

Liturgical Calendar Advisory for December 2021/January 2022
 Archdiocese of Indianapolis
 August 18, 2021

- The **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary** falls on Wednesday, December 8, 2021 and is a Holy Day of Obligation.
- Sunday, December 12, 2021, is the **Third Sunday of Advent**, and 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. However, if pastoral advantage calls for it, a Votive Mass of Our Lady of Guadalupe may be celebrated on a weekday before or after December 12, with the proper readings and prayers. [This decision may be made by the Pastor or the PLC/Sacramental Minister themselves (cf. GIRM no.376).]
- This year, the **Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)** falls on a Saturday, December 25, and is immediately followed on Sunday, December 26, by the **Feast of the Holy Family**.

○ **Which Mass is celebrated when?**

In cases of consecutive feast days like this, there are often questions regarding which Mass and which Evening Prayer is to be celebrated on Saturday evening. When this happens as it does this year, Christmas occupies a higher place on the *Table of Liturgical Days*. Therefore, on the evening of Saturday, December 25, the Nativity Mass during the Day is celebrated with its accompanying readings from the Lectionary, and Evening Prayer II is prayed. *However, many parishes may choose to not offer a Mass on Saturday evening as it is Christmas night and not a time families would typically attend Mass.*

○ **How are the obligations fulfilled?**

On days such as these, there are also questions regarding the fulfillment of the obligation to attend Mass. In short, the prevailing view of many canon lawyers is that each obligation (in this case, one for Christmas and another for Holy Family) must be fulfilled with a *separate* Mass. The fulfillment of the Mass obligation does not depend upon the Mass prayers and readings but rather on the time of day at which one attends Mass. Evening is commonly understood to begin at 4:00 PM. The following chart may be helpful:

Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)	Holy Family
Obligation may be fulfilled from the evening of Friday, December 24 through Saturday, December 25.	Obligation may be fulfilled from the evening of Saturday, December 25 through Sunday, December 26.
For example, one may attend: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vigil Mass of the Nativity • Mass during the Night (celebrated at any time) • Morning/afternoon/evening Masses on December 25 	For example, one may attend: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Afternoon/evening Masses on December 25 (even though the Mass texts will be for the Nativity) • Morning/afternoon/evening Masses on December 26

- The **Solemnity of the Mary, the Holy Mother of God** falls on Saturday, January 1, 2022. Because this solemnity falls on a Saturday for this coming year, the obligation for the faithful to attend Mass is lifted. It is *not* a Holy Day of Obligation. However, it would be acceptable to offer a Mass on Saturday (before 4 pm), even if not customary in the parish, to celebrate this solemnity and to begin the New Year. The evening Mass on Saturday, January 1, 2022 would be the Mass of Anticipation for the Epiphany of the Lord.