



PARTICULAR CALENDAR AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES
FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM IN ALABAMA
2020-2021 LITURGICAL YEAR

Lectionary Cycles

Sunday Cycle	YEAR B	November 29, 2020 to November 21, 2021
Weekday Cycle	I	January 11, 2020 to February 16, 2021 May 24, 2021 to November 27, 2021

Year B-

Friday, January 22 Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children
Readings: 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Mk 3:1-6 (313) or, for the Day of Prayer, any readings from the *Lectionary for Mass Supplement*, the Mass “For Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life,” nos. 947A-947E, or the *Lectionary for Mass* (vol. IV), the Mass “For Peace and Justice,” nos. 887-891. White or violet vestments may be worn.

Sunday, January 24 Sunday of the Word of God
Pope Francis has declared Motu Proprio (*Aperuit illis*) that the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time will be celebrated as “Sunday of the Word of God.” Suggestions for the celebration according to the directives of the Apostolic letter will be forwarded from the Office of Sacred Liturgy.

Monday, January 25 Diocesan Celebration of the Conversion of Saint Paul
This day marks the Patronal Feast of the Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama. The Mass is celebrated with the rank of Solemnity (*Gloria* and *Creed*) in the Cathedral of Saint Paul. In other parishes it retains the rank of Feast (*Gloria*) as already prescribed.

Saturday, April 3 Holy Saturday
The USCCB Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy reiterates that under no circumstances may the Easter Vigil begin before sunset (7:09 PM). Note: Confessions may be heard on ANY day of the Triduum and Holy Communion may always be brought to the sick. The suggested start time in the Diocese of Birmingham is **8:00pm**. Only one Easter Vigil should take place in each parish and priests with the care of multiple parishes, chapels, or missions are encouraged to have a unified celebration of the Triduum.

Sunday, April 4 Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
Note: Funeral Masses may not be celebrated during the Paschal Triduum.

Octave Days of Easter

At Masses during the Octave of Easter, as on Sundays, the *Gloria*, is recited or sung. The Creed is not required during the Octave. At the end of each Mass during the Octave, the double alleluia is sung at the dismissal. After the octave day, the double alleluia is not sung again until the Solemnity of Pentecost.

Saturday, April 17

Anniversary of Death of Bishop David E. Foley

There is a laudable custom of commemorating the anniversary of the death of the last deceased bishop of the diocese.¹ The Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral, but priests in their own parishes are also encouraged to use the Mass for the Dead, Various Prayers for the Dead (IV), For a Bishop, For a Diocesan Bishop (A). While black and white vestments are permitted, the use of violet as the traditional color for the burial of bishop is appropriate.

Monday, May 24

Mary, Mother of the Church

In a decree dated February 11, 2018, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments inscribed the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church in the General Roman Calendar to be observed on the Monday after Pentecost, taking precedence over an obligatory Memorial that coincides with it. Gn 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14/Jn 19:25-34 (572A, see USCCB.org/motherofthechurch)

Sunday, July 4

As this is the Fourteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time, the liturgical celebration of Independence Day is omitted this year. Independence Day may be appropriately acknowledged in the Homily, Universal Prayer, and hymns during the Sunday liturgy.

Saturday, August 28

Each year in the cathedral church and in all the churches and communities of the diocese there is to be a celebration of the anniversary of the bishop's episcopal ordination. Bishop Raica's episcopal ordination is celebrated this day with Mass for the bishop (RM, Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions, I. For the Church, 3. For the Bishop) is celebrated.

Friday, November 5

Commemoration of the Departed Priests of the Diocese of Birmingham

For daily Masses, priests are encouraged to use the Mass for the Dead, Various Prayers for the Dead (IV), For a Priest (A). While black and white are permitted, the use of violet is encouraged as the traditional color of burial vesture.² The intention of the Mass should be the deceased priests of the diocese.

Friday, December 10

Optional Memorial of Our Lady of Loreto

Pope Francis has inscribed the optional memorial of Our Lady of Loreto on the General Roman Calendar, 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.

Sunday, December 12

As this is the Third Sunday of Advent, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is omitted this year. Our Lady of Guadalupe may be appropriately honored in the Homily, Universal Prayer, and hymns during the Sunday liturgy. If pastoral advantage calls for it (cf. GIRM, no. 376), a Votive Mass of Our Lady of Guadalupe may be celebrated on a weekday before or after December 12, with the proper readings and prayer.

¹ *Ceremonial of Bishops 1168*

² *Ceremonial of Bishops 1160*

Notes on Wedding Masses

Please note that when a Solemnity falls on a Saturday, the prayers & readings from the Mass of the Day are to be used for Wedding Masses. This is true regardless of whether or not the Solemnity is a holy day of obligation.

While universal law prohibits Wedding Masses on all Sundays of Advent, Lent, and the Easter Season; all Solemnities, days within the Octave of Easter; All Souls Day; Ash Wednesday; and all the days of Holy Week and the Sacred Triduum, in accordance with diocesan policy, **weddings may not be celebrated on any Sunday in the Diocese of Birmingham.**

Notes on Funeral Masses

The Funeral Mass “may be celebrated on any day except for Solemnities that are holydays of obligation, Thursday of Holy Week (Holy Thursday), the Paschal Triduum, and the Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Easter, with due regard also for all the other requirements of the norm of the law” (GIRM, 380). On days when the Funeral Mass may not be celebrated, the Funeral Liturgy Outside Mass may be used (see Order of Christian Funerals, no. 177).

Notes on Patronal Feast Days

In each parish, the anniversary of the dedication of the parish church and the feast of patron (title) of the parish are celebrated as Solemnities. **When these occur during Ordinary Time**, they may be transferred to the following Sunday. When celebrated as Solemnity, you should add a *Gloria* and a creed, a second reading, include music, make use of festive vestments, etc.

General Note on the Obligation of a Pastor to celebrate Mass *Pro Populo*

All pastors are obliged to offer the Mass *pro populo* on all Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. Pastors of multiple parishes fulfill the obligation when they offer just one Mass *pro populo* for all the faithful under their pastoral care. As the chief pastor of the diocese, the bishop too offers Mass *Pro Populo* on these days for the whole of the diocese.