.

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. 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.

## Communal Penance Services in Advent and Lent

Every effort should be made to schedule communal celebrations of the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the seasons of Advent and Lent. *No parish may schedule "general absolution."*

Although individual confessions may be scheduled in parishes according to pastoral need, Lenten communal penance services should not be scheduled during the days of the Triduum or the evening of the Chrism Mass, to allow priests and people to attend.

### Advent and Christmas

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, pastors and liturgy planners are reminded that if a Nativity scene is displayed inside the church, it should not be placed in the sanctuary (presbyterium). The Book of Blessings instructs that the manger be set in a location suitable for prayer and devotion and easily accessible to the faithful (nos. 1542–1544). The scene should never obscure the altar, ambo, or presider's chair, but instead invite quiet reflection on the mystery of the Incarnation. Whether inside the church or outdoors, the crèche is meant to inspire prayer and wonder, helping all who see it draw closer to Christ, whose humble birth we joyfully proclaim.

In scheduling Masses, care must be taken not to multiply Masses on Christmas Eve to the detriment of Christmas Day itself. *Anticipated Masses on Sundays and Holy Days (Christmas included) are to take place in the evening.* (See Canon 1248 §1)

*In general, the Diocese of Erie does not allow Christmas Eve Masses to be scheduled before 4:00 pm.*

Christmas pageants or "Nativity Plays" for adults or children within Mass are to be avoided. According to Vatican II, the assembly of the baptized is to participate fully, actively and consciously (see *Sacrosanctum Concilium* #41) in various roles and functions and should never be reduced to passive spectators or an audience, as would be true for pageants, plays and dramatic presentations.

The Mass is not an 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. This is not to say that dramatic elements may not be used. However, in some circumstances, the need to encourage active participation over entertainment or a passive audience mode should be seriously considered.

### The Season of Lent

"Lent is ordered to preparing for the celebration of Easter, since the Lenten liturgy prepares for celebration of the Paschal Mystery both catechumens, by the various stages of Christian Initiation, and the faithful, who recall their own Baptism and do penance.

The forty days of Lent run from Ash Wednesday up to but excluding the Mass of the Lord's Supper. From the beginning of Lent until the Paschal Vigil, the *Alleluia* is not said.

On Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, which is observed everywhere as a fasting day, ashes are distributed." (GIRM, nos. 27-29)

#### *Abstinence*

All Catholics who have reached their 14th birthday are bound to abstain totally from meat on the following days: Ash Wednesday, all Fridays of Lent, and Good Friday.

### *Fasting*

All Catholics between their 18th and 59th birthdays are also bound to observe the Law of Fast on the following days: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This practice involves limiting oneself to a single full meal and avoiding food between meals. Light sustenance may be taken on two other occasions in the course of the day.

### *Easter Duty*

After they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, all the faithful are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year. This precept must be fulfilled during the Easter season, unless for a good reason it is fulfilled at another time during the year. This obligation may be fulfilled between February 22, 2026 (First Sunday of Lent) and May 31, 2026 (Trinity Sunday.)

### *Baptism*

There is no universal rule that would forbid the practice of Baptism during Lent. However, given that Lent is traditionally focused on the preparation of Baptism, many parishes have policies that discourage it. This is left to the discretion of the pastor/staff.

### *Holy Matrimony*

While weddings may be celebrated during the Season of Lent (except for the Sundays of Lent,) the priest/deacon preparing the couple should make the couple aware of the special nature of the proposed date for celebration and its penitential character. They should be discouraged from too much pomp or display. (See *Order of Celebrating Holy Matrimony* #32)

## **The Paschal Triduum**

Since Christ accomplished his work of human redemption and of the perfect glorification of God, principally through his Paschal Mystery, in which by dying he has destroyed our death and by rising he restored our life, the sacred Paschal Triduum of the Passion and Resurrection of the Lord shines forth as the high point of the entire liturgical year. Therefore, the preeminence that Sunday has in the week, the Solemnity of Easter has in the liturgical year. (*Universal Norms* #18)

The Paschal Triduum of the Passion and Resurrection of the Lord begins with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, has its center in the Easter Vigil, and closes with Vespers (Evening Prayer) of the Sunday of the Resurrection.

### *Funerals*

Funeral Masses are not permitted on Holy Thursday morning or during the days of the Easter Triduum. On these days, the body of the deceased may be brought to the church and the *Funeral Liturgy Outside Mass* may be celebrated.

### *Holy Matrimony*

The celebration of Marriage during the Paschal Triduum is to be avoided altogether.

### *Holy Thursday*

According to the Church's ancient tradition, all 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. Only where a pastoral reason requires it, and with the permission of the local Ordinary, may another Mass be celebrated. (See *Roman Missal* "Thursday of the Lord's Supper: At the Evening Mass")

### *Good Friday*

“The Celebration of the Lord’s Passion is to take place in the afternoon, at about three o’clock. The time will be chosen as shall seem most appropriate for pastoral reasons in order to allow the people to assemble more easily, for example, shortly after midday, or in the late evening, however no later than nine o’clock.” (*Circular Letter Concerning Preparation and Celebration of Easter Feasts #63*)

Holy Communion may only be distributed during the Solemn Celebration of the Passion. No other communal distribution of Holy Communion may take place on Good Friday (for example, during Stations of the Cross or other secondary services.)

In a situation of grave public need, the Diocesan Bishop may permit or order the addition of a special intention to the Solemn Intercessions.

Penance and Anointing of the Sick are the only Sacraments celebrated on Good Friday and the following day. *Viaticum may be administered at any time.*

### *Holy Saturday*

“On Holy Saturday the Church is as it were at the Lord’s tomb, meditating on his passion and death, and on his descent to hell, and awaiting his resurrection with prayer and fasting. It is highly recommended that on this day the Office of Readings and Morning Prayer be celebrated with the participation of the people.” (*Circular Letter Concerning Preparation and Celebration of Easter Feasts #73*)

“On this day the Church abstains strictly from the celebration of the Sacrifice of the Mass. Holy Communion may be given only in the form of Viaticum. The celebration of marriages is forbidden, as also the celebration of other sacraments, except those of Penance and Anointing of the Sick.

The faithful are to be instructed on the special character of Holy Saturday. Festive customs and traditions associated with this day on account of the former practice of anticipating the celebration of Easter on Holy Saturday should be reserved for Easter night and the day that follows.” (*Circular Letter Concerning Preparation and Celebration of Easter Feasts #75*)

### *The Easter Vigil*

According to a most ancient tradition, this night is “one of vigil for the Lord” and the Vigil is celebrated during it, to commemorate that holy night when the Lord rose from the dead, is regarded as the “mother of all holy vigils.” It is not an anticipated Mass, but a true vigil, and as such, may not begin before nightfall.

Sunset will be at approximately 8:06 PM on Saturday, April 4, 2026.  
*This means that the Easter Vigil should not begin before 8:30 PM.*

The Easter Vigil is to be celebrated only once in a given church. (See *Roman Missal* “The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night” no. 2)

Nine readings are provided for the Vigil, seven from the Old Testament and two from the New Testament (the Epistle and Gospel), all of which should be read whenever possible, so that the character of the Vigil may be preserved.

Still, for serious pastoral reasons, the number of readings from the Old Testament may be reduced, bearing in mind that the proclamation of the Word of God is a fundamental part of the Easter Vigil. At least three readings should be read from the Old Testament, with their respective responsorial psalms, including always Exodus 14 and its canticle, which should never be omitted.

### *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*

The Rite of Election will occur on the First Sunday of Lent, February 22, 2026 at Saint Peter Cathedral in Erie **and** the Second Sunday of Lent, March 1, 2026 at Saint Tobias Church in Brockway.

Scrutinies seek to remove all obstacles to holistic conversion of the elect (unbaptized) and deepen their resolve to bind themselves to Christ, to carry out their mission to love God above all else. They take place on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent. The *Roman Missal* contains specific orations and prefaces suited to these celebrations. (See *Roman Missal*, “Ritual Masses: 2. For the Celebration of the Scrutinies.”)

### **Scheduling Notes for 2026**

- Sunday, February 22, 2026 - The Rite of Election, Saint Peter Cathedral, Erie, 3:00 pm
- Sunday, March 1, 2026 - The Rite of Election, Saint Tobias Church, Brockway, 3:00 pm
- Monday, March 30, 2026 - Chrism Mass, Saint Peter Cathedral, 1:00 pm
- Sunday, June 7, 2026 - The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) “It is desirable that a procession take place after the Mass in which the Host to be carried in the procession is consecrated. However, nothing prohibits a procession from taking place even after a public and lengthy period of adoration following the Mass.” (See *Roman Missal*)

### **Scheduling Reminders for Weddings in 2026**

- Please note that weddings are not permitted from Thursday, April 2, 2026 through Sunday, April 12, 2026 (the Triduum and Octave of Easter.)

### **Changes Coming to Liturgical Celebrations**

- A revised *Anointing of the Sick* will be available on January 1, 2026 will soon be available to be ordered from several publishers. This new translation is to be implemented on Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026.
- Presiders at Mass, the Liturgy of the Hours, and any liturgical celebration that may include a collect should note that in 2021, the phrase “one God, forever and ever” that concluded many collect prayers was revised to omit the word “one.” Please be attentive to praying simply “God, forever and ever.”

## Days of Prayer for 2026

Thursday, January 1, 2026 - World Day of Prayer for Peace

January 18-25, 2026 - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Thursday, January 22, 2026 - Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

Thursday, May 7, 2025 - National Day of Prayer

Sunday, April 26, 2026 - World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Monday, September 1, 2026 - World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

## Special Collections for 2026

All collections are mandatory except the following:

Food Bank Collection (for Second Harvest Food Bank or another food bank - excluding Food for the Poor - if you are not serviced by Second Harvest)

Priestly Education and Care Collection

Operation Rice Bowl (technically not a collection but a charitable program)

The collection which is a part of the Missionary Cooperative Plan is a mandated special collection. The missionary is assigned by the Mission Office and the date is determined together by the pastor and missionary.

An appeal for any collection at Mass should never replace the homily.

No pastor or administrator may schedule a new collection without the permission of the Bishop (see canon 1266 and *Diocesan Regulations for the Administration of Temporal Affairs*, no. 10.2).

|                                     |                                                            |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Flexible Date                       | Priestly Education and Care Collection ( <i>optional</i> ) |
| January 1 - Ash Wednesday           | Food Bank Collection ( <i>optional</i> )                   |
| January 25                          | Help Spread the Faith Communications Collection            |
| February 15                         | Catholic Services Appeal (Commitment Sunday)               |
| Lent (February 18)                  | Operation Rice Bowl ( <i>optional</i> )                    |
| March 29-April 12                   | Collection for the Holy Land                               |
| May 3                               | Good Shepherd Collection                                   |
| May 24                              | International Needs Collection                             |
| June 28                             | Collection for the Holy Father (Peter's Pence)             |
| July 19                             | National Needs Collection                                  |
| August 16                           | Church in Latin America Collection                         |
| September 20                        | Catholic Education Collection                              |
| October 18                          | Mission Sunday Collection                                  |
| November 15                         | Local Needs Collection                                     |
| December 13                         | Retirement Fund for Religious                              |
| Arranged by Diocesan Mission Office | Missionary Cooperative Plan                                |

## Clergy 2026 Event Reminders

### **Lenten Day of Recollection**

Tuesday, March 11

### **Chrism Mass**

*Saint Peter Cathedral, Erie*

Monday, March 30

1:00 pm

### **Emmaus**

*Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, PA*

June 22-25

### **Fall Day of Recollection**

Tuesday, October 13

## Titular Solemnities of Church Buildings Currently in Use

Thank you to Fr. Justin Pino for providing this information.

Church buildings that bear the name “Saint Mary” will celebrate their Feast Day on August 15, unless otherwise noted.

If there are any discrepancies, please notify the Office for Divine Worship.

|                                                          |                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| All Saints Church, Waterford                             | November 1                   |
| Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Sykesville | August 15                    |
| Beloved Disciple Church, Grove City                      | December 27                  |
| Blessed Sacrament Church, Erie                           | 2nd Sunday after Pentecost   |
| Christ the King Church, Houtzdale                        | Last Sunday in Ordinary Time |
| Good Shepherd Church, West Middlesex                     | 4th Sunday of Easter         |
| Holy Cross Church, Fairview                              | September 14                 |
| Holy Family Church, Erie                                 | Sunday after Christmas       |
| Holy Redeemer Church, Warren                             | September 14                 |
| Holy Rosary Church, Erie                                 | October 7                    |
| Holy Rosary Church, Johnsonburg                          | October 7                    |
| Holy Trinity Church, Erie                                | Sunday after Pentecost       |
| Holy Trinity Church, Ramey                               | Sunday after Pentecost       |
| Immaculate Conception Church, Brookville                 | December 8                   |
| Immaculate Conception Church, Clarion                    | December 8                   |
| Immaculate Conception Church, Mageetown                  | December 8                   |
| Immaculate Conception Church, Osceola Mills              | December 8                   |
| Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Mercer                  | 3rd Saturday after Pentecost |
| Notre Dame Church, Hermitage                             | January 1                    |
| Our Lady of Fatima Church, Farrell                       | October 13                   |
| Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Cochranston                  | February 11                  |
| Our Lady of Mercy Church, Harborcreek                    | September 24                 |
| Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Erie                    | July 16                      |
| Our Lady of Peace Church, Erie                           | August 22                    |
| Our Lady of the Lake Church, Edinboro                    | January 1                    |
| Our Lady, Queen of the Americas Church, Conneaut Lake    | December 12                  |
| Our Mother of Sorrows Parish, Erie                       | September 15                 |
| Queen of the World Church, St. Marys                     | August 22                    |
| Sacred Heart Church, Genesee                             | 3rd Friday after Pentecost   |
| Sacred Heart Church, St. Marys                           | 3rd Friday after Pentecost   |
| Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Erie                       | 3rd Friday after Pentecost   |

|                                                |              |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| SS. Cosmas & Damian Church, Punxsutawney       | September 26 |
| SS. Peter & Paul Church, Grassflat             | June 29      |
| SS. Peter & Paul Church, Hawk Run              | June 29      |
| St. Agatha Church, Meadville                   | February 5   |
| St. Agnes Church, Morrisdale                   | January 21   |
| St. Andrew Church, Erie                        | November 30  |
| St. Ann Church, Erie                           | July 26      |
| St. Ann Church, Marienville                    | July 26      |
| St. Anne Church, Wilcox                        | July 26      |
| St. Anthony Church, Tionesta                   | June 13      |
| St. Anthony of Padua Church, Cambridge Springs | June 13      |
| St. Anthony of Padua Church, Sharon            | June 13      |
| St. Anthony of Padua Church, Sheffield         | June 13      |
| St. Augustine Church, Austin                   | August 28    |
| St. Bartholomew Church, Sharpsville            | August 24    |
| St. Basil the Great Church, Coalport           | January 2    |
| St. Bernadette Church, Saegertown              | April 16     |
| St. Bernard of Clairvaux Church, Bradford      | August 20    |
| St. Bernard Church, Falls Creek                | August 20    |
| St. Bibiana Church, Galetton                   | December 2   |
| St. Bonaventure Church, Grampian               | July 15      |
| St. Boniface Church, Erie                      | June 5       |
| St. Boniface Church, Kersey                    | June 5       |
| St. Brigid Church, Meadville                   | February 1   |
| St. Callistus Church, Kane                     | October 14   |
| St. Casimir Church, Erie                       | March 4      |
| St. Catherine of Siena Church, DuBois          | April 29     |
| St. Charles Church, New Bethlehem              | November 4   |
| St. Columbkille Church, Stoneboro              | June 9       |
| St. Dominic Church, Sigel                      | August 8     |
| St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church, Smethport     | November 17  |
| St. Eulalia Church, Coudersport                | December 10  |
| St. Eusebius Church, East Brady                | August 2     |
| St. Francis of Assisi Church, Bradford         | October 4    |
| St. Francis of Assisi Church, Clearfield       | October 4    |

|                                                 |              |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| St. Francis Xavier Church, McKean               | December 3   |
| St. Gabriel the Archangel Church, Port Allegany | September 29 |
| St. George Church, Erie                         | April 23     |
| St. Gregory Thaumaturgus Church, North East     | November 17  |
| St. Hedwig Church, Erie                         | October 16   |
| St. Hermenegild Church, Pardoe                  | April 13     |
| St. Hippolyte Church, Frenchtown                | August 13    |
| St. James Church, Driftwood                     | May 3        |
| St. James Church, Erie                          | May 3        |
| St. John Church, Tidioute                       | December 27  |
| St. John the Baptist Church, Erie               | June 24      |
| St. John the Evangelist Church, Girard          | December 27  |
| St. Joseph Church, Erie                         | March 19     |
| St. Joseph Church, Force                        | March 19     |
| St. Joseph Church, Lucinda                      | March 19     |
| St. Joseph Church, Oil City                     | March 19     |
| St. Joseph Church, Sharon                       | March 19     |
| St. Joseph Church, Warren                       | March 19     |
| St. Jude the Apostle Church, Erie               | October 28   |
| St. Julia Church, Erie                          | May 23       |
| St. Lawrence the Martyr Church, Albion          | August 10    |
| St. Leo Magnus Church, Ridgway                  | November 10  |
| St. Luke Church, Erie                           | October 18   |
| St. Luke Church, Youngsville                    | October 18   |
| St. Margaret Church, Jamestown                  | November 16  |
| St. Mark Church, Emporium                       | April 25     |
| St. Mark the Evangelist Church, Lawrence Park   | April 25     |
| St. Mary Church, Crown                          | May 24       |
| St. Mary Church, Reynoldsville                  | January 1    |
| St. Mary Church, St. Marys                      | December 8   |
| St. Mary Church, Sartwell                       | August 15    |
| St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Frenchville  | August 15    |
| St. Mary of Grace Church, Meadville             | February 7   |
| St. Michael Church, Fryburg                     | September 29 |
| St. Michael Church, Greenville                  | September 29 |
| St. Michael the Archangel Church, DuBois        | September 29 |
| St. Michael the Archangel Church, Emlenton      | September 29 |
| St. Nicholas Church, Crates                     | December 6   |

|                                        |              |
|----------------------------------------|--------------|
| St. Patrick Church, Erie               | March 17     |
| St. Patrick Church, Franklin           | March 17     |
| St. Paul Church, Erie                  | June 29      |
| St. Peter Cathedral, Erie              | June 29      |
| St. Peter Church, Conneautville        | June 29      |
| St. Philip Church, Crossingville       | August 23    |
| St. Philip Church, Linesville          | May 3        |
| St. Raphael Church, Eldred             | September 29 |
| St. Richard Church, Rimersburg         | February 7   |
| St. Severin Church, Drifting           | January 8    |
| St. Stanislaus Church, Erie            | April 11     |
| St. Stephen of Hungary Church, Erie    | August 16    |
| St. Teresa of Avila Church, Union City | October 15   |
| St. Theresa Church, Shinglehouse       | October 1    |
| St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Corry   | July 3       |
| St. Timothy Church, Curwensville       | January 26   |
| St. Titus Church, Titusville           | January 26   |
| St. Tobias Church, Brockway            | November 2   |
| St. Venantius Church, Rouseville       | May 18       |
| St. Walburga Church, Titusville        | February 25  |