

## **New Evangelization**

I highly recommend *Catholicism* by Father Robert Barron. It is a ten part series (5 DVDs) and the programs are not sequential so they can be played in any order. You can buy the DVDs for \$149.95 and the *Study Guide and Workbook* for \$34.95. Can order both online at Ignatius Press – [www.ignatius.com](http://www.ignatius.com)

This is an excellent way to teach the basics of the Catholic faith in your parishes. One of the best ways to implement the New Evangelization in your parishes would be a return to the fundamentals or basics of the faith – Catholicism 101. Build a firm foundation – then start branching out with Scripture, Social Justice, Morality, Theology and History.

## **Holy Days of Obligation**

The general rule is that if the Holy Day falls on a Saturday or Monday – then the obligation is transferred to the Sunday. If it falls Tuesday through Friday – then it is a Holy Day of Obligation. The exception to this rule is the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) and the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Christmas and the Immaculate Conception are always Holy Days of Obligation – even when they occur on Saturday or Monday.

**December 8, 2011 – Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception – Patroness of the United States**

**December 25, 2011 – The Nativity of the Lord (On a Sunday this year)**

**January 1, 2012 – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (On a Sunday this year)**

**August 15, 2012 – Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

**November 1, 2012 – All Saints Day**

**The bishops of the Province of Miami (Bishops of Florida) have transferred the Ascension of our Lord to the Seventh Sunday of Easter. Thursday, May 17, 2012 is observed as an Easter Weekday in the Diocese of Palm Beach. Sunday, May 20, 2012 is observed as the Ascension of our Lord, not as the Seventh Sunday of Easter.**

## **Transferred Solemnities and Feasts in 2012**

The **Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord** is Sunday, January 8, 2012 and the **Feast of the Baptism of Lord** will be observed on Monday, January 9, 2012. First Week of Ordinary time starts Tuesday, January 10, 2012. The Christmas season ends with EP II on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

The **Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord** is transferred to Monday, March 26, 2012 because the Fifth Sunday of Lent occurs on March 25, 2012.

The **Solemnity of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist** falls on Sunday, June 24, 2012. The Solemnity takes precedence over the 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time.

## **Our Lady of Guadalupe**

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Empress of the Americas, falls on December 12<sup>th</sup>. Though it occurs during the Advent season, as a Feast a *Gloria* is sung. The *Gloria* is sung during the Advent season on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and the Feasts of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Saint Andrew (Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>).

It is never proper to supplant a Sunday in Advent with the readings and prayers for Our Lady of Guadalupe. Though a beautiful Feast and wonderful commemoration, the Sundays of Advent take precedence over Solemnities and Feasts of the Blessed Mother. (*Table of Liturgical Days, GIRM*, page, 171). For example, December 8, 2013 falls on a Sunday, but the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is transferred to December 9<sup>th</sup> to observe the precedence of a Sunday in Advent. Sundays of Advent outrank Solemnities of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Solemnities outrank Feasts on the liturgical calendar (*Table of Liturgical Days*). That being said, one may never substitute the readings and prayers of a Sunday in Advent with those of Our Lady of Guadalupe, even when December 12<sup>th</sup> falls on a Sunday.

December 12<sup>th</sup> does occasionally fall on the Third Sunday of Advent and as Rose vestments are an option, one may argue that the rose color in the Marian vestments worn for Guadalupe can suffice; that is left to your discretion.

## **Advent Guidelines**

Advent begins with Evening Prayer I on Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup> and ends with Mid-afternoon Prayer on December 24<sup>th</sup> (*Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year*, 40)

Prior to December 17<sup>th</sup>, Advent Preface I is used. On memorials of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the saints, however, the corresponding Preface may be used in place of the weekday or seasonal Preface.

The use of the organ and other musical instruments and the decorating of the Sanctuary with flowers should be done in a moderate manner without anticipating the full joy of Christmas. This principal should be observed even with the Sacrament of Matrimony during the Advent season (*GIRM*, 305, 313).

The official color of the Advent is violet or Roman purple. To distinguish between Lent and Advent, the brighter and redder hues of violet, not indigo hues, may be used. Blue vestments are not authorized for use in the United States (*GIRM*, 346e, *Ordo*, B-2).

From December 17<sup>th</sup> thru 24<sup>th</sup>, the “O” Antiphons used during Vespers may be sung as the verse for the Gospel Acclamation.

The weekdays of Advent from December 17<sup>th</sup> thru December 24<sup>th</sup> have Propers that are to be used

**The new liturgical year begins with EP I of Advent.**

**Lectionary Cycle is as follows: Sunday Cycle – Year B and Weekday Cycle – Year 2**

## The Advent Wreath

It may be placed in the narthex or gathering area, or near the ambo. Each Sunday the candle(s) of the wreath might be borne in procession, following the thurible and cross, or just ahead of the Gospel Book. Blessing of the Advent Wreath – *Book of Blessings*, nos. 1509-1540

## Thanksgiving Day

In the dioceses of the United States, the Fourth Thursday of November is observed as Thanksgiving Day. In the Sacramentary, under *Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions*, the **Mass in Thanksgiving (#39 A or B)** may be used. **Preface P 84** for Thanksgiving Day is used. For readings you may use the *Lectionary for Ritual Masses*, vol. IV, nos. 943-947. White Vestments may be worn. The recommended readings are: Sirach 50:22-24, 1 Cor. 1:3-9 and Lk. 17:11-19. To honor St Andrew Dung-Lac and companions, you may use the Collect as the closing prayer for the General Intercessions.

[Next year, the *Roman Missal* provides a special ritual Mass (with Propers and a Preface) for Thanksgiving Day on page 1004 (following the Feast Day of Saint Andrew, November 30<sup>th</sup>).]

## The Lord be with you - And with your Spirit

Following the First Sunday of Advent and the implementation of the *Roman Missal, Third Edition*, consider having your parishioners practice this greeting amongst themselves during the First Week of Advent. Encourage them to use the greeting “The Lord be with you” with their spouse and kids to get accustomed to responding “And with your Spirit.”

## What time is Midnight Mass?

Before the liturgical reforms of Vatican II, vigil Masses were not the norm so the first Mass celebrated for Sunday (or a Holy Day) occurred at Midnight.<sup>1</sup> Midnight Mass is a “tradition” of the Christmas season, but one should take note that the Masses listed for Christmas in the *Roman Missal, Third Edition* are:

Vigil Mass (may be celebrate before EP I of the Nativity)

Mass during the Night

Mass at Dawn

Mass during the Day

On the Nativity of the Lord all Priests may celebrate or concelebrate three Masses, provided the Masses are celebrated at their proper times.

<sup>1</sup> Pius XII allowed Vigil Masses because of the hardships of WWII and *De Solemni Vigilia Paschali Instauranda* (1951) restored the Easter Vigil on an experimental basis.