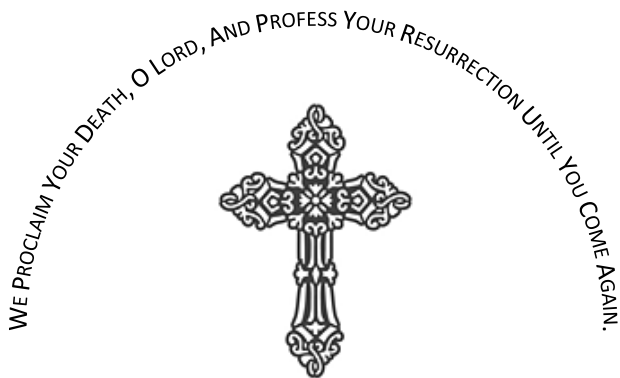


THE APOSTOLIC VICARIATE OF NORTHERN ARABIA
LITURGICAL CALENDAR
2015 - 2016



LITURGICAL CALENDAR

2015 - 2016

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
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INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE



- 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.**



THE HOLY YEAR OF MERCY



The *Jubilee of Mercy* begins when Pope Francis opens the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica on 8th December 2015 and will conclude when he closes the same door on 20th November 2016. The Pope has asked all dioceses around the world to open a 'door of mercy', to officially mark the start of the Year of Mercy.

Pope Francis' invitation to a *Year of Mercy* provides us with an opportunity to reflect on God's mercy and how we are witnesses of His compassion to those in our lives and communities.

The Holy Father states that we need to constantly contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace! Our salvation depends on it. The word "Mercy" reveals the very mystery of the Most Holy Trinity. It is the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us. It is the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of his brothers and sisters on the path of life. It is the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness.

The motto for the year, *Merciful Like The Father*, serves as an invitation to follow the merciful example of God who asks us not to judge or condemn but to offer love and forgiveness instead.

For more information on the *Year of Mercy*, please refer to:
<http://www.iubilaeummisericordiae.va>



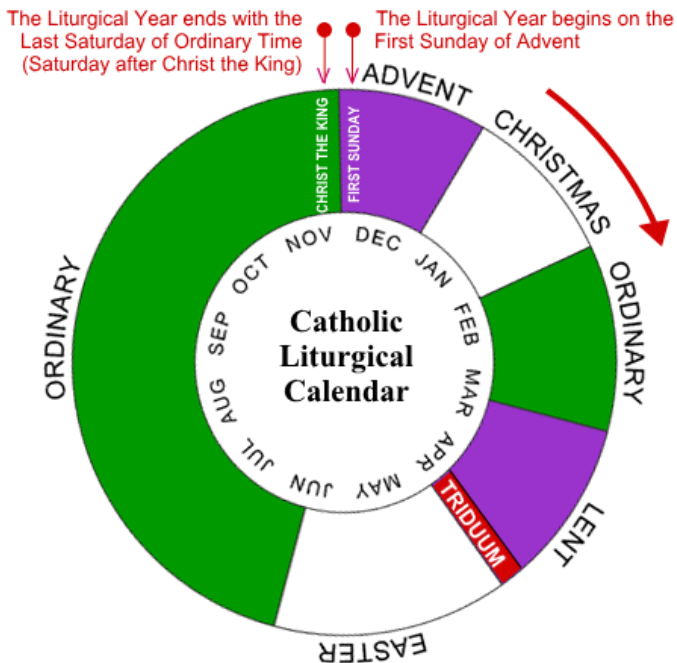
THE LITURGICAL YEAR



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





PRINCIPAL CELEBRATIONS OF THE LITURGICAL YEAR 2015 - 2016



First Sunday of Advent	November 29, 2015
Ash Wednesday	February 10, 2016
Easter Sunday	March 27, 2016
The Ascension of the Lord	May 8, 2016
Pentecost Sunday	May 15, 2016
The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ	May 29, 2016
Jesus Christ King of the Universe	November 20, 2016

CYCLES — LECTIONARY FOR MASS

Sunday Cycle	YEAR C
Weekday Cycle	YEAR II

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 "C", the Church meditates on the Gospel of Luke and uses it for most of the Sunday Readings. The two books that have traditionally been ascribed to St. Luke are the Gospel according to St. Luke and the Acts of the Apostles.



NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2015

29	Sun	1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT <i>Psalter Week 1</i> <i>Divine Office Vol I / * / **</i>
30	Mon	St. Andrew, Apostle, <i>Feast</i>
3	Thu	St. Francis Xavier, Priest, <i>Memorial</i>
6	Sun	2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT , <i>Psalter Week 2</i>
7	Mon	<i>Vespers I of the following Solemnity</i>
8	Tue	The Immaculate Conception , <i>Solemnity</i> <i>Opening of the "HOLY YEAR OF MERCY"</i>
13	Sun	3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT , <i>Psalter Week 3</i>
20	Sun	4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT , <i>Psalter Week 4</i>
24	Thu	Eve of Christmas, Vigil Mass, <i>Evening Prayer I of Christmas</i>
25	Fri	Christmas , <i>Solemnity</i> , <i>Holy Day of Obligation</i>
26	Sat	St. Stephen, Protomartyr, <i>Feast</i>
27	Sun	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph , <i>Titular Feast of the Holy Family Cathedral, Kuwait City.</i>
28	Mon	Holy Innocents, Martyrs, <i>Feast</i>
29	Tue	St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr, <i>Memorial</i>
30	Wed	Octave of Christmas
31	Thu	Octave of Christmas, <i>Vespers I of the following Solemnity</i>
* Apostles' Creed is said. ** Year "C". Lectionary Year II.		

NOVEMBER IS DEDICATED TO: The Holy Souls in Purgatory.

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR NOVEMBER 2015 -

UNIVERSAL: [Dialogue] That we may be open to personal encounter and dialogue with all, even those whose convictions differ from our own.

EVANGELIZATION: [Pastors] That pastors of the Church, with profound love for their flocks, may accompany them and enliven their hope.

DECEMBER IS DEDICATED TO: The Immaculate Conception.

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER 2015 -

UNIVERSAL: [Experiencing God's Mercy] That all may experience the mercy of God, who never tires of forgiving.

EVANGELIZATION: [Families] That families, especially those who suffer, may find in the birth of Jesus a sign of certain hope.

NOVEMBER–DECEMBER 2015: FOCUS OF THE LITURGY -

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Jer 33:14-16; Ps 25:4-5,8-10,14; 1 Thes 3:12-4:2; Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Jesus is the “just shoot” promised to David. Today's Gospel exhorts us to look forward to Christ's Second Coming, confident that our “redemption is near.”

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 1:4-6,8-11; Lk 3:1-6

Each of us is like Israel in her exile - led into captivity by our sinfulness, in need of restoration and conversion. John is seen as preparing the way, not only for a new redemption of Israel, but for the salvation of all humanity.

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Gen 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

The Angel's greeting points to Mary as God's favored one! Graced from the moment of her conception, she is the sinless mother of His only-begotten Son.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: GAUDETE (REJOICE!) SUNDAY

Zeph 3:14-18; Is 12:2-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

The people are filled with expectation for the Messiah. This theme of joy resounds: Rejoice! The Lord is near.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mic 5:1-4; Ps 80:2-3,15-16,18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

The Sunday before Christmas, the Church's Liturgy reveals the true identity of our Redeemer. John recognizes this when he leaps for joy in his mother's womb. Elizabeth, filled with joy and the Holy Spirit, blesses Mary.

CHRISTMAS

Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18

And the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. To those who did accept Him and believe in His name He gave power to become children of God, born not by human choice, but of God.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Sir 3:2-6,12-14; Ps 128:1-5; Col 3:12-21; Lk 2:41-52

In the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, God reveals our true home. We are to live as His children, “chosen ones, holy and beloved.” The Temple in the Gospel is God's house, but it's also an image of the family of God, the Church.



JANUARY 2016



1	Fri	MARY, MOTHER OF GOD, Solemnity. <i>World Day of Peace</i>
2	Sat	<i>Vespers I of Epiphany</i>
3	Sun	EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, Solemnity / Collect. for Holy Childhood
4	Mon	Weekdays of Christmas Season, <i>Psalter Week 2</i>
10	Sun	The Baptism of the Lord, Feast
11	Mon	Ordinary Time of the Year, <i>Psalter Week 1</i>
15	Fri	OUR LADY OF ARABIA, Patroness of our Vicariate, Solemnity *
16	Sat	OUR LADY OF ARABIA, Patroness of our Vicariate, Solemnity
17	Sun	OUR LADY OF ARABIA, Patroness of our Vicariate, Psalter Wk 2 <i>World Day of Migrants and Refugees</i>
18	Mon	Christian Unity Week begins
21	Thu	<i>St. Agnes, Martyr, Memorial</i>
23	Sat	<i>Morning: Liturgy of the day or Saturday Mass of Our Lady</i>
24	Sun	3RD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, Psalter Week 3
25	Mon	CLERGY MEETING <i>Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle, Feast</i>
26	Tue	CLERGY MEETING, Sts. Timothy and Titus, Bishops, Memorial
27	Wed	CLERGY MEETING
28	Thu	CLERGY MEETING <i>St. Thomas Aquinas, Memorial</i>
30	Sat	<i>Morning: Liturgy of the day or Saturday Mass of Our Lady</i>
31	Sun	4TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, Psalter Week 4
* 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 2016 -

UNIVERSAL: [Interreligious Dialogue] That sincere dialogue among men and women of different faiths may produce the fruits of peace and justice.

EVANGELIZATION: [Christian Unity] That by means of dialogue and fraternal charity and with the grace of the Holy Spirit, Christians may overcome divisions.

JANUARY 2016: FOCUS OF THE LITURGY -

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Num 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.

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Is 42:1-4,6-7; Ps 29:1-4, 9-10; Acts 10:34-38; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

In Jesus all peoples have been made co-heirs to the blessings promised to Israel. Jesus is the chosen servant, Isaiah prophesies, "one anointed" with God's Spirit. He is confirmed as "the Son of the Most High" by God Himself.

SOLEMNITY OF OUR LADY OF ARABIA

Is 60:1-6; Ps 71: 1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Rom 12:9-16b; 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

Neh 8:2-6,10; Ps 19:8-10,15; 1 Cor 12:12-30; Lk 1:1-4, 4:14-21

Like Ezra, Jesus is handed a scroll, unrolls it, then reads and interprets it. He, too, proclaims a great year of Jubilee, a deliverance from slavery to sin.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Jer 1:4-5,17-19; Ps 71: 1-6,15-17; 1 Cor 12:31-13:13; Lk 4:21-30

Like the prophets before Him, Jesus, too, faces hostility. The crowd in His home-town demand a sign as proof of His divine origin, and the sign that Jesus gives them is that of the prophets Elijah and Elisha.



FEBRUARY 2016



1	Mon	St. John Bosco, <i>Memorial (postponed)</i>
2	Tue	The Presentation of the Lord, Feast, <i>World Day of Consecrated Life</i>
3	Wed	St. Blaise, <i>Memorial</i>
6	Sat	Morning: SS. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs, <i>Memorial</i>
7	Sun	5TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, Psalter Week 1
8	Mon	St. Josephine Bakhita, Sudanese, Patroness of the migrants
9	Tue	St. Maroun, <i>Memorial</i>
10	Wed	Ash Wednesday, Day of fast and abstinence* Psalter Week 4
11	Thu	Our Lady of Lourdes ; <i>World Day of the Sick</i>
14	Sun	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT , ** Psalter Week 1 World Marriage Day
21	Sun	SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT, Psalter Week 2
22	Mon	Chair of St. Peter, the Apostle, Feast
28	Sun	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT, Psalter Week 3, Retirement of Benedict XVI

* *The Divine Office Vol. II* ** *Apostles' Creed is said*

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

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR FEBRUARY 2016 -

UNIVERSAL: [Care for Creation] That we may take good care of creation—a gift freely given—cultivating and protecting it for future generations.

EVANGELIZATION: [Asia] That opportunities may increase for dialogue and encounter between the Christian faith and the peoples of Asia.

FEBRUARY 2016: 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 / 2:22-32

Jerusalem is about to receive "The Lord of hosts, the king of glory." Christ arrives as the long-awaited Priest and Redeemer.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Is 6:1-8; Ps 138:1-5, 7-8; 1 Cor 15:1-11; Lk 5:1-11

Simon Peter is the first to be called personally by Jesus. God's Word comes to us as it came to Peter, Paul, Isaiah, and today's Psalmist— as a personal call to leave everything and follow him.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

At the start of Lent, 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

Deut 26:4-10; Ps 91:1-2,10-15; Rom 10:8-13; Lk 4:1-13

We traditionally begin Lent with the Gospel about Jesus' temptations. The forty days of Lent are a time of trial and purification. "Call upon me, and I will answer," the Lord promises in today's Psalm and Epistle.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Gen 15:5-12, 17-18; Ps 27:1,7-9, 13-14; Phil 3:17-4:1; Lk 9:28-36

Moses and the great prophet Elijah were the only Old Testament figures to hear the voice and see the glory of God atop a mountain. In today's Gospel, we go up to the mountain with Peter, John and James. There we see Jesus "transfigured". Again we hear the Father's voice: "Listen to Him."

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Ex 3:1-8,13-15; Ps 103:1-4, 6-8, 11; 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12; Lk 13:1-9

The events of the Exodus are given as a warning - that being children of Abraham is no guarantee that we will reach the promised land of our salvation. Jesus warns in today's Gospel, we could perish because of our evil desires. As the fig tree is given one last season to produce fruit before it is cut down, so too, Jesus is giving Israel one final opportunity to bear good fruits.


MARCH 2016


6	Sun	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT , <i>Psalter Week 4</i>
7	Mon	SS. Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs, <i>Memorial</i>
13	Sun	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT , <i>Psalter Week 1</i> <i>Third Anniversary of the Election of Pope Francis</i>
14	Mon	<i>Preface of the Passion I</i>
18	Fri	Palm Sunday <i>Vespers I of the following Solemnity</i>
19	Sat	ST. JOSEPH , <i>Solemnity. Vespers I of Palm Sunday</i> Parish Feast of St. Joseph's Parish
20	Sun	Palm Sunday , <i>Psalter Week 2</i>
21	Mon	Monday of Holy Week
22	Tue	Tuesday of Holy Week Chrim Mass, Holy Family Cathedral, Kuwait.
23	Wed	Wednesday of Holy Week
24	Thu	Holy Thursday, Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper
25	Fri	Good Friday, Celebration of the Lord's Passion. Day of fast and abstinence
26	Sat	Holy Saturday, Celebration of the Easter Vigil
27	Sun	EASTER SUNDAY. <i>Easter Season. Solemnity with Octave</i>
<p><i>The Memorial of St. Mary Ghattas (Mar 25) is not celebrated this year.</i> <i>The Solemnity of the Annunciation is postponed to Monday, April 4.</i> <i>The collection of Holy Friday is for the Holy Land.</i></p>		

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

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MARCH 2016 -

UNIVERSAL: [Families in Difficulty] That families in need may receive the necessary support and that children may grow up in healthy and peaceful environments.

EVANGELIZATION: [Persecuted Christians] That those Christians who, on account of their faith, are discriminated against or are being persecuted, may remain strong and faithful to the Gospel, thanks to the incessant prayer of the Church.

MARCH 2016: FOCUS OF THE LITURGY -

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT: LAETARE (REJOICE!) SUNDAY

Jos 5:9-12; Ps 34:2-7; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Reconciliation is at the heart of the parable of the prodigal son. God wants not slaves but children. Like the father in today's Gospel, He longs to share His life with us, to tell us: "Everything I have is yours."

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Is 43:16-21; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11

Like the adulterous woman in today's Gospel, all have been spared by the Lord's compassion. All have heard His words of forgiveness, His urging to repentance, to be sinners no more.

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.

PALM SUNDAY

Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Lk 22:14--23:56

We have reached the climax of salvation history. In His Passion, Jesus is revealed as the Suffering Servant. He remains faithful to God's will to the end. He gives Himself freely to His torturers; confident that the Lord God is His help....He shall not be put to shame.

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

Today's Gospel tells us that Peter and John "saw and believed." Chosen to be His witnesses, the Apostles were commissioned to preach and testify to all that they had seen - from His anointing with the Holy Spirit at the Jordan to the empty tomb.



APRIL 2016



2	Sat	Morning: Octave of Easter
3	Sun	SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER, Divine Mercy Sunday, Vespers II of 2nd Sunday
4	Mon	THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD, Solemnity (transferred from 25 March)
5	Tue	Second Week of Easter. <i>Psalter Week II</i>
7	Thu	St. John Baptiste de la Salle, <i>Memorial</i>
10	Sun	THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER, Psalter Week 3
17	Sun	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, Psalter Week 4 World Day of Prayer for Vocations
24	Sun	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, Psalter Week 1
25	Mon	St. Mark, Evangelist, <i>feast</i>
30	Sat	St. Pius V, Pope, <i>Memorial</i>

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

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR APRIL 2016 -

UNIVERSAL: [Small Farmers] That small farmers may receive a just reward for their precious labor.

EVANGELIZATION: [African Christians] That Christians in Africa may give witness to love and faith in Jesus Christ amid political-religious conflicts.

APRIL 2016: FOCUS OF THE LITURGY -

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER [Divine Mercy Sunday]

Acts 5:12-16; Ps 118:2-4,13-15, 22-24; Rev 1:9-13,17-19; Jn 20:19-31

John is taken to heaven in today's Second Reading where he sees Daniel's prophecy fulfilled in Jesus, who appears as "One like a Son of Man." His risen body has been made a life-giving Spirit. Jesus pours out that Spirit on the Apostles. Today's Gospel tells about Thomas who "saw and believed", but also offers the fullness of life to others who don't have his privileged vision.

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

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

Today's Solemnity emphasizes God's direct intervention in human life and nature by His being conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary. Mary's free acceptance of God's will is a truly human, free and conscious act of wanting what God wants.

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 5:27-32, 40-41; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13; Rev 5:11-14; Jn 21:1-19

The scene of today's Gospel Reading is Peter's repentance, as three times Jesus asks him to make a profession of love. Jesus' thrice repeated command "feed My sheep" shows that Peter is being appointed as the shepherd of the Lord's entire flock, the head of His Church.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 13:14, 43-52; Ps 100:1-3, 5; Rev 7:9, 14-17; Jn 10:27-30

Today is known as Good Shepherd Sunday. Through the Church, the peoples of every land hear the Shepherd's voice, and follow him. Jesus the Good Shepherd knows us, provides for us and loves us. In today's joyful Psalm, we sing: It is He who has made us. We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 14:21-27; Ps 145:8-13; Rev 21:1-5; Jn 13:31-35

The doors of God's kingdom have been opened to all who have faith, Jew or Gentile. With the coming of the Church, God is "making all things new." Jesus commands us to love one another with a supernatural love. By our love all peoples will know that we are His people, that He is our God.



MAY 2016



1	Sun	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, <i>Psalter Week 2</i>
2	Mon	St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor, <i>Memorial</i>
3	Tue	SS. Philippe and James, Apostles, <i>feast</i>
4	Wed	Our Lady of Lebanon
7	Sat	<i>Vespers I of the Ascension</i>
8	Sun	The Ascension of the Lord, <i>Solemnity</i> ; World Communications Day
9	Mon	<i>Psalter Week 3</i>
13	Fri	PENTECOST Parish Feast of the Parish of Our Lady of Fatima
14	Sat	St. Mathias, Apostle, <i>feast. Vespers I of Pentecost</i>
15	Sun	PENTECOST SUNDAY, <i>Solemnity</i>
16	Mon	<i>7th Week of Ordinary Time. The Divine Office vol. III. Psalter Week 3</i>
21	Sat	<i>Morning: Saturday Mass of Our Lady. Vespers I of the Solemnity</i>
22	Sun	The Most Holy Trinity, <i>Solemnity</i> *
23	Mon	<i>8th Week of Ordinary Time. Psalter Week 4</i>
26	Thu	St. Philip Neri, Priest, <i>Memorial</i>
28	Sat	<i>Morning: Saturday Mass of Our Lady</i>
29	Sun	Corpus Christi
30	Mon	<i>9th Week of Ordinary Time. Psalter Week 1</i>
31	Tue	Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, <i>feast</i> Parish Feast - Mission of Our Lady of the Visitation, Awali, Bahrain Foundation Day of the two Vicariates of the Arabian Peninsula
* <i>Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed is said.</i>		

MAY IS DEDICATED TO: The Blessed Virgin Mary.

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MAY 2016 -

UNIVERSAL: [Respect for Women] That in every country of the world, women may be honored and respected and that their essential contribution to society may be highly esteemed.

EVANGELIZATION: [Holy Rosary] That families, communities, and groups may pray the Holy Rosary for evangelization and peace.

MAY 2016: FOCUS OF THE LITURGY -

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 15:1-2, 22-29; Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8; Rev 21:10-14, 22-23; Jn 14:23-29

The first Church council, the Council of Jerusalem decided the shape of the Church as we know it. The Church is One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic. And we see the Spirit guiding the Apostles in all truth. Everybody, including Paul, looks to Jerusalem [and] ...the Apostles to decide the Church's true teaching.

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47; Heb 9:24-28; 10:19-23; Lk 24:46-53

Christ's visible return to heaven assures us that the One who suffered and died for us sits at the right hand of the Father "on our behalf". The time of His return is unknown, thus, we need to be ready at every moment. Jesus left behind His Church, the Holy Spirit, and a mission to proclaim His message to the ends of the earth.

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 giving of the Spirit to the new people of God crowns the mighty acts of the Father in salvation history. The Holy Spirit empowers us to go beyond our natural abilities in order to witness to Christ and to live as children of God, and to remind us of all that Christ taught.

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

Prov 8:22-31; Ps 8:4-9; Rom 5:1-5; Jn 16:12-15

Today's Readings reveal the True Nature of One and Triune God. The Readings intend to make us aware of God's pedagogy which entails the gradual revelation of Himself. Through the Son, we have gained grace and access in the Spirit to the Father, as Paul boasts in today's Epistle.

CORPUS CHRISTI

Gen 14:18-20; Ps 110:1-4; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Lk 9:11-17

Jesus transforms the sign of bread and wine, making it a sign of His Body and Blood, through which God bestows upon us the blessings of His new covenant. Jesus is "the priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek". By the miracle of loaves and fishes, Jesus in today's Gospel, again prefigures the blessings of the Eucharist. The Eucharist fulfills the offering of Melchizedek.


JUNE 2016


1	Wed	St. Justin, martyr, <i>Memorial</i>
2	Thu	SS. Marcellinus and Peter, Martyrs, <i>Memorial</i>
3	Fri	The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Solemnity Parish Feast of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Bahrain World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests
4	Sat	The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, <i>Memorial</i>
5	Sun	10TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME. Psalter Week 2
9	Thu	St. Ephrem, Deacon, <i>Memorial</i>
11	Sat	Morning: St. Barnabas, Apostle, <i>Memorial</i>
12	Sun	11TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME. Psalter Week 3
13	Mon	St. Anthony of Padua, <i>Memorial</i>
18	Sat	Morning: Saturday Mass of Our Lady
19	Sun	12TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME. Psalter Week 4
21	Tue	St. Aloysius Gonzaga, religious, <i>Memorial</i>
22	Wed	SS. John Fisher, Bishop, and Thomas More, Martyrs, <i>Memorial</i>
23	Thu	<i>Vespers I of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist</i>
24	Fri	THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, Solemnity
25	Sat	Morning: Saturday Mass of Our Lady
26	Sun	13TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME. Psalter Week 1
27	Mon	St Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop and Doctor, <i>Memorial</i>
28	Tue	St. Irenaeus, Bishop and martyr. <i>Vespers I of the Solemnity</i>
29	Wed	SS. PETER and PAUL, Apostles. Solemnity *
30	Thu	First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church, <i>Memorial</i>
<i>*Peter's pence collection for the Holy Father's humanitarian works</i>		

JUNE IS DEDICATED TO: The Sacred Heart of Jesus.

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JUNE 2016 -

UNIVERSAL: [Human Solidarity] That the aged, marginalized, and those who have no one may find—even within the huge cities of the world—opportunities for encounter and solidarity.

EVANGELIZATION: [Seminarists and Novices] That seminarists and men and women entering religious life may have mentors who live the joy of the Gospel and prepare them wisely for their mission.

JUNE 2016: FOCUS OF THE LITURGY -

THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Ezekiel 34:11-16; Psalm 23; Romans 5:5-11; Luke 15:3-7

God is portrayed as a loving Shepherd who never tires in search for those who stray from the fold. The psalmist proclaims, "The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want."

10TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

1 Kgs 17:17-24; Ps 30: 2,4-6,11-13; Gal 1:11-19; Lk 7:11-17

Jesus is the ruler over life and death. Jesus' raising people from the dead is a sign of the liberating of men from the spiritual death caused by sin.

11TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

2 Sam 12: 7-10, 13; Psalm 32: 1-2, 5,7,11; Gal 2:16, 19-21; Lk 7:36-50

Our faith will save us, Jesus tells the woman today. Unlike the Pharisee in the Gospel, we should never disdain the sinner or doubt the Lord's power to convert even the worst of sinners.

12TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Zech 12:10-11; 13:1; Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Gal 3:26-29; Lk 9:18-24

Paul's teaching asserts that grace is responsible for our filial adoption, and consequently makes all of us brothers and sisters. Jesus tests His disciples by asking: "Who do you say that I am?" Peter replies, "The Messiah of God."

THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Is 49:1-6; Ps 139:1-3, 13-14, 14-15; Acts 13:22-26; Lk 1:57-66, 80

His name is John. He shall be called a prophet of God, the Most High. He will go ahead of the Lord to prepare His ways before Him.

13TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

1 Kings 19:16-21; Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11; Gal 5:1,13-18; Lk 9:51-62

The demands of discipleship can be radical. Neither care of self, care for the dead, nor care of one's family can come before the demands of discipleship.

SS. PETER AND PAUL

Acts 12:1-11; Ps 34; 2 Tim 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.



JULY 2016



2	Sat	Morning: Saturday Mass of Our Lady
3	Sun	14TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME. Psalter Week 2 St. Thomas, Apostle (Special feast day for Syro-Malabar and Syro-Malankara Churches)
6	Wed	St. Maria Goretti, Virgin and Martyr, <i>Memorial</i>
9	Sat	SS. Augustine Zhao Rong, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs, <i>Memorial</i>
10	Sun	15TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME. Psalter Week 3
11	Mon	St. Benedict
14	Thu	St. Camillus de Lellis, Priest, <i>Memorial</i>
16	Sat	Our Lady of Mount Carmel, <i>Memorial</i>
17	Sun	16TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME. Psalter Week 4
20	Wed	St. Apollinaris, Bishop and Martyr, <i>Memorial</i>
23	Sat	Morning: Saturday Mass of Our Lady
24	Sun	17TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME. Psalter Week 1
25	Mon	St. James, Apostle, <i>feast</i>
26	Tue	SS. Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Virgin Mary, <i>Memorial</i> World Youth Day (Krakow) [26 - 31 July]
28	Thu	St. Alphonsa Muttathupadathu, Religious, <i>Memorial</i>
30	Sat	Morning: Saturday Mass of Our Lady
31	Sun	18TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME. Psalter Week 2

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

HOLY FATHER’S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JULY 2016 -

UNIVERSAL: [Indigenous Peoples] That indigenous peoples, whose identity and very existence are threatened, will be shown due respect.

EVANGELIZATION: [Latin America and the Caribbean] That the Church in Latin America and the Caribbean, by means of her mission to the continent, may announce the Gospel with renewed vigor and enthusiasm.

JULY 2016: FOCUS OF THE LITURGY -

14TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Is 66:10-14; Ps 66:1-7,16,20; Gal 6:14-18; Lk 10:1-12, 17-20

The themes of exile, suffering, and God's proximity to those who suffer are the main topics of today's Readings. St. Paul rejoices in bearing his cross patiently for the salvation of souls and as proof of his own configuration with Christ.

15TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Deut 30:10-14; Ps 69; Col 1:15-20; Lk 10:25-37

We are to love God and our neighbor with all the strength of our being. The Samaritan in Jesus' parable reveals the boundless mercy of God. Like the Samaritan, Jesus heals the wounds of sin, pours out on us the oil and wine of the sacraments and entrusts us to the care of His Church, until He comes back for us.

16TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Gen 18:1-10; Ps 15:2-5; Col 1:24-28; Lk 10:38-42

As once He came to Abraham, Mary and Martha, Christ comes to us in Word and Sacrament. Our Lord comes to us, not to be served but to serve. He gave His life that we might know the one thing we need, the "better part" which is life in fellowship of God. Jesus' gentle rebuke to Martha reminds us that we can fall into the trap of missing the divine while pursuing the mundane.

17TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Gen 18:20-32; Ps 138:1-3, 6-8; Col 2:12-14; Lk 11:1-13

The mystery of prayer, as Jesus reveals to His disciples in this week's Gospel, is the living relationship of beloved sons and daughters with their heavenly Father. Through the Spirit given to us in Baptism, we can cry to Him as "Abba, Our Father!"

18TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Eccl 1:2; 2:21-23 Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17; Col 3:1-5, 9-11; Lk 12:13-21

Jesus calls the rich man a "fool" - a word used in the Old Testament for someone who rebels against God or has forgotten him. The rich man's anxiety and toil expose his lack of faith in God's care and provision. This is the greed that Jesus warns against in this week's Gospel. We should treasure most the new life we have been given in Christ and seek what is above: the promised inheritance of heaven.



AUGUST 2016



1	Mon	St. Alphonsus Ligouri, Bishop and Doctor, <i>Memorial</i>
4	Thu	St. John Mary Vianney, Priest, <i>Memorial</i>
6	Sat	The Transfiguration of the Lord, Feast
7	Sun	19TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME. Psalter Week 3
8	Mon	St. Dominic, Priest, <i>Memorial</i>
9	Tue	St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Virgin and Martyr, <i>Memorial</i>
10	Wed	St. Laurence, Deacon and Martyr, <i>Feast</i>
11	Thu	St. Clare of Assisi, Virgin, <i>Memorial</i>
13	Sat	Morning: Saturday Mass of Our Lady
14	Sun	20TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME. Psalter Week 4. Vespers I of the Assumption,
15	Mon	THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, Solemnity
20	Sat	St. Bernard, Abbot and Doctor, <i>Memorial</i>
21	Sun	21ST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME. Psalter Week 1
22	Mon	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary, <i>Memorial</i>
23	Tue	St. Rose of Lima, Virgin, <i>Memorial</i>
24	Wed	St. Bartholomew, Apostle, <i>Feast</i>
26	Fri	* <i>The Memorial of St. Maryam Bawardi, of the Crucified Jesus, is not celebrated this year.</i>
27	Sat	St. Monica, <i>Memorial</i>
28	Sun	22ND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME. Psalter Week 2
29	Mon	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 2016 -

UNIVERSAL: [Sports] That sports may be an opportunity for friendly encounters between peoples and may contribute to peace in the world.

EVANGELIZATION: [Living the Gospel] That Christians may live the Gospel, giving witness to faith, honesty, and love of neighbor.

AUGUST 2016: FOCUS OF THE LITURGY -

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

Dan 7:9-10, 13-14; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9; 2 Pet 1:16-19; Lk 9:28-36

His clothes dazzling white, Jesus is the Son of Man whom Daniel foresees being enthroned. Jesus as "the new Moses" will establish a new and eternal covenant through his own sacrificial Death and Resurrection.

19TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Wis 18:6-9; Ps 33:1,12,18-22; Heb 11:1-2, 8-19; Lk 12:35-40

The Readings remind us of our need for a lively faith and hope in the things to come. The faith of Abraham and Sarah is blessed by God because they were searching for a better and heavenly home.

20TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Jer 38:4-6, 8-10; Ps 40:2-4, 18; Heb 12:1-4; Lk 12:49-53

Jesus uses the image of fire to describe the demands of discipleship. He has filled us with the fire of the Holy Spirit in Baptism. To be a disciple is to be inflamed with the love of God, and might even mean division and hardship.

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

St. Paul reminds us of the passage from death to new life, first achieved in the human life of Christ. The Church declares that Mary, in virtue of her fullness of grace, after her earthly existence, has already followed her Son, body and soul, into glorious life, and so will all those "who belong to Him."

21ST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Is 66:18-21; Ps 117:1, 2; Heb 12:5-7, 11-13; Lk 13:22-30

The salvation of God is extended to all the nations of the earth and it is our task to "proclaim His glory in distant lands". We are warned in the Gospel against presumption and the idea of easy salvation. Jesus is "the narrow gate," the only way of salvation, to enter the kingdom of the Father.

22ND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29; Ps 68:4-7,10-11; Heb 12:18-19, 22-24; Lk 14:1, 7-14

The Lord promises that if we are humble, we will be exalted and find favor with God; that if we are kind to those who can never repay us, we will atone for sins, and find blessing in the resurrection of the righteous.



SEPTEMBER 2016



3	Sat	St. Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor, <i>Memorial</i>
4	Sun	23RD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME. <i>Psalter Week 3</i>
5	Mon	Bl. Teresa of Calcutta, <i>Memorial</i>
8	Thu	THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, Feast
10	Sat	Morning: Saturday Mass of Our Lady
11	Sun	24TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME. <i>Psalter Week 4</i>
12	Mon	The Most Holy Name of Mary, <i>Memorial</i>
13	Tue	St. John Chrysostomos, Bishop and Doctor, <i>Memorial</i>
14	Wed	The Exaltation of the Cross, Feast
15	Thu	Our Lady of Sorrows, <i>Memorial</i>
17	Sat	St. Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor, <i>Memorial</i>
18	Sun	25TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME. <i>Psalter Week 1</i>
20	Tue	SS. Andrew Kim, Priest, and Companion, Martyrs, <i>Memorial</i>
21	Wed	St. Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist, <i>Feast</i>
24	Sat	St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest, <i>Memorial (postponed)</i>
25	Sun	26TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME. <i>Psalter Week 2</i>
26	Mon	SS. Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs, <i>Memorial</i>
27	Tue	St. Vincent de Paul, Priest, <i>Memorial</i>
28	Wed	SS. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions, Martyrs, <i>Memorial</i>
29	Thu	The Holy Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels, <i>Feast</i>

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

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2016 -

UNIVERSAL: [Centrality of the Human Person] That each may contribute to the common good and to the building of a society that places the human person at the center.

EVANGELIZATION: [Mission to Evangelize] That by participating in the Sacraments and meditating on Scripture, Christians may become more aware of their mission to evangelize.

SEPTEMBER 2016: FOCUS OF THE LITURGY -

23RD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Wis 9:13-18; Ps 90:3-6, 12-17; Philemon 1:9-10, 12-17; Lk 14:25-33

An important theme in today's Gospel is how to be a disciple, and what that costs. It will often be difficult to understand and grasp the demands of our faith. God will make demands on us we cannot avoid if we are going to follow Him in truth.

THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Rom 8:28-30 or Mic 5:2-5a; Mt 1:18-23

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.

24TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Ex 32:7-11, 13-14; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19; 1 Tim 1:12-17; Lk 15:1-10

Jesus tells parables to certain judgmental people why He, Jesus, welcomes sinners and dines with them. In doing so, He is expressing the mercy of God. Saint Paul, who receives God's mercy, uses his experience as an example for potential believers.

THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

Num 21:4-9; Ps 78:1-2, 34-35, 36-37, 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.

25TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Amos 8:4-7; Ps 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8; 1 Tim 2:1-8; Lk 16:1-13

No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. One cannot serve God and wealth.

26TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Amos 6:1, 4-7; Ps 146:6-10; 1 Tim 6:11-16; Lk 16:19-31

The rich and powerful are visited with woe and exile - not for their wealth but for their refusal to share it and for their indifference to the suffering around them. Today's Liturgy is a call to repentance - we must pursue righteousness and keep the commandment of love, as Paul exhorts in today's Epistle.


OCTOBER 2016


1	Sat	St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Patroness of the Missions Feast of the Parish of St Thérèse, Kuwait
2	Sun	27TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME. Psalter Week 3
4	Tue	St. Francis of Assisi, <i>Memorial</i> . Feast of Pope Francis
6	Thu	St. Bruno, Priest, <i>Memorial</i>
7	Fri	Qatar Parish Feast: Our Lady of the Rosary
8	Sat	Morning: Our Lady of the Rosary, <i>Memorial</i>
9	Sun	28TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME. Psalter 4
10	Mon	St. Daniel Comboni Feast of the Parish of Jleeb al-Shuyoukh, Kuwait
11	Tue	St. John XXIII, Pope, <i>Memorial</i>
15	Sat	St. Teresa of Jesus (of Avila), Virgin and Doctor, <i>Memorial</i>
16	Sun	29TH SUN OF ORDINARY TIME Psalter Wk 1 World Food Day
17	Mon	St. Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop and Martyr, <i>Memorial</i>
18	Tue	St. Luke, Evangelist, <i>feast</i>
19	Wed	St. Paul of the Cross, Priest, <i>Memorial</i>
22	Sat	St. John Paul II, Pope, <i>Memorial</i>
23	Sun	30TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME. Psalter Week 2 World Mission Day
24	Mon	St. Arethas and Companions, Martyrs, Memorial Parish Feast of Saint Arethas Parish
27	Thu	SS. Simon and Jude, Apostles, <i>feast (anticipated)</i>
29	Sat	Morning: Saturday Mass of Our Lady
30	Sun	31ST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME. Psalter Week 3
31	Mon	<i>Vespers I of the following Solemnity (All Saints)</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 2016 -

UNIVERSAL: [Journalists] That journalists, in carrying out their work, may always be motivated by respect for truth and a strong sense of ethics.

EVANGELIZATION: [World Mission Day] That World Mission Day may renew within all Christian communities the joy of the Gospel and the responsibility to announce it.

OCTOBER 2016: FOCUS OF THE LITURGY -

27TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Habak 1:2-3;2:2-4; Ps 95:1-2,6-9; 2 Tim 1:6-8,13-14; Lk 17:5-10

If we call on the Lord, as the Apostles do in today's Gospel, He will increase our faith. He will provide what we need to bear our crosses. Our task is to continue doing what He has commanded - to love and to build up His kingdom.

28TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

2 Kgs 5:14-17; Ps 98:1-4; 2 Tim 2:8-13; Lk 17:11-19

A foreign leper is cleansed, and in thanksgiving returns to offer homage to the God of Israel. We hear this in two Readings today. We are shown how faith and thanksgiving have been made the way to salvation. The Greek word used to describe his "giving thanks" is the word we translate as "Eucharist."

29TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Ex 17:8-13; Ps 121:1-8; 2 Tim 3:14-4:2; Lk 18:1-8

The Lord is our Guardian, interceding for us at all times. In today's Psalm, we are told to lift our eyes to the mountains, that, our help will come from Mount Zion and the Temple - the dwelling of the Lord who made heaven and earth. We must persist in prayer and not be wearied by our trials, so that when the Son of Man comes again in kingly power, he will find faith on earth.

30TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Sir 35:12-14, 16-18; Ps 34:2-3,17-19, 23; 2 Tim 4:6-8,16-18; Lk 18:9-14

Jesus warns in today's parable about the Pharisee and the Publican, that, God cannot be bribed or impressed - even with good deeds. Paul tells us what the Psalmist sings today - that the Lord redeems the lives of His humble servants.

31ST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Wis 11:22-12:2; Ps 145:1-2, 8-11, 13-14; 2 Thes 1:11-2:2; Lk 19:1-10

In Zacchaeus, we have a portrait of a lost soul. He is a chief tax collector and a rich man who has apparently gained his living by fraud. However, Zacchaeus' faith brings salvation to his house. By his humility, he is exalted. By his faith, he is justified. Jesus is again showing us the faith and humility we need to obtain salvation.



NOVEMBER 2016



1	Tue	ALL SAINTS, Solemnity. <i>Evening prayer II of All Saints</i>
2	Wed	All Souls, Mass of All Souls Day <i>Divine Office of the Dead</i>
3	Thu	St. Martin de Porres, Religious, <i>Memorial</i>
5	Sat	Morning: Saturday Mass of Our Lady
6	Sun	32ND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME. <i>Psalter Week 4</i>
9	Wed	The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica, <i>Feast</i>
10	Thu	St. Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor, <i>Memorial</i>
12	Sat	St. Josaphat, Bishop and Martyr, <i>Memorial</i>
13	Sun	33RD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME. <i>Psalter Week 1</i>
15	Tue	St. Albert the Great, Bishop and Doctor, <i>Memorial</i>
16	Wed	St. Margaret of Scotland, <i>Memorial</i>
17	Thu	St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious, <i>Memorial</i>
19	Sat	Morning: Saturday Mass of Our Lady
20	Sun	34TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME: Jesus Christ King, Solemnity <i>Closing of the "HOLY YEAR OF MERCY"</i>
21	Mon	Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, <i>Memorial</i>
22	Tue	St. Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr, <i>Memorial</i>
23	Wed	St. Clement I, Pope and Martyr, <i>Memorial</i>
24	Thu	SS. Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs, <i>Memorial</i>
26	Sat	Morning: Saturday Mass of Our Lady
27	Sun	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT. <i>Psalter Week 1 * / **</i>
28	Mon	28 NOV – 01 DEC: Spiritual Retreat by Fr. Michael Fernandes, OFM Cap.
30	Wed	St. Andrew, Apostle, <i>Feast</i>
* <i>The Divine Office Vol. I , YEAR "A". Lectionary Year II</i>		
** <i>Apostles' Creed is said</i>		

NOVEMBER IS DEDICATED TO: The Holy Souls in Purgatory.

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR NOVEMBER 2016 -

UNIVERSAL: [Countries Receiving Refugees] That the countries which take in a great number of displaced persons and refugees may find support for their efforts which show solidarity.

EVANGELIZATION: [Collaboration of Priests and Laity] That within parishes, priests and lay people may collaborate in service to the community without giving in to the temptation of discouragement.

NOVEMBER 2016: 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.

32ND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

2 Mac 7:1-2, 9-14; Ps 17:1,5-6,8,15; 2 Thes 2:16-3:5; Lk 20:27-38

God is faithful to His human creatures. Being created in His image and likeness, they are immortal. By grace, He makes them His children.

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".

33RD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Mal 3:19-20; Ps 98:5-9; 2 Thes 3:7-12; Lk 21:5-19

"Lo, the day is coming," warns Malachi. Jesus cautions us not to be deceived by those claiming "the time has come." The world and its false securities are passing. In the end, only God's love remains.

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST KING OF THE UNIVERSE

2 Sam 5:1-3; Ps 122:1-5; Col 1:12-20; Lk 23:35-43

A man dies a criminal's death on a cross. Above His head is scrawled a message: this is the King of the Jews. St. Paul speaks of Jesus Christ's universal Kingdom and in particular, the forgiveness of sin by His death on the cross.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A)

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

The liturgy calls us to be prepared for Our Lord's coming into the world. His arrival pertains to Christmas, as well as to the moment of our death. In both cases it is a herald of hope and of judgment.



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



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 (25th December)
 - c. Solemnity of Mary Mother of God (January 1st)
 - 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, 3rd July (obligation is only for the Syro-Malabar Rite)
 - f. Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 15th August
 - g. Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 8th September (obligation is only for the Syro-Malankara Rite)

Feasts of Devotion:

- h.** St. Joseph, 19th March
- i.** St. Mark the Evangelist, 25th April (for the Coptic Rite)
- j.** Saints Peter and Paul, 29th June
- k.** All Saints Day, 1st November
- l.** All Souls Day, 2nd November
- m.** Immaculate Conception, 8th December

5. Feasts transferred to the following Friday or Sunday:

- a.** Epiphany
- b.** Corpus Christi
- c.** Ascension
- d.** St. Maroun, 9th 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



SEASONS OF THE LITURGICAL YEAR



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.



THE LITURGICAL CYCLES



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.



SOLEMNITIES, FEASTS AND MEMORIALS



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 honors 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 honored 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.



MOVEABLE FEASTS



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



DATES OF ASH WEDNESDAY AND EASTER



YEARS OF CURRENT INTEREST

CALENDAR YEAR	ASH WEDNESDAY	EASTER SUNDAY
2016	February 10	March 27
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

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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