



# Memo

**Date:** January 13, 2020

**To:** All clergy

**From:** Patricia DeJarnett, Ph.D., Associate Director Office for Divine Worship

**Re:** Notes on the 2020 Liturgical Year

---

The Committee on Divine Worship for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has published notes on the 2020 liturgical year. They are below for your use.

**February 2** – The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord falls on a Sunday in 2020, and its celebration outranks a Sunday in Ordinary Time. As a reminder, the Roman Missal calls for the blessing of candles before Mass, with either a procession or solemn entrance occurring after the blessing. The faithful should be encouraged to bring candles to be blessed at the Mass. A parish can distribute candles to those in attendance, and the candles intended for the use of the church throughout the year might also be blessed at Masses on this day.

**June 1** – Not long after the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church was inscribed in the General Roman Calendar (in 2018) for observance on the Monday after Pentecost, a notification from the Holy See indicated that this celebration will outrank any other obligatory Memorial that happens to coincide with it in a given year. Therefore, the Memorial of Saint Justin, Martyr, is not celebrated in 2020. Information on the Marian celebration, including proper readings, remains available at <http://www.usccb.org/about/divine-worship/liturgical-calendar/mother-of-the-church.cfm>.

**June 29** – The Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles, falls on a Monday in 2020. In view of previous guidance giving preference to feasts of precept (especially the Sunday liturgy), Masses on Sunday evening, June 28, should be for the Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time; however, there is a preference for Evening Prayer I of the Solemnity instead of Evening Prayer II of the Sunday, though there is pastoral discretion in the matter.

**July 22, October 11 and October 22** – As mentioned in the November 2019 Newsletter, the Preface for the Feast of Saint Mary Magdalene on July 22 has been confirmed and is to be used beginning in 2020. The definitive translation of the proper texts for Saint John Paul II are also used if celebrating his optional memorial on October 22. Information is available at <http://usccb.org/about/divine-worship/liturgical-calendar/>. (Although the optional Memorial of St. John XXIII on October 11 is not celebrated in 2020 since it falls on a Sunday, his new proper texts are also available at the link above for future reference and use).

**December 12** – Note that in the next liturgical year (2020-2021), the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe will fall on a Saturday (December 12, 2020), and will thus be celebrated liturgically only until the beginning of the Third Sunday of Advent that evening (that is, anticipated Masses and Evening Prayer I are of the Sunday).

If you have any questions, please contact me at [pdejarnett@archatl.com](mailto:pdejarnett@archatl.com) or (404) 920-7339.