



THE APOSTOLIC VICARIATE OF NORTHERN ARABIA  
**LITURGICAL CALENDAR**  
2016 - 2017



## **AVONA LITURGICAL CALENDAR**

**2016 - 2017**

*The Holy Eucharist is the summit, both of the action by which God sanctifies the world in Christ and of the worship that the human race offers to the Father, adoring him through Christ, the Son of God, in the Holy Spirit.*  
**(General Instruction of the Roman Missal)**



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November/December ...	6	June ..... 18
January .....	8	July ..... 20
February .....	10	August ..... 22
March .....	12	September ..... 24
April .....	14	October ..... 26
May .....	16	November ..... 28
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## INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

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- 1. THE LITURGICAL CALENDAR IS MEANT TO SUPPLEMENT THE LITURGICAL ORDO THAT IS USED IN THE PARISHES OF OUR VICARIATE (AVONA), FOR CONSULTATION ON OBLIGATORY CELEBRATIONS AND THOSE PROPER TO THE VICARIATE.**
- 2. ON FRIDAYS (MORNING AND EVENING) AND SATURDAYS (EVENING ONLY), MASS IS THAT OF THE FOLLOWING SUNDAY, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED IN THE CALENDAR.**
- 3. WHERE APPLICABLE, ON SATURDAY MORNING, MASS OF THE DAY IS CELEBRATED.**
- 4. FOR REGULATIONS CONCERNING FAST AND ABSTINENCE, HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATIONS, ETC, SEE PAGES 30 AND 31.**
- 5. THE MONTHLY DEDICATION AND PAPAL PRAYER INTENTIONS HAVE BEEN ADDED AS AN AID TO PERSONAL PRAYER.**
- 6. THE APPENDICES IN THE BOOKLET ARE MEANT FOR YOUR REFERENCE ONLY.**



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## THE FATIMA CENTENARY

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From May to October 2017, the Church will celebrate the centenary of the Apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary to the three shepherd children of Fatima: Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco.

The most important dimension of the Fatima event is not the supernatural phenomena that occurred but the content and the meaning of the message communicated to the children. This message comprises two essential elements. The first is the singular role of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the role of salvation, and the request of the Almighty that devotion to the Immaculate Heart be established in the world. The second involves the value of devotion to the Immaculate Heart for the individual life and for the future of the human race. To this element are connected the various spiritual practices encouraged by the Angel and by Our Lady, as well as the prophetic content of the message, upon which the fate of the world depends.

Following the Holy Father's lead of consecrating the world to Our Blessed Mother, H.L. Bishop Camillo Ballin has announced that he will consecrate our Vicariate of Northern Arabia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on Saturday, May 13, 2017 – the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First Apparition. He has invited his priests to consecrate their parishes and the country where the parish is located at the same time. The Bishop has also encouraged every parishioner to prepare individually for this great event, by inviting them to say the Rosary daily and to receive in their homes, the statue of Our Lady of Fatima for one week.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary enfold us all in her mantle of mercy, goodness and maternal love!

For more information on Fatima, visit the website: [WWW.FATIMA.PT/EN](http://WWW.FATIMA.PT/EN)



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## THE LITURGICAL YEAR

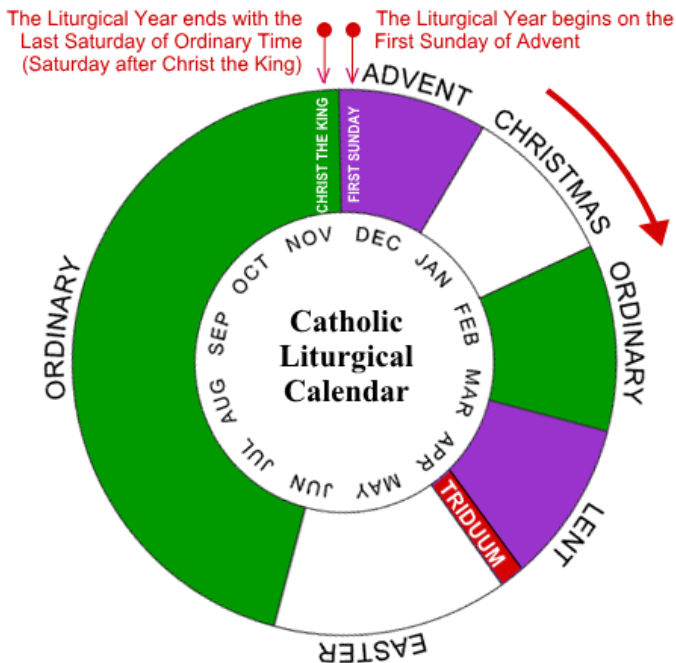
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The Liturgical Year is the year-long unfolding of the whole “mystery of Christ”, made special by the Seasons (cycles of celebration) during the year. The Church through her public worship recalls and celebrates these mysteries, dispensing to her members the treasure of Christ’s merits, so that these are made present at all times. [See also: Pgs 31, 32]

The Liturgical Year begins on the first Sunday of Advent, which usually occurs around the end of November/ beginning of December and runs through to the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe.

### GRAPHIC REPRESENTATION OF THE LITURGICAL YEAR





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## PRINCIPAL CELEBRATIONS OF THE LITURGICAL YEAR 2016 - 2017

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First Sunday of Advent	November 27, 2016
Ash Wednesday	March 1, 2017
Easter Sunday	April 16, 2017
Ascension of the Lord	May 28, 2017
Pentecost Sunday	June 4, 2017
The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ	June 18, 2017
Jesus Christ King of the Universe	November 26 , 2017

### CYCLES — LECTIONARY FOR MASS

Sunday Cycle	YEAR A
Weekday Cycle	CYCLE I

### LITURGICAL COLORS — SEASONS OF THE YEAR

	White - Purity, Joy, Triumph, Glory	Christmas, Easter
	Red - God's Love, Martyrdom	Triduum
	Green - Life, Eternal Hope	Ordinary Time
	Violet - Penance, Humility	Advent, Lent
	Rose - Joy, Anticipation	Gaudete / Laetare Sunday

In Year "A", the Church meditates on the Gospel of St. Matthew and uses it for most of the Sunday Readings. Matthew was a tax-collector and good at giving an account of facts and figures. His Gospel is a bridge between the Old and New Testament. The Gospel of St. John is proclaimed especially during the time of the Lord's Passion.

  
**NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2016**  


27	Sun	<b>1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> , <i>Psalter Wk 1 Div. Office Vol I / * / **</i>
30	Wed	<b>St. Andrew, Apostle, feast</b>
3	Sat	St. Francis Xavier, Priest, <i>memorial</i> (morning)
4	Sun	<b>2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> , <i>Psalter Week 2</i>
7	Wed	St. Ambrose, <i>memorial</i> ( <i>Vespers I of the Solemnity</i> )
8	Thu	<b>THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION</b> , <i>Solemnity</i>
11	Sun	<b>3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> , <i>Psalter Week 3</i>
12	Mon	Our Lady of Guadalupe, <i>memorial</i>
13	Tue	St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr, <i>memorial</i>
14	Wed	St. John of the Cross, <i>memorial</i>
17	Sat	St. John de Matha, <i>memorial</i>
18	Sun	<b>4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> , <i>Psalter Week 4</i>
24	Sat	Eve of Christmas, Vigil Mass, <i>Vespers I of Christmas</i>
25	Sun	<b>CHRISTMAS</b> , <i>Solemnity, Holy Day of Obligation</i>
26	Mon	St. Stephen, Protomartyr, <i>feast</i>
27	Tue	<b>St. John</b> , Apostle and Evangelist, <i>feast</i>
28	Wed	Holy Innocents, Martyrs, <i>feast</i>
29	Thu	St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr, <i>memorial</i>
30	Fri	<b>THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH</b> , <i>feast</i> <i>Titular Feast of the Holy Family Cathedral, Kuwait City</i>
31	Sat	Octave of Christmas, <i>Vespers I of the following Solemnity</i>

\* *Apostles' Creed* is said. \*\* Year "A". Lectionary Year I.

**DECEMBER IS DEDICATED TO: The Immaculate Conception.**

**HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER 2016**

**UNIVERSAL: End to Child-Soldiers**

**That the scandal of child-soldiers may be eliminated the world over.**

**EVANGELIZATION: Europe**

**That the peoples of Europe may rediscover the beauty, goodness, and truth of the Gospel which gives joy and hope to life.**



## **NOVEMBER–DECEMBER 2016: FOCUS OF THE LITURGY**

### **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Is 2: 1-5; Ps 122: 1-9; Rom 13: 11-14; Mt 24: 37-44**

We must be watchful and vigilant for the Lord's return. No signs will be given; for as a thief sneaks in during the night, so will the Lord's coming in glory be.

### **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Is 11: 1-10; Ps 72: 1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rom 15: 4-9; Mt 3: 1-12**

As John the Baptist's message prepared the way for Jesus, we, too, are called to repentance and to be prophets of Christ, announcing by our lives, as John did, the coming of the Lord.

### **THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

**Gn 3: 9-15. 20; Ps 98: 1-4; Eph 1: 3-6. 11-12; Lk 1: 26-38**

Mary is told that she will conceive through the power of the Holy Spirit. Her "Yes" to this seemingly impossible message gives evidence to the grace we know that she possesses from God.

### **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: GAUDETE (REJOICE!) SUNDAY**

**Is 35: 1-6a. 10; Ps 146: 6-10; Jas 5: 7-10; Mt 11: 2-11**

We are called to live joyfully. It takes patience and prayers to discern God's blessings and will for our lives, especially in times of hardships.

### **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Is 7: 10-14; Ps 24: 1-10; Rom 1: 1-7; Mt 1: 18-24**

The angel's words to Joseph tell us much about the child conceived by the Holy Spirit and whose name will be Jesus, which means "Yahweh saves." He will be the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy (today's first reading).

### **CHRISTMAS**

**Is 52: 7-10; Ps 98: 1-6; Heb 1: 1-6; Jn 1: 1-18**

And the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. Through the Incarnation, God saves us from the darkness of sin and makes us His children.

### **THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**

**Sir 3: 2-6, 12-14 or Col 3: 12-21; Ps 128: 1-5; Mt 2: 13-15, 19-23**

The Holy Family's escape to Egypt and the massacre that Jesus is saved from remind us of the struggles and sacrifices that are required as preparation for God's salvation.

  
**JANUARY 2017**  


1	Sun	<b>MARY, MOTHER OF GOD</b> , <i>Solemnity. World Day of Peace</i>
2	Mon	SS. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, <i>mem. Psalter Week II</i>
8	Sun	<b>EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</b> , <i>Solemnity / Collect. for Holy Childhood</i>
9	Mon	Ordinary Time of the Year, 1 <sup>st</sup> Week, <i>Psalter Week 1</i>
13	Fri	<b>OUR LADY OF ARABIA</b> , <i>Patroness of our Vicariate, Solemnity *</i>
14	Sat	<b>OUR LADY OF ARABIA</b> , <i>Patroness of our Vicariate, Solemnity *</i>
15	Sun	<b>OUR LADY OF ARABIA</b> , <i>Patroness of our Vicariate, Solemnity *</i>
16	Mon	Ordinary Time of the Year, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Week, <i>Psalter Week II</i>
17	Tue	St. Anthony, Abbot, <i>memorial</i>
18	Wed	<b>Christian Unity Week begins</b>
21	Sat	St. Agnes, Martyr, <i>memorial, Vespers of 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday</i>
22	Sun	<b>3RD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME</b> , <i>Psalter Week 3</i>
23	Mon	Ordinary Time of the Year, 3rd Week, <i>Psalter Week III</i>
24	Tue	St. Francis de Sales, <i>memorial</i>
25	Wed	Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle, <i>feast</i>
26	Thu	SS. Timothy and Titus, Bishops, <i>memorial</i>
28	Sat	St. Thomas Aquinas, <i>memorial, First Vespers of the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday</i>
29	Sun	<b>4TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME</b> , <i>Psalter Week 4</i>
30	Mon	Ordinary Time of the Year, 4th Week, <i>Psalter Week IV</i>
31	Tue	St. John Bosco, Priest, <i>memorial</i>

\* *Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed is said.*

**JANUARY IS DEDICATED TO: The Divine Infancy and The Holy Name of Jesus.**

**HOLY FATHER’S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY 2017**

**CHRISTIAN UNITY: That all Christians may be faithful to the Lord’s teaching by striving with prayer and fraternal charity to restore ecclesial communion and by collaborating to meet the challenges facing humanity.**

**A second prayer intention related to current events or urgent needs will be added every month. Please check this website for more information:**

**[WWW.APOSTLESHIPFORPRAYER.ORG](http://WWW.APOSTLESHIPFORPRAYER.ORG)**

## **JANUARY 2017: FOCUS OF THE LITURGY**

### **MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**

**Nm 6: 22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4: 4-7; Lk 2: 16-21**

Shepherds hear the word of God from Angels and begin to tell it to everyone. Mary does not capture the full significance of God's action in Jesus immediately. Her journey of faith makes her the model believer.

### **THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

**Is 60: 1-6; Ps 72: 1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3: 2-3, 5-6; Mt 2: 1-12**

The Magi's pilgrimage in today's Gospel marks the fulfillment of God's promises, that, the Messiah will be from the line of David; the other, predicting a ruler of Israel who will shepherd His flock and whose greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth.

### **SOLEMNITY OF OUR LADY OF ARABIA**

**Is 60:1-6; Ps 71: 1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Rom 12:9-16; Lk 1:45**

Blessed are you, O Virgin Mary, by the Lord God Most High, above all women on the earth; for He has so exalted your name, that your praise shall be undying on our lips. (Entrance Antiphon)

### **THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

**Is 8: 23 – 9: 3; Ps 27: 1, 4, 13-14; 1 Cor 1: 10-13, 17; Mt 4: 12-23**

When Jesus begins to preach in Galilee, Matthew points to His ministry as a fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy, proof that Jesus is the Messiah. Jesus inaugurates the Kingdom of God with His work. In Jesus' ministry, we already begin to see the Kingdom of God among us.

### **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

**Zep 2: 3; 3: 12-13; Ps 146: 6-10; 1 Cor 1: 26-31; Mt 5: 1-12a**

The Beatitudes can be understood as a framework for Christian living. Our vocation as Christians is not to be first in this world, but rather to be first in the eyes of God. By referring to the good things that the faithful will experience, Matthew reminds us that those who act in the manner described in the Beatitudes will find their reward with God.



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## FEBRUARY 2017

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2	Thu	<b>Presentation of the Lord</b> , <i>feast, World Day of Consecrated Life</i>
4	Sat	Saturday Mass of Our Lady, <i>Vespers 1 of the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday</i>
5	Sun	<b>5TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME</b> , <i>Psalter Week I</i>
6	Mon	SS. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs, <i>memorial, Fifth Week</i>
8	Wed	St. Josephine Bakhita, Sudanese, Patroness of the migrants
9	Thu	St. Maroun, <i>memorial</i>
11	Sat	Our Lady of Lourdes - <i>World Day of the Sick, Ves. I of 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday</i>
12	Sun	<b>6TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME</b> , <i>Psalter Week II</i>
13	Mon	<b>CLERGY MEETING</b> , Sts. Cyril, monk, & Methodius, Bishop, <i>mem.</i>
14	Tue	<b>CLERGY MEETING</b>
15	Wed	<b>CLERGY MEETING</b>
16	Thu	<b>CLERGY MEETING</b>
18	Sat	Saturday Mass of Our Lady, <i>Vespers I of the 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday</i>
19	Sun	<b>7TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME</b> , <i>Psalter Week III</i>
22	Wed	Chair of St. Peter, the Apostle, <i>feast</i>
23	Thu	St. Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr, <i>memorial</i>
25	Sat	Saturday Mass of Our Lady, <i>Vespers I of the 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday</i>
26	Sun	<b>8TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME</b> , <i>Psalter IV</i>
28	Tue	<i>Retirement of Benedict XVI</i>

**FEBRUARY IS DEDICATED TO:** The Holy Family and The Holy Trinity.

**HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR FEBRUARY 2017**

**COMFORT FOR THE AFFLICTED:** That all those who are afflicted, especially the poor, refugees, and marginalized, may find welcome and comfort in our communities.

## **FEBRUARY 2017: FOCUS OF THE LITURGY**

### **THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD**

**Mal 3: 1-4; Ps 24: 7- 10; Heb 2: 14-18; Lk 2: 22-40**

Joseph and Mary present their firstborn son to the Lord to be consecrated as required by the Law of Moses. Christ's coming was foretold by all Israel's prophets, including Malachi, the Twelfth of the Twelve Minor Prophets. Simeon and Anna lived to witness the fulfillment of this prophecy of Malachi.

### **FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

**Is 58: 7-10; Ps 112: 4-9 ; 1 Cor 2: 1-5; Mt 5: 13-16**

Jesus calls every Christian to be salt for the earth and light for the world. The light and salt of holiness of life and spirituality are concretely expressed through the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, both, privately and as a faith community. By publicly performing these good deeds, we are able to witness to others.

### **SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

**Sir 15: 15-20; Ps 119: 1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34; 1 Cor 2: 6-10; Mt 5: 17-37**

Jesus does not overturn the Law of Moses, nor does He set his followers free from the Law. He requires His followers to go beyond the Law by doing more than the Law requires. The law of Christ is the new law of love, trust and freedom, forgiveness and compassion.

### **SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

**Lv 19: 1-2, 17-18; Ps 103: 1-4, 8, 10, 12-13; 1 Cor 3: 16-23; Mt 5: 38-48**

We are to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect. Jesus is not referring to worldly perfection, but the perfection which comes from being morally correct, loving one's enemy and being charitable to all. Whoever keeps the word of Christ, the love of God is truly perfected in him.

### **EIGHTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

**Is 49: 14-15; Ps 62: 2-3, 6-9; 1 Cor 4: 1-5; Mt 6: 24-34**

Jesus knows human nature: that we worry about so many things! He reassures us not to worry about tomorrow. Our God is a loving God. He will never abandon us in our needs and difficulties. This does not mean that we should not work to earn a living. For our Lord, in as much as we toil in this life, and sometimes encounter setbacks, we should never feel abandoned by God. Like a loving father, He holds the whole world in His hands.

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## MARCH 2017

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1	Wed	Ash Wednesday, <i>Psalter Week IV. Apostles' Creed is said.</i>
4	Sat	<i>Vespers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent</i>
5	Sun	<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</b> , <i>Psalter Week I</i>
12	Sun	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</b> , <i>Psalter Week II</i>
13	Mon	<i>Fourth Anniversary of the election of Pope Francis</i>
18	Sat	<i>Vespers of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent</i>
19	Sun	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT</b> , <i>Psalter Wk III. Vesp. II of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun</i>
20	Mon	<b>St. Joseph</b> , <i>solemnity</i>
25	Sat	<b>THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD</b> , <i>solemnity Vesp II of the Ann.</i>
26	Sun	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b> , <i>Psalter Week IV</i>
27	Mon	<i>St. Mary Alfonsine Ghattas, memorial (from March 25)</i>

**MARCH IS DEDICATED TO: Saint Joseph - Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary; Foster Father of Jesus.**

**HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MARCH 2017**

**SUPPORT FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS: That persecuted Christians may be supported by the prayers and material help of the whole Church.**

## **MARCH 2017: FOCUS OF THE LITURGY**

### **ASH WEDNESDAY**

**Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-14, 17; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18**

The Lord invites us to return to Him whole-heartedly, with fasting, weeping and mourning. If today we hear His voice, let us not harden our hearts.

### **FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

**Gn 2: 7-9; 3: 1-7; Ps 51: 3-6, 12-13,17; Rom 5: 12-19 or 5: 12, 17-19; Mt 4:1-11**

Jesus' temptation is a reminder that none of us is above temptation. His rejection of the temptations shows that He will not put God to the test. He rebukes the devil, confident in God's protection and faithfulness.

### **SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

**Gn 12: 1-4a/ Ps 33: 4-5. 18- 20, 22; 2 Tm 1: 8b-10; Mt 17: 1-9**

Jesus' Transfiguration is a promise of Jesus' glory. Moses and Elijah represent the Law and the Prophets. Together with Jesus, they represent God's complete Word.

### **THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

**Ex 17: 3-7; Ps 95: 1-2, 6-9; Rom 5: 1-2, 5-8; Jn 4: 5-42**

Jesus reveals Himself to the Samaritan woman at the well. From this encounter, we learn that God's mercy is without limit. Christ is waiting and wanting to refresh each of us with His healing love.

### **SOLEMNITY OF ST. JOSEPH**

**2 Sam 7: 4-5, 12-14, 16; Ps 89; Rom 4: 13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1: 16, 18-21, 24**

St. Matthew presents the familiar account of the tradesman Joseph and his marriage to a young girl and the Angel's command to him in a dream.

### **THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD**

**Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Ps 40; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38**

Mary's free acceptance of God's will is a truly human, free and conscious act of wanting what God wants.

### **FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT: LAETARE (REJOICE!) SUNDAY**

**1 Sm 16: 1, 6-7, 10-13; Ps 23: 1-6); Eph 5: 8-14; Jn 9: 1-41**

Jesus heals the man born blind and he is cured, both, of his physical and spiritual blindness.



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## APRIL 2017

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2	Sun	<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b> , <i>Psalter Week I</i>
3	Mon	<i>Preface of the Passion I</i>
8	Sat	<i>Vespers I of Palm Sunday</i>
9	Sun	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b> , <i>Psalter Week II</i>
10	Mon	<i>Holy Week Preface of the Passion II</i>
11	Tue	<i>Holy Week</i> <b>Chrism Mass, Holy Family Cathedral, Kuwait</b>
12	Wed	<i>Holy Week</i>
13	Thu	<b>Holy Thursday</b> <i>Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper</i>
14	Fri	<b>Good Friday</b> <i>Celebration of the Lord's Passion</i> * <b>Fast &amp; Abst</b>
15	Sat	<b>Holy Saturday</b> <i>Celebration of the Easter Vigil.</i>
16	Sun	<b>EASTER SUNDAY =Easter Season= Solemnity with Octave</b>
17	Mon	Octave of Easter
18	Tue	Octave of Easter
19	Wed	Octave of Easter
20	Thu	Octave of Easter
23	Sun	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (Divine Mercy Sunday)</b>
24	Mon	2 <sup>nd</sup> Week of Easter. <i>Psalter Week II</i>
25	Tue	St. Mark, Evangelist, <i>feast</i>
30	Sun	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> <i>Psalter Week III</i>

- *Collection of Holy Friday is for the Holy Land*

**APRIL IS DEDICATED TO: The Holy Eucharist and The Holy Spirit.**

**HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR APRIL 2017**

**YOUNG PEOPLE:** That young people may respond generously to their vocations and seriously consider offering themselves to God in the priesthood or consecrated life.



## **APRIL 2017: FOCUS OF THE LITURGY**

### **FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

**Gn 2:7-9, 3: 1-7; Ps 51: 3-6,12-13, 17; Rom 5: 12-19 or 5: 12,17-19; Mt 4:1-11**

The raising of Lazarus from the dead foreshadows Jesus' own Resurrection.

Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life.

### **PALM SUNDAY**

**Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 27:11-54**

Jesus is obedient to the Father unto death. As Jesus blesses the chalice, He says: “. . . for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins.” The Palm Sunday procession ushers us into the most Holy Week of Christian Liturgy.

### **PASCHAL TRIDUUM**

Though chronologically three days, they are liturgically one day unfolding for us the unity of Christ's Paschal Mystery. The liturgical services that take place during the Triduum are:

Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday of the Lord's Passion

Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord

### **EASTER SUNDAY**

**Acts 10:34,37-43; Ps 118:1-2,16-17, 22-23; Col 3:1-4; Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10**

Mary of Magdala finds that the stone has been removed from Jesus' tomb.

She tells Peter and John, and they “saw and believed.” Our Easter faith is based on their witness.

### **SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER [Divine Mercy Sunday]**

**Acts 2: 42-47; Ps 118: 2-4, 13-15, 22-24; 1 Pt 1: 3-9; Jn 20: 19-31**

Jesus greets His disciples with the gift of peace and the gift of the Holy Spirit. He commissions them to preach, and bestows on them the power to forgive sins. How great is God's mercy to us sinners!

### **THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Acts 2: 14. 22-33; Ps 16: 1-2, 5, 7-11; 1 Pt 1: 17-21; Lk 24:13-35**

We find a model for the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist in today's Gospel readings. Just as the two disciples recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread, we, too, in the Eucharist, discover Jesus in our midst.

  
**MAY 2017**  


1	Mon	3 <sup>rd</sup> Week of Easter, <i>Psalter Week III</i>
2	Tue	St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor, <i>memorial</i>
3	Wed	<b>SS. Philippe and James, Apostles, <i>feast</i></b>
4	Thu	Our Lady of Lebanon
7	Sun	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, <i>Psalter Week IV</i></b> <i>World Day of Prayer for Vocations</i>
9	Tue	<i>Psalter Week 3</i>
13	Sat	<b>OUR LADY OF FATIMA: CONSECRATION OF THE VICARIATE</b>
14	Sun	<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, <i>Psalter Week I</i></b>
21	Sun	<b>SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, <i>Psalter Week II</i></b>
22	Mon	St. Rita of Cascia, <i>memorial</i>
27	Sat	St. Augustine of Canterbury, <i>Vespers I of the Ascension</i>
28	Sun	<b>THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD, <i>Solemnity</i></b> <i>World Communications Day</i>
29	Mon	7 <sup>th</sup> Week of Easter, <i>Psalter Week III</i>
31	Wed	The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, <i>feast</i> <i>Foundation Day of the two Vicariates of the Arabian Peninsula</i>

**MAY IS DEDICATED TO: The Blessed Virgin Mary.**

**HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MAY 2017**

**CHRISTIANS IN AFRICA: That Christians in Africa, in imitation of the Merciful Jesus, may give prophetic witness to reconciliation, justice, and peace.**

## **MAY 2017: FOCUS OF THE LITURGY**

### **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Acts 2: 14, 36-41; Ps 23: 1-6; 1 Pt 2: 20-25; Jn 10: 1-10**

Jesus identifies Himself both as the Shepherd and the Gate. Whoever enters through the Gate - Christ - will be saved. Jesus continues to watch over us and searches for us as a shepherd searches after his lost sheep.

### **OUR LADY OF FATIMA**

**Acts 13: 44-52; Ps 98: 1, 2-3, 3-4; Jn 14: 7-14**

“O Mary, I will always invoke your protection! Your name! Your gentle heart!” (Sister Lucia). Today, we celebrate the 100th anniversary of Our Lady’s first apparition to the three shepherd children of Fatima: Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco, and the Consecration of our Vicariate to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

### **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Acts 6: 1-7; Ps 33: 1-2, 4-5, 18-19; 1 Pt 2: 4-9; Jn 14: 1-12**

The connection between Jesus and His Father, between Jesus' work and the work of the Father, is made clear in today's Gospel. In knowing and loving Jesus, the disciples love God the Father. Jesus tells His disciples, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

### **SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17; Ps 66: 1-7, 16, 20; 1 Pt 3: 15-18; Jn 14: 15-21**

Jesus says, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” He promises His disciples that He will send them another advocate, the Spirit of truth who will continue the work of the Father and of Jesus. Jesus will leave to return to the Father, but the Holy Spirit will remain with the disciples. The revelation of the Trinity is completed in today's reading.

### **THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**

**Acts 1: 1-11; Ps 47: 2-3, 6-7, 8-9; Eph 1: 17-23; Mt 28: 16-20**

The Final Commission, as this Gospel is sometimes called, is given on the mountaintop. Jesus commissions His disciples to continue to teach in His name and to baptize in the name of the Trinity. In doing so, Jesus inaugurates the beginning of the Church.

  
**JUNE 2017**  


1	Thu	St. Justin, martyr, <i>Memorial</i>
3	Sat	SS. Charles Lwanga & Companions, Martyrs
4	Sun	<b>PENTECOST, Solemnity.</b> <i>The pascal candle is removed</i>
5	Mon	9 <sup>th</sup> Week of Ordinary Time. <i>Psalter Week I</i>
11	Sun	<b>THE MOST HOLY TRINITY, Solemnity *</b>
12	Mon	10 <sup>th</sup> Week of Ordinary Time. <i>Psalter Week II</i>
13	Tue	St. Anthony of Padua, <i>memorial</i>
18	Sun	<b>CORPUS CHRISTI, Solemnity</b>
19	Mon	11 <sup>th</sup> Week of Ordinary Time. <i>Psalter Week III</i>
21	Wed	St. Aloysius Gonzaga, religious, <i>memorial</i>
22	Thu	SS. John Fisher, Bishop, and Thomas More, Martyrs, <i>memorial</i>
23	Fri	<b>The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Solemnity.</b> <i>Vespers II of S. Heart World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests</i>
24	Sat	<b>THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, Solemnity</b>
25	Sun	<b>12TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, Psalter Week IV</b>
27	Tue	St Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop and Doctor, <i>memorial</i>
28	Wed	St. Irenaeus, Bishop and martyr. <i>Vespers I of the solemnity</i>
29	Thu	<b>SS. Peter and Paul, Apostles. Solemnity *</b>

\* *Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed is said.*

\* *Peter's Pence Collection for the Holy Father's humanitarian works*

**JUNE IS DEDICATED TO: The Sacred Heart of Jesus.**

**HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JUNE 2017**

**NATIONAL LEADERS: That national leaders may firmly commit themselves to ending the arms trade, which victimizes so many innocent people.**

## **JUNE 2017: FOCUS OF THE LITURGY**

### **PENTECOST SUNDAY**

**Acts 2:1-11; Ps 104:1,24,29-31,34; 1 Cor 12:3-7,12-13; Jn 20:19-23**

The Holy Spirit empowers us to witness to Christ and to live as children of God.

### **THE MOST HOLY TRINITY**

**Ex 34: 4-6, 8-9; Dn 3: 52-56; 2 Cor 13: 11-13; Jn 3: 16-18**

God the Father, out of love for the world, sent His Son into the world in order to save it. Through the death and resurrection of the Son, we have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit.

### **CORPUS CHRISTI**

**Dt 8: 2-3, 14-16; Ps 147: 12-15, 19-20; 1 Cor 10: 16-17; Jn 6: 51-58**

Jesus tells the crowd that He is the living bread come down from Heaven. Just as God gave the Israelites manna to sustain them in the desert, so now God has sent new manna that will give eternal life.

### **THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS**

**Dt 7: 6-11; Ps 103: 1-4, 6-8, 10; 1 Jn 4: 7-16; Mt 11: 25-30**

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest," says the Lord, "Learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart."

### **THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

**Is 49: 1-6; Ps 139: 1-3, 13-15; Acts 13: 22-26; Lk 1: 57-66, 80**

"The child's name is John," his father said. For surely the hand of the Lord was with him.

### **TWELFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

**Jer 20: 10-13; Ps 69: 8-10, 14, 17, 33-35; Rom 5: 12-15; Mt 10: 26-33**

Jesus predicts that His disciples will face difficulties in their mission. Persecution and suffering cannot be avoided or prevented, but He reassures them that God knows and cares about what happens to His children.

### **SS. PETER AND PAUL**

**Acts 12: 1-11; Ps 34: 2-9; 2 Tm 4: 6-8, 17-18; Mt 16: 13-19**

Peter and Paul are the two great witnesses our faith goes back to. It is clear that the two Apostles have been chosen by Christ to play a major role in His plans for His Church and her ultimate victory over the powers of evil.




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## JULY 2017

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1	Sat	Saturday Mass of Our Lady
2	Sun	<b>13TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, Psalter Week I</b>
3	Mon	<b>St. Thomas</b> Apostle, <i>Feast</i> <i>Special feast day for Syro-Malabar, Syro- Malankara Churches</i>
6	Thu	St. Maria Goretti, Virgin and Martyr, <i>memorial</i>
9	Sun	<b>14TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, Psalter Week II</b>
11	Tue	St. Benedict, Abbot, <i>memorial</i>
16	Sun	<b>15TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, Psalter Week III</b>
20	Thu	St. Apollinaris, Bishop and Martyr, <i>memorial</i>
22	Sat	St. Mary Magdalene, <i>feast</i>
23	Sun	<b>16TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, Psalter Week IV</b>
24	Mon	St. Charbel Makhlof, <i>memorial</i>
25	Tue	<b>St. James</b> , Apostle, <i>feast</i>
26	Wed	SS. Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Virgin Mary, <i>memorial</i>
29	Sat	St. Martha, <i>memorial</i>
30	Sun	<b>17TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, Psalter Week I</b>
31	Mon	St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest, <i>memorial</i>

**JULY IS DEDICATED TO: The Most Precious Blood of Jesus.**

**HOLY FATHER’S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JULY 2017**

**LAPSED CHRISTIANS: That our brothers and sisters who have strayed from the faith, through our prayer and witness to the Gospel, may rediscover the merciful closeness of the Lord and the beauty of the Christian life.**

## **JULY 2017: FOCUS OF THE LITURGY**

### **THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

**2 Kgs 4: 8-11, 14-16; Ps 89: 2-3, 16-19; Rom 6: 3-4, 8-11; Mt 10: 37-42**

Jesus outlines the difficulties and rewards of being His disciple. Choosing life with Christ means that every relationship we have must be understood from a new perspective, even to the point of division in the family. Today's Gospel also highlights the importance of hospitality in the Christian life. To welcome another in Jesus' name is to extend hospitality to Jesus Himself.

### **FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

**Zec 9: 9-10; Ps 145: 1-2, 8-11, 13-14; Rom 8: 9, 11-13; Mt 11: 25-30**

God has made Himself known through Jesus, and in knowing Jesus, we come to know the Father. To those who do not believe, Jesus reveals what is necessary for faith. He praises God who has made Himself known to the "little ones" and not to the wise and learned.

### **FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

**Is 55: 10-11; Ps 65: 10, 11-14 (Lk 8:8); Rom 8: 18-23; Mt 13: 1-23**

The Kingdom of Heaven is like seed that has been sown on good soil. Seeds that miss the soil or are sown on rocky ground or among other plants, will not grow. Jesus loves speaking in parables because the meanings of parables are not self-evident. They call for reflection with the "mind of Christ." Contained within these parables are words of caution as well as words of consolation. Blessed are those who see and hear.

### **SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

**Wis 12: 13, 16-19; Ps 86: 5-6, 9-10, 15-16; Rom 8: 26-27; Mt 13: 24-43**

Just as a mustard seed will become a large bush or a small amount of yeast will leaven a batch of bread, so too God will bring about the fullness of his Kingdom from even the smallest signs.

### **SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

**1 Kgs 3: 5, 7-12; Ps 119: 57, 72, 76-77, 127-130; Rom 8: 28-30; Mt 13: 44-52**

We must place everything we value in the service of the pursuit of the Kingdom of God for it is like a buried treasure or a pearl of great worth. Our final judgement will depend on how we act.



## AUGUST 2017



1	Tue	St. Alphonsus Ligouri, Bishop and Doctor, <i>memorial</i>
5	Sat	Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major, <i>memorial</i>
6	Sun	<b>THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD, Feast</b>
7	Mon	18 <sup>th</sup> Week of Ordinary Time. <i>Psalter Week II</i>
8	Tue	St. Dominic, Priest, <i>memorial</i>
9	Wed	St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Virgin and Martyr, <i>memorial</i>
10	Thu	St. Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr, <i>Feast</i>
13	Sun	<b>19TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, Psalter Week III</b>
14	Mon	St. Maximilian Kolbe, <i>memorial. Vespers I of the Assumption</i>
15	Tue	<b>THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, solemnity</b>
20	Sun	<b>20TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, Psalter Week IV</b>
21	Mon	St. Pius X, <i>memorial</i>
22	Tue	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary, <i>Memorial</i>
23	Wed	St. Rose of Lima, Virgin, <i>memorial</i>
24	Thu	<b>St. Bartholomew, Apostle, Feast</b>
26	Sat	St. Maryam Bawardi, <i>memorial</i>
27	Sun	<b>21ST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, Psalter Week I</b>
28	Mon	St. Augustine, Bishop & Doctor,
29	Tue	The Passion of St. John the Baptist, <i>memorial</i>

**AUGUST IS DEDICATED TO: The Immaculate Heart of Mary.**

**HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR AUGUST 2017**

**ARTISTS: That artists of our time, through their ingenuity, may help everyone discover the beauty of creation.**



## **AUGUST 2017: FOCUS OF THE LITURGY**

### **THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD**

**Dn 7: 9-10, 13-14; Ps 97: 1-2, 5-6, 9; 2 Pt 1: 16-19; Mt 17: 1-9**

Jesus is transfigured on the mountain before Peter, James, and John. A voice from Heaven affirms that Jesus is "my beloved Son" and commands the disciples to listen to Him.

### **NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

**1 Kgs 19: 9, 11-13; Ps 85: 9-14; Rom 9: 1-5; Mt 14: 22-33**

Jesus recommends 'courage' to his frightened disciples and commands the faithless Peter to walk on the sea. Jesus also stretches His hands to help the sinking Peter saying "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" Jesus walks on water, and the disciples acknowledge Him as the Son of God.

### **THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

**Rev 11:19, 12:1-6, 10; Ps 45:10, 11, 12, 16; 1 Cor 15:20-27; Lk 1:39-56**

Because of Mary's role in God's plan of salvation, she does not suffer from the effects of sin, which are death and decay. Mary is the first to receive the fullness of the redemption that her son has won for all of humanity. The Church, therefore, recognizes Mary as the sign of the salvation promised to all.

### **TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

**Is 56: 1. 6-7; Ps 67: 2-3, 5, 6, 8; Rom 11: 13-15, 29-32; Mt 15: 21-28**

Jesus heals the daughter of the Canaanite woman because of her great faith. The faith that the Canaanite woman expresses is an affirmation of and confidence in God's abundant mercy. Salvation comes through Israel, but it overflows for the benefit of all.

### **TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

**Is 22: 19-23; Ps 138: 1-2, 2-3, 6, 8; Rom 11: 33-36; Mt 16: 13-20**

Simon Peter identifies Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God. Jesus commends Simon Peter for his profession of faith, indicating that this insight has come from God. Because of Simon Peter's response, Jesus calls him the "rock" upon which He will build the Church.



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## SEPTEMBER 2017

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2	Sat	12th anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Camillo
3	Sun	<b>22ND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, <i>Psalter Week II</i></b>
5	Tue	St. Teresa of Calcutta, <i>memorial</i>
8	Fri	<b>THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, <i>Feast</i></b>
10	Sun	<b>23RD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, <i>Psalter Week III</i></b>
12	Tue	The Most Holy Name of Mary, <i>memorial</i>
13	Wed	St. John Chrysostomos, Bishop and Doctor, <i>memorial</i>
14	Thu	The Exaltation of the Cross, <i>Feast</i>
16	Sat	SS. Cornelius, Pope, & Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs, <i>memorial</i>
17	Sun	<b>24TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, <i>Psalter Week IV</i></b>
20	Wed	SS. Andrew Kim, Priest, and Companion, Martyrs, <i>memorial</i>
21	Thu	<b>St. Matthew</b> , Apostle, Evangelist, <i>Feast</i>
23	Sat	St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina, <i>memorial</i>
24	Sun	<b>25TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, <i>Psalter Week I</i></b>
26	Tue	SS. Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs, <i>memorial</i>
27	Wed	St. Vincent de Paul, Priest, <i>memorial</i>
28	Thu	SS. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions, Martyrs, <i>memorial</i>
30	Sat	St. Jerome, Priest & Doctor, <i>memorial</i>

**SEPTEMBER IS DEDICATED TO: The Holy Cross and Our Lady of Sorrows.**

**HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2017**

**PARISHES: That our parishes, animated by a missionary spirit, may be places where faith is communicated and charity is seen.**

## **SEPTEMBER 2017: FOCUS OF THE LITURGY**

### **TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

**Jer 20: 7-9; Ps 63: 2-6, 8-9; Rom 12: 1-2; Mt 16: 21-27**

Jesus tells His disciples that He would be the Messiah in a different way. Jesus rebukes Peter when he reacts negatively to Jesus' prediction about his passion and death.

### **THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

**Rom 8:28-30 or Mic 5:2-5; Ps 13: 6; Mt 1:1-16, 18-23**

The Readings remind us that God has a plan. He had a plan for our salvation that led to the births of Mary and Jesus; and He has a plan for us as well.

### **TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

**Ez 33: 7-9; Ps 95: 1-2, 6-9; Rom 13: 8-10; Mt 18: 15-20**

Jesus says, "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault." We are called to love and to watch out for neighbours, speak well about them, counsel them and persuade them from any wrong-doing.

### **THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS**

**Num 21:4-9; Ps 78:1-2, 34-38; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17**

The ways of salvation established by God are mysterious – gazing on a bronze serpent, or on a man crucified – but they are the only way. What is responsible for our salvation is not the cross itself, but the obedience of the One hanging on it, and the Father's merciful love in giving up His only Son.

### **TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

**Sir 27: 30 – 28: 7; Ps 103: 1-4, 9-12 (8); Rom 14: 7-9; Mt 18: 21-35**

Jesus uses the parable of the unforgiving servant to teach that forgiveness is not about the number of times we extend forgiveness to another. If we show no mercy to others, we risk forfeiting the effects of God's mercy in our lives.

### **TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

**Is 55: 6-9; Ps 145: 2-3, 8-9, 17-18; Phil 1: 20-24, 27; Mt 20: 1-16**

God owes us nothing, yet he offers abundantly and equally. We might be tempted to think that our actions deserve more reward, more of God's abundant mercy than the actions of others. But God's generosity abounds for everyone. These are God's radically different ways.

  
**OCTOBER 2017**  


1	Sun	<b>26TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, <i>Psalter Week II</i></b>
2	Mon	St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Patroness of the Missions, <i>mem.</i>
3	Tue	The Holy Guardian Angels, <i>memorial</i>
4	Wed	St. Francis of Assisi, <i>memorial, Feast of Pope Francis</i>
7	Sat	Our Lady of the Rosary, <i>memorial</i>
8	Sun	<b>27TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, <i>Psalter Week III</i></b>
10	Tue	<b>St. Daniel Comboni</b>
11	Wed	St. John XXIII, Pope, <i>memorial</i>
15	Sun	<b>28TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, <i>Psalter Week IV</i></b>
16	Mon	St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, <i>memorial</i>
17	Tue	St. Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop and Martyr, <i>memorial</i>
18	Wed	St. Luke, Evangelist, <i>feast</i>
19	Thu	St. Paul of the Cross, Priest, <i>memorial</i>
22	Sun	<b>29TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, <i>Psalter Week I</i></b> <i>World Mission Day</i>
24	Tue	<b>St. Arethas and Companions, Martyrs, <i>memorial</i></b>
28	Sat	<b>SS. Simon and Jude, Apostles, <i>feast</i></b>
29	Sun	<b>30TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME <i>Psalter Week II</i></b>
31	Tue	<i>Vespers I of the following Solemnity</i>

\* *Collection of Mission Sunday will be for the Propagation of the Faith*

**OCTOBER IS DEDICATED TO: The Guardian Angel and The Holy Rosary.**

**HOLY FATHER’S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR OCTOBER 2017**

**WORKERS AND THE UNEMPLOYED: That all workers may receive respect and protection of their rights, and that the unemployed may receive the opportunity to contribute to the common good.**

## **OCTOBER 2017: FOCUS OF THE LITURGY**

### **TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

**Ez 18: 25-28; Ps 25: 4-9; Phil 2: 1-11; Mt 21: 28-32**

Do our actions indicate our obedience to God? God desires a full conversion of heart. Conversion is ongoing, onward not backward. It is a process and it is never too late, even for the most hardened sinners to make their way towards God.

### **TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

**Is 5: 1-7; Ps 80: 9, 12, 13-16, 19-20; Phil 4: 6-9; Mt 21: 33-43**

The Kingdom of God will be taken from the unbelieving and given to the faithful. God speaks to us in many ways - through Scripture, through the Church's teaching, and through modern-day prophets. Are we attentive to God's word?

### **TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

**Is 25: 6-10a; Ps 23: 1-6; Phil 4: 12-14, 19-20; Mt 22: 1-14**

While many are invited to the Kingdom of Heaven, not all are able to meet its requirements. God invites us to His feast, giving us His salvation. To accept the invitation is also to accept its obligations. God wants our full conversion in complete acceptance of His mercy.

### **TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

**Is 45: 1, 4-6; Ps 96: 1, 3-5, 7-10; 1 Thes 1: 1-5b; Mt 22: 15-21**

Christians must realize the importance of keeping things in their proper perspective. Do we attach ourselves to worldly things at the expense of the love and honour that we owe to God? Do we neglect our duty towards our family and neighbour?

### **THIRTIETH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

**Ex 22: 20-26; Ps 18: 2-4, 47, 51; 1 Thes 1: 5-10; Mt 22: 34-40**

All of the commandments can be summarized in two commandments: love of God and love of neighbour. Love of God finds its expression in our love for our neighbour.

  
**NOVEMBER 2017**  


1	Wed	<b>ALL SAINTS, Solemnity. Evening prayer II of All Saints</b>
2	Thu	All Souls, Mass of All Souls Day <i>Divine Office of the Dead</i>
4	Sat	St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop, <i>memorial</i>
5	Sun	<b>31ST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, Psalter Week III</b>
9	Thu	The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica, <i>Feast</i>
11	Sat	St. Martin of Tours, <i>memorial</i>
12	Sun	<b>32ND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, Psalter Week IV</b>
15	Wed	St. Albert the Great, Bishop and Doctor, <i>memorial</i>
16	Thu	St. Margaret of Scotland, <i>memorial</i>
18	Sat	Dedication of the Basilicas of Sts. Peter and Paul, <i>memorial</i>
19	Sun	<b>33RD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, Psalter Week I</b>
21	Tue	Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, <i>memorial</i>
22	Wed	St. Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr, <i>memorial</i>
23	Thu	St. Clement I, Pope and Martyr, <i>memorial</i>
26	Sun	<b>Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, Solemnity</b>
27	Mon	<b>27-30 NOV: SPIRITUAL RETREAT</b>
30	Thu	St. Andrew, Apostle, <i>Feast</i>

**NOVEMBER IS DEDICATED TO: The Holy Souls in Purgatory.**

**HOLY FATHER’S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR NOVEMBER 2017**

**CHRISTIANS IN ASIA: That Christians in Asia, bearing witness to the Gospel in word and deed, may promote dialogue, peace, and mutual understanding, especially with those of other religions.**

**HOLY FATHER’S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER 2017**

**THE ELDERLY: That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.**

## **NOVEMBER 2017: FOCUS OF THE LITURGY**

### **ALL SAINTS**

**Rev 7:2-4, 9-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; 1 Jn 3:1-3; Mt 5:1-12**

The Psalmist speaks of "one whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean, who desires not what is vain." The Beatitudes are Our Lord's clear teaching on the right dispositions for anyone who aspires to the Kingdom of Heaven.

### **ALL SOULS**

**Job 19:1, 23-27; 1 Cor 15:20-23; Jn 12:23-26 / Or Other Chosen Readings**

Anyone who loves his life will lose it, while anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

### **THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

**Mal 1: 14b – 2: 2, 8-10; Ps 131: 1-3; 1 Thes 2: 7-9. 13; Mt 23: 1-12**

Those who would be great must be servants. Christian leadership is a call to service for the glory of God and for the good of one's fellowmen.

### **THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA**

**Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; 1 Cor 3:9-11, 16-17; Jn 2:13-22**

The temple is a symbol of the Church, built by God with "living stones," namely, Christians, upon the one foundation of Christ, the "cornerstone".

### **THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

**Wis 6: 12-16; Ps 63: 2-8; 1 Thes 4: 13-18; Mt 25: 1-13**

We are warned to remain vigilant and to be prepared to receive Jesus, the Son of Man who will return at the end of time.

### **THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

**Prv 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31; Ps 128: 1-5; 1 Thes 5: 1-6; Mt 25: 14-30**

God's judgment of us will be based on the service we render to God and to one another in accordance with the gifts that God has given to us.

### **OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST KING OF THE UNIVERSE**

**Ez 14: 11-12, 15-17; Ps 23: 1-3, 5-6; 1 Cor 15: 20-26, 28; Mt 25: 31-46**

When the Son of Man comes in glory, he will judge the nations, separating the sheep from the goats. The judgments will be based upon the acts of mercy shown to the least ones. Jesus tells us that whenever we have served these least ones, we have served Christ Himself.



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## REGULATIONS ON FAST, ABSTINENCE AND FEASTS FOR THE APOSTOLIC VICARIATE OF NORTHERN ARABIA

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1. **Fast and abstinence** are prescribed for Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, limited to the ages from 21 to 60.
2. **Abstinence** is prescribed as a general rule for every Friday in Lent, applicable to the age of 14 onwards. But for particular circumstances in the Vicariate of Kuwait, abstinence is to be observed on the Wednesdays of Lent. Out of devotion, abstinence may be observed every Wednesday during the year.
3. **Eucharistic Fast:** The faithful must abstain from solids and liquids for one hour before receiving Holy Communion. This regulation is applicable to Masses celebrated in the morning, afternoon, evening or at midnight. Water does not break the fast. Those who are sick, even though not confined to bed, may take any liquid or food as well as medicines at any time before Holy Communion.

**ON FRIDAYS (MORNING AND EVENING) AND  
SATURDAYS (EVENING ONLY) THE HOLY MASS IS THAT OF THE  
FOLLOWING SUNDAY, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.**

4. **Feasts of Obligation:**
  - a. Fridays and Sundays (All Masses) and Saturday evenings
  - b. Christmas (25<sup>th</sup> December)
  - c. Solemnity of Mary Mother of God (January 1<sup>st</sup>)
  - d. **Solemnity of Our Lady of Arabia, Patroness of both the Vicariates in the Gulf** (Second Sunday of Ordinary Time)
  - e. Feast of St. Thomas, 3<sup>rd</sup> July (obligation is only for the Syro-Malabar Rite)
  - f. Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 15<sup>th</sup> August
  - g. Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 8<sup>th</sup> September (obligation is only for the Syro-Malankara Rite)



### **Feasts of Devotion:**

- a. St. Joseph, 19<sup>th</sup> March
- b. St. Mark the Evangelist, 25<sup>th</sup> April (for the Coptic Rite)
- c. Saints Peter and Paul, 29<sup>th</sup> June
- d. All Saints Day, 1<sup>st</sup> November
- e. All Souls Day, 2<sup>nd</sup> November
- f. Immaculate Conception, 8<sup>th</sup> December

### **5. Feasts transferred to the following Friday or Sunday:**

- a. Epiphany
- b. Corpus Christi
- c. Ascension
- d. St. Maroun, 9<sup>th</sup> February

### **6. Feasts of the Parishes**

- a. Holy Family Cathedral, Kuwait: Sunday after Christmas
- b. Parish of Our Lady of Arabia, Ahmadi, Kuwait: Second Sunday of Ordinary Time
- c. Parish of Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Salmiya, Kuwait: 1 October
- d. Parish of Saint Daniel Comboni, Jleeb al-Shuyoukh, Kuwait: 10 October
- e. Mission of Saint John Bosco Mission, Jahra, Kuwait: 31 January (this Mission is temporarily closed.)
- f. Parish of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Qatar: 7 October
- g. Parish of Sacred Heart of Jesus, Bahrain: Friday following the Solemnity of Corpus Christi.
- h. Mission of Our Lady of the Visitation, Awali, Bahrain: 31 May
- i. Parish of Saint Arethas: 24 October
- j. Parish of St. Joseph: 19 March
- k. Parish of Our Lady of Fatima: 13 May
- l. Parish of Our Lady of Arabia: Second Sunday of Ordinary Time.

### **DAYS ON WHICH SPECIAL COLLECTIONS ARE TO BE MADE IN ALL THE CHURCHES OF THE VICARIATE:**

- 1. Epiphany for the Holy Childhood**
- 2. Good Friday for the Holy Land**
- 3. Sts. Peter & Paul for Peter's Pence**
- 4. Mission Sunday for the Propagation of the Faith**



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## CLERGY AND RELIGIOUS OF OUR VICARIATE

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### 1. BAHRAIN

[WWW.AVONA.ORG/BAHRAIN](http://WWW.AVONA.ORG/BAHRAIN)

#### BISHOP'S HOUSE

- |                               |          |               |
|-------------------------------|----------|---------------|
| 1. H.L. Bishop Camillo Ballin | MCCJ     | (Italy)       |
| 2. Fr. Rodolfo Encabo         | Diocesan | (Philippines) |
| 3. Bro. Robert Mendoza        |          | (Philippines) |

#### SACRED HEART CHURCH

**PARISH FEAST: FRIDAY AFTER THE SOLEMNITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI**

- |                                   |          |                 |
|-----------------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| 1. Fr. Amar (Soosai Amirtharajan) | OFM Cap. | (India)         |
| 2. Fr. Charbel Fayyad             | OFM Cap. | (Lebanon)       |
| 3. Fr. Freddy De Souza            | OFM Cap. | (India)         |
| 4. Fr. Gaspar Fernandes           | OFM Cap. | (India)         |
| 5. Fr. Saji Thomas                | OFM Cap. | (India)         |
| 6. Fr. Peter Ronald Eugenio.      | OFM Cap. | (Philippines)   |
| 7. Fr. Wellington Munoz           | Diocesan | (Dom. Republic) |
| 8. Bro. Marek S.                  |          | (Poland)        |

#### PARISH OF ST. ARETHAS

**PARISH FEAST: OCTOBER 24**

- |                                    |              |          |
|------------------------------------|--------------|----------|
| 1. Fr. Aldo Berardi                | Trinitarian  | (France) |
| 2. Fr. Alfonso Serna               | Trinitarian  | (USA)    |
| 3. Fr. Frank (Francis) Kulathingal | Trinitarian  | (India)  |
| 4. Fr. Joseph Chacko Multhuplakal  | Trinitarian  | (India)  |
| 5. Fr. Roni George                 | Diocesan     | (India)  |
| 6. Deacon John Duffler             | Incardinated | (USA)    |

## **PARISH OF OUR LADY OF ARABIA**

**PARISH FEAST: THE WEEKEND AFTER THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

- |                                 |          |               |
|---------------------------------|----------|---------------|
| 1. Fr. Arman                    | OFM Cap. | (Philippines) |
| 2. Fr. Sebastian M.             | OFM Cap. | (India)       |
| 3. Fr. Joseph Anil (Roy George) | OFM Cap. | (India)       |

## **PARISH OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA**

**PARISH FEAST: MAY 13**

- |                          |          |       |
|--------------------------|----------|-------|
| 1. Fr. Benedict Markwell | OFM Cap. | (USA) |
| 2. Fr. Jozef Timmers     | OFM Cap. | (USA) |

## **PARISH OF ST. JOSEPH**

**PARISH FEAST: MARCH 19**

- |                                 |          |         |
|---------------------------------|----------|---------|
| 1. Fr. Joby Vengappally Abraham | OFM Cap. | (India) |
| 2. Fr. Martin Mannathu          | OFM Cap. | (India) |
| 3. Fr. Vedam (A. Vedanayagam)   | OFM Cap. | (India) |

## **2. KUWAIT**

[WWW.AVONA.ORG/KUWAIT](http://WWW.AVONA.ORG/KUWAIT)

## **HOLY FAMILY CATHEDRAL**

**PARISH FEAST: THE SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

- |  |              |             |
|--|--------------|-------------|
| 1. Fr. Angelos Masoud                              | Diocesan     | (Egypt)     |
| 2. Fr. Anthony Lopez                               | OFM Cap.     | (India)     |
| 3. Fr. Carlos Alberto Ceballo                      | Diocesan     | (Bolivia)   |
| 4. Fr. Dominic Santamaria                          | Incardinated | (India)     |
| 5. Fr. Ivan Anthony Perera                         | Diocesan     | (Sri-Lanka) |
| 6. Fr. Mathews Francis K. ( <i>Vicar General</i> ) | OCD          | (India)     |

- |                                  |              |               |
|----------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| 7. Fr. Monching (Ramon Atanacio) | OFM Cap.     | (Philippines) |
| 8. Fr. Paul V. Manuel            | OFM Cap.     | (India)       |
| 9. Fr. Raymond Eid               | Diocesan     | (Lebanon)     |
| 10. Deacon Sylvester De Souza    | Incardinated | (India)       |

### **PARISH OF OUR LADY OF ARABIA**

**PARISH FEAST: THE WEEKEND AFTER THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

- |                               |          |               |
|-------------------------------|----------|---------------|
| 1. Fr. Alfredo Micua          | OFM Cap. | (Philippines) |
| 2. Fr. Johnson Arasseril      | OFM Cap. | (India)       |
| 3. Fr. Xavier Marian D' Souza | OFM Cap. | (India)       |

### **PARISH OF ST. DANIEL COMBONI**

**PARISH FEAST: OCTOBER 10**

- |                               |          |         |
|-------------------------------|----------|---------|
| 1. Fr. Albert Saveriraj       | OCD      | (India) |
| 2. Fr. Binoy Kochukarikkathil | Diocesan | (India) |
| 3. Fr. Johny Lonis            | OFM Cap. | (India) |
| 4. Fr. Noel Vinay D' Almeida  | OFM Cap. | (india) |
| 5. Fr. Peter P. Mathew        | OFM Cap. | (India) |
| 6. Fr. Prakash Kanjirathinkal | OFM Cap. | (India) |

### **PARISH OF ST. THÉRÈSE OF THE CHILD JESUS**

**PARISH FEAST: OCTOBER 1**

- |                            |              |               |
|----------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1. Fr. Blany Ambrose Pinto | SDB          | (India)       |
| 1. Fr. Derrick Misquitta   | SDB          | (India)       |
| 3. Fr. Franco Pereira      | SDB          | (India)       |
| 4. Fr. Johnson Nedumpurath | SDB          | (India)       |
| 5. Fr. Lionel Braganza     | SDB          | (India)       |
| 6. Fr. Ruben Barrameda     | Incardinated | (Philippines) |

### 3. QATAR

[WWW.AVONA.ORG/QATAR](http://WWW.AVONA.ORG/QATAR)

#### **PARISH OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY**

**PARISH FEAST: OCTOBER 7**

1. Fr. Anand Castelino	OFM Cap.	(India)
2. Fr. Charbel Mhanna	Mariamite	(Lebanon)
3. Fr. Jaison Perumaden	OFM Cap.	(India)
4. Fr. Joy William	OFM Cap.	(India)
5. Fr. Luis Camacho	Diocesan	(USA)
6. Fr. Mathai (Mathewkutty M.)	OFM Cap.	(India)
7. Fr. Rally Gonzaga	OFM Cap.	(Philippines)
8. Fr. Selvaraj Arockiam	OFM Cap.	(India)
9. Fr. Vijay Varghese	Diocesan	(India)
10. Bro. Pedro		(Nicaragua)

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**Total: 54 Priests, 2 Permanent Deacons, 3 Brothers.**

#### **WOMEN'S RELIGIOUS CONGREGATIONS**

- 1. APOSTOLIC CARMEL CONGREGATION, BAHRAIN (INDIA)**
- 2. APOSTOLIC CARMEL CONGREGATION, KUWAIT (INDIA)**
- 3. ROSARY SISTERS, KUWAIT (JORDAN, LEBANON)**



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## SEASONS OF THE LITURGICAL YEAR

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The Liturgical Year consists of six liturgical seasons: Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time after Epiphany, Lent (& Triduum), Easter, and Ordinary Time after Pentecost. Seasons begin or end based on a movable feast and so some seasons vary in length from year to year, and vary according to the dates of the calendar.

**ADVENT** (a season of four weeks), is the time of preparation for both the celebration of Jesus' birth and His Second Coming. This season lasts until 24 December (Christmas Eve).

**CHRISTMASTIDE** follows, beginning with First Vespers of Christmas on the evening of 24 December and ending with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (Sunday after January 6).

**ORDINARY TIME I** or **TIME AFTER EPIPHANY**, extends from the day following the Feast of the Baptism of Christ until the day before Ash Wednesday. It contains anywhere from three to eight Sundays, depending on when Easter falls. (There are 2 periods of Ordinary Time in the year. These are the common weeks which do not belong to a proper season.)

**LENT** is a major penitential season of preparation for Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday, which occurs between February 4 and March 11, and lasts for forty days, since the six Sundays within the season are not counted. Ash Wednesday is 46 days before Easter Sunday. The week before Easter is called "Holy Week" and opens with Passion or Palm Sunday, recalling Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

**EASTER TRIDUUM** in Holy Week begins with evening Mass of the Lord's Supper and ends with Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday. In this period we celebrate Maundy Thursday (Mass of the Lord's Supper and the Commemoration of Holy Orders and the Chrism Mass in the morning), Good Friday (Commemoration of the Passion of the Lord) and Holy Saturday (the day during which Christ lay in the tomb). The Easter Vigil is held on the night between Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday. The central

celebration of the Easter Triduum is the key to the liturgical calendar as it commemorates the supreme saving act of Jesus in his death and resurrection to which all other observances and acts of worship are related.

EASTER is the celebration of Jesus' resurrection. The date of Easter varies from year to year and occurs between March 22 and April 25. Beginning with Easter Sunday, the Church celebrates an Octave (8 days) of the Resurrection – Easter Monday, Easter Tuesday, etc. Each day of the Octave is a Solemnity, in essence, an extension of Easter Sunday. The Second Sunday of Easter is called Mercy Sunday. The Easter Season extends from the Easter Vigil through Pentecost Sunday, which is the fiftieth and last day of the Easter season. It celebrates the sending of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles, which marks the birth of the Church.

ORDINARY TIME II or TIME AFTER PENTECOST – follows the Easter season and the feasts of Easter, Ascension, and Pentecost resumes on Pentecost Monday. It ends on the Saturday before the First Sunday of Advent. Important Feasts during this season include: Trinity Sunday; Corpus Christi; Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Feast of Christ the King.



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## THE LITURGICAL CYCLES

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The Lectionary (Mass Readings) follows a Sunday Cycle and a Weekday Cycle.

The Sunday Cycle is 3-yearly and denoted by the letters A, B and C. 2011 was Year A, 2012 was Year B, 2013 was Year C, etc. The year of the cycle changes on the First Sunday of Advent which is the beginning of the liturgical year. Each year follows through one of the Gospels: A-Matthew, B-Mark, C-Luke. The Gospel of John is proclaimed on particular Sundays in each of the years.

Weekdays in Ordinary Time follow a 2 year cycle numbered I and II. Year I is read in odd number years such as 2011, 2013, 2015, etc. Year II is read in even years such as 2010, 2012, 2014, etc.



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## SOLEMNITIES, FEASTS AND MEMORIALS

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Liturgical celebrations enhance the richness of the Church's calendar as the Church attempts to live out the mystery of Christ and salvation history within the year. Additionally the Church commemorates the lives of the Saints by designating certain days of the year to remember them. These days are both an act of remembrance, as well as a way to instruct the faithful by making the calendar reflect the life of Christ.

From our common understanding of liturgical celebrations, we know that there are three kinds that are possible in the Church: solemnities, feasts and memorials. The difference between the three categories resides in their importance, which in turn is reflected in the presence or absence of different liturgical elements.

### SOLEMNITIES:

A solemnity is the highest rank of celebration in the Church calendar and is usually reserved for the most important mysteries of faith which include Easter, Ascension, Pentecost, Holy Trinity, Corpus Christi, Assumption, Immaculate Conception, Christmas, Mary Mother of God, Epiphany and the Annunciation; also, the principal titles of Our Lord, such as Christ the King and Sacred Heart; and celebrations that honour All Saints (Nov 1) and some saints of particular importance, such as St. Joseph, Sts. Peter and Paul, and St. John the Baptist on his day of birth.

Solemnities are like Sundays having the same basic elements of celebration: three readings, prayer of the faithful, the Gloria and Creed which are recited even when the solemnity occurs during Advent or Lent. It also has proper prayer formulas exclusive to the day: Entrance antiphon, Opening prayer, Prayer over the gifts, Communion antiphon, and Prayer after Communion. In most cases it also has a particular preface. Solemnities begin with evening prayer (Vespers) the night before, unlike other liturgical days, which begin at midnight.

Some solemnities are holy days of obligation, but these vary from country to country. Some solemnities have a fixed date on which they are celebrated, such as Christmas. Other solemnities are moveable, such



as Easter. A solemnity is celebrated if it falls on a Sunday of Ordinary Time or Christmastide, but it is usually transferred to the following Monday if it falls on a Sunday of Advent, Lent or Easter, or during Holy Week or the Easter octave.

There are also special solemnities, which are observed in particular places or in particular religious orders, for instance, when a parish celebrates the feast of its patron or titular Saint.

### **FEASTS:**

Feasts are celebrations next in rank. A feast honours a mystery or title of the Lord, of Our Lady, or of Saints of particular importance such as the Apostles, Evangelists and the Archangels. Feasts have only two readings and the Gloria, but not the Creed. All feasts, except that of the Holy Family (Sunday after Christmas), are fixed in date. The “feasts of the Lord” take precedence over Sundays of Christmas and Ordinary Time, but the feasts of the Blessed Virgin Mary do not. All feasts take precedence over all weekdays except Ash Wednesday, weekdays of Holy Week (including the Triduum) and days within the octave of Easter.

### **MEMORIALS:**

A memorial is a feast day of relatively low importance. A memorial is usually a commemoration of a Saint, but it may also celebrate some aspect of the Lord or of Mary, such as the optional memorial of the Holy Name of Jesus or the obligatory memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The Gloria is not said on these days. Memorials have only two readings and some “proper” prayers for the individual Saint or the occasion. Some Saints do not have specific prayers. There are generic prayers written for each category of Saint being honoured in a memorial. These generic prayers are known as the “common” for the occasion. Such Saints will usually fall into the category of pope, bishop, priest, religious, virgin or martyr.

Memorials are fixed in date. Memorials can be either obligatory or optional. Obligatory memorials must be observed. Optional memorials may be observed. An optional memorial is the lowest in rank of celebration. The priest is permitted to celebrate a feast day that does not appear in his local calendar out of personal devotion to the Saint, as long as no feast of higher rank is anticipated for that day.



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## MOVEABLE FEASTS

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A moveable feast is a feast day whose date changes each year because it depends on the date of Easter, which is itself a moveable feast.

However, the term moveable feast is used for any event on, or related to, the Christian calendar that varies from year to year. Thus the Baptism of the Lord, while not related to the date of Easter, is celebrated on a different date each year, and Mardi Gras or Shrove Tuesday, while not officially a Christian celebration, is linked to the date of Easter, and both are referred to as moveable feasts.

### MOVEABLE FEASTS OF THE LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Ash Wednesday  
Palm Sunday  
Holy Thursday  
Good Friday  
Solemnity of Easter  
Ascension  
Solemnity of Pentecost  
Trinity Sunday  
Corpus Christi  
Solemnity of the Sacred Heart  
Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Solemnity of Christ the King  
Feast of the Holy Family of Our Lord  
Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ

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## DATES OF ASH WEDNESDAY AND EASTER

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### YEARS OF CURRENT INTEREST

CALENDAR YEAR	ASH WEDNESDAY	EASTER SUNDAY
2017	March 1	April 16
2018	February 14	April 1
2019	March 6	April 21
2020	February 26	April 12
2021	February 17	April 4
2022	March 2	April 17
2023	February 22	April 9
2024	February 14	March 31
2025	March 5	April 20

This Liturgical Calendar is meant to supplement the Liturgical Ordo used in the Parishes of the Apostolic Vicariate of Northern Arabia (Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia), for consultation on obligatory celebrations and those proper to the Vicariate.

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**SERMONS FOR SUNDAYS AND SOLEMNITIES:**  
[www.avona.org/homilies](http://www.avona.org/homilies)

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**COVER PICTURE:**

*The Madonna of the Book is a painting by the Italian Renaissance artist Sandro Botticelli, in which Mary and the Child are seated by a window in the corner of a room. The Virgin Mary is absorbed in reading the **Book of Hours**, the **Horae Beatae Mariae Virginis**, whilst the infant is gazing at her. The hands of both mother and son are positioned similarly, with the right hands open as in a gesture of blessing. Symbolizing the Passion of Christ, the Christ Child is holding three nails of the cross, and the crown of thorns.*