



Liturgical Celebrations for Christmas and the Christmas Season 2021-2022

- This year, the Solemnity of the Nativity of Christ (Dec. 25, 2021) occurs on a Saturday. Masses celebrated on Friday, Dec. 24 in the late afternoon/early evening are considered Vigil Masses.
- The traditional Mass during the night (i.e., Midnight Mass) is usually celebrated during the nighttime hours after 9 p.m.
- All Masses celebrated after the "Mass at Dawn" on Dec. 25 must be the Mass for Christmas Day. This includes any Masses that would be celebrated in the late afternoon or evening of Saturday, Dec. 25.
 - However, if a member of the faithful has already fulfilled their obligation to participate in Mass for Christmas at an earlier Mass for Christmas (Vigil/Midnight/Dawn/Day), then attending another Mass on Dec. 25 after 4:00 p.m. would fulfill the requirement to attend Mass for Sunday, Dec. 26.
- Sunday, Dec. 26 is the Feast of the Holy Family. The Mass texts, including the readings from the Lectionary, will only be used on Sunday.
- Saturday, Jan. 1, 2022, is the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God. Because this day occurs on a Saturday, it will not be a holy day of obligation this year.
 - However, Masses for the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God could be celebrated in the late afternoon and evening of Dec. 31 as well as in the morning of Jan. 1st.
 - However, all Masses on Saturday in the late afternoon/early evening will be celebrations of the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. By law, this feast outranks a solemnity of Mary.

For additional questions, please consult your pastor.