

Some Liturgical Dates and Notes for the Liturgical Year 2026 (Nov. 30, 2025 through Nov. 28, 2026)

November 30 (Sunday): First Sunday of Advent.

December 8 (Monday): Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Holy Day of Obligation.

December 16 (Tuesday): Blessed Philip Sifong and Companions.

December 25 (Thursday): Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord. Holy Day of Obligation.

January 1 (Thursday): Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God. Holy Day of Obligation.

January 18-25: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

January 22 (Thursday): To be observed as a day of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion, and of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life. The Mass “For the Preservation of Peace and Justice” (n. 30 of the “Masses for Various Needs and Occasions”) should be celebrated with violet vestments as an appropriate liturgical observance for this day. (See GIRM, n.373)

January 25 (Sunday): Sunday of the Word of God, established by Pope Francis in September 2019 by Motu proprio *Aperuit Illis*, “devoted to the celebration, study, and dissemination of the word of God” (n.3).

February 2 (Monday): Presentation of the Lord: *World Day for Consecrated Life*.

February 11 (Wednesday): Our Lady of Lourdes: *World Day of the Sick*.

February 13 (Friday): Optional memorial of Blessed James Miller.

February 18: Ash Wednesday. Catholics who have celebrated their 14th birthday are to abstain from meat on this day; also, those who have celebrated their 18th birthday, until they celebrate their 59th birthday, are to fast (to fast means eating only one full meal, and, if necessary, two smaller meals to maintain strength according to one’s needs; eating solid foods between meals is not permitted).

February 22 (Sunday): Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, Cathedral of St. Joseph, 2:00 p.m.

February 27 (Friday): Day of Prayer and Penance for Diocesan and Universal Church needs. (Note: this observance is the Friday of the first week of Lent, not Friday after Ash Wednesday.)

March 15 (Sunday): Anniversary of the opening of the cause of Servant of God, Father Joe Walijewski, Cathedral of St. Joseph, 10:00.

March 31 (Tuesday): Chrism Mass, 10:30 a.m., Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman.

April 4 (Saturday): Easter Vigil. Sunset in La Crosse on Saturday, April 4 is to be at 7:36 p.m. So that the Vigil may begin in darkness, 8:30 should be the earliest beginning time for the vigil.

April 26 (Sunday): World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

May 1 (Friday): St. Joseph the Workman, principal patron of the Diocese. The proper Mass for this solemnity, with its proper orations & readings, the *Gloria*, Creed, & the Preface of St. Joseph, is to be celebrated throughout the Diocese on this day. In the Liturgy of the Hours, the *Te Deum* is said in the Office of Readings. Proper psalms and readings are taken, where lacking, from the Office for the Solemnity of St. Joseph on March 19.

May 7 (Thursday): Feast of the Anniversary of the Dedication of the Cathedral, observed throughout the Diocese outside of the Cathedral as a feast (See *General Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar*, Table of Liturgical Days, II.8.b). The orations and readings for the Mass are taken from the Common of the Dedication of a Church. The *Gloria* is recited and the *Te Deum* is said in the Office of Readings. White vestments are worn.

May 17 (Sunday): Solemnity of the Ascension. Transferred to the Seventh Sunday of Easter, Sunday, May 17, using the liturgical texts proper to the Ascension.

May 20 (Wednesday): Anniversary of the installation of Bishop Gerard Battersby as La Crosse’s 11th Bishop.

June 6 (Saturday): Ordination to the Diaconate, Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman, 10:00 a.m.

June 27 (Saturday): Ordination to the Priesthood, Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman, 10:00 a.m.

July 30 (Thursday): Optional memorial of Blessed Solanus Casey.

August 2 (Sunday): Peace Day, Diocese of La Crosse.

August 15 (Saturday): Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary. NOT a Holy Day of Obligation in 2026.

September 23 (Wed.): Rural Life Day, day of thanksgiving for blessings received. Prayer texts from *Mass for Various Needs and Occasions: After the Harvest* (n.28) can be used with Preface V of the Sundays in Ordinary Time. Readings may be taken from *After the Harvest* in Lectionary (n.20), nos. 917-921. The *Gloria* also ought to be said.

October 4 (Sunday): Memorial of Saint Francis of Assisi, secondary patron of the Diocese.

October 18: World Mission Sunday.

November 22 (Sunday): Solemnity of Christ the King.

Also...

- The title of a parish church is celebrated with the rank of solemnity. (See *General Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar*, Table of Liturgical Days, I.4.c)
- The anniversary of a church’s dedication is celebrated with the rank of a solemnity. (See *Rite for the Dedication of a Church*, n.27; *General Norms for the Liturgical Year...*, Table of Liturgical Days, I.4.b)
- An annual celebration of Eucharistic adoration over a number of days is encouraged in every parish. (See Legislation of the Fifth Diocesan Synod, n.115)

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