



## Archdiocesan Liturgy Commission

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### Notitiae

#### **1. 1. Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**

Please note this alteration to the Ordo:

7 Tue - St. Ambrose, bishop and doctor of the Church (M)

Wh Mass: Adv pref I

Rdgs: Is 40:1-11/ Mt 18:12-14

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\* EP = EP I of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
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8 Wed - **THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN**

**MARY (Solemnity)**

Wh Mass: Gl, Cr, prop pref

Rdgs: [689] Gn 3:9-15,20/ Eph 1:3-6,11-12/ Lk 1:26-38

MP= Prop Sun Wk I; DP= Prop; EP= EP II Prop.

#### **2. 2. The Solemnity of Christmas**

*Notitiae from the Congregation of Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments (Not 5, 1969, 405, no 21)*

QUERY: *May the Mass of the Vigil of Christmas be celebrated in the morning of December 24<sup>th</sup>?*

REPLY: *No.*

*This Mass is celebrated on the Afternoon of 24<sup>th</sup> December, before or after the Evening Prayer of the Solemnity of Christmas. The Vigil's proper Mass is celebrated as part of the Solemnity, thus it is festive Mass.*

QUERY: *May the Christmas Midnight Mass be celebrated in the evening of the 24<sup>th</sup> instead of the Vigil Mass?*

REPLY: *No.*

*Christmas Mass at Midnight MUST BE celebrated around midnight so that the celebration is AUTHENTIC AS TO THE TIME.*

*For Masses on the eve of Christmas, in fulfillment of the precepts laid down, the text to be used is that from the Vigil Mass (from the afternoon of the 24<sup>th</sup> Dec, before or after the Evening Prayer).*

*The Vigil Mass, although a weekday Mass, according to precept fulfils the obligation.*

#### **3. 3. Nota Bene**

With regard to Can 951 on accepting intentions, stipends and application of Masses for Christmas:

The FIRST MASS for Christmas is the CHRISTMAS MASS AT MIDNIGHT. And not the Vigil Mass.

**4. 4. Answers From The Commission**

QUESTION: *Should the priest place the statue of the Infant child Jesus into the manger at ALL Masses on Christmas Eve?*

REPLY: *The tradition of placing the statue of the Infant Child Jesus in the manger at the Christmas liturgy, derives from the ancient practice proceeding from St Francis of Assisi in Greccio three years before his death. This was done at the FIRST MASS of Christmas (i.e Christmas Mass at Midnight), and not the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass.*

*In any case, it is only “paraliturgical” and there is no obligation to do it.*

**5. 5. Dual Days of obligation**

With the Solemnity of Christmas falling on a Saturday, we are again faced with two days of obligation running consecutively.

In order to avoid confusion, it is therefore the advice of this Commission that Parishes in the Archdiocese carry on their traditions for **arrangement of** masses on Christmas day.

However, should parishes have evening masses on Christmas day, they should take note of the following

- Mass to be celebrated is that of the Solemnity of Christmas and not of The Holy Family, which in the Ordo, is only a Feast.
- It must be made clear to the parishioners that this mass fulfils the obligation for Christmas day and not of the Sunday.

Fr Rene Nicolas  
Chairperson  
Archdiocese Liturgy Commission  
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