

**Norms on the Obligation to Attend Mass on Holy Days
and
on the Celebration of Ritual Masses and Masses for the Dead**

<p>December 8 The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remains a day of obligation when it falls on a Saturday or Monday • Ritual Masses (i.e., marriage, confirmation) and funeral Masses are prohibited. Marriages celebrated during Mass on that day must use the readings and orations of the holy day. A marriage or funeral may be celebrated outside of Mass using the texts from the <i>Rite of Marriage</i> or the <i>Order of Christian Funerals</i>. • If the Immaculate Conception falls on a Sunday, the feast transfers to the next unimpeded free day (December 9) and the obligation to attend Mass is abrogated.
<p>December 25 The Nativity of the Lord</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remains a day of obligation when it falls on a Saturday or Monday • Ritual Masses (i.e., marriage, confirmation) and funeral Masses are prohibited. • A marriage or funeral may be celebrated outside of Mass using the texts from the <i>Rite of Marriage</i> or the <i>Order of Christian Funerals</i>.
<p>January 1 Mary, the Mother of God</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The obligation to attend Mass is abrogated when it falls on a Saturday or a Monday. • When the obligation is abrogated, ritual Masses (i.e. marriage, confirmation) are still prohibited. A marriage may be celebrated outside Mass using texts from the <i>Rite of Marriage</i>. • Funeral Masses may be celebrated when the obligation is abrogated.
<p>Holy Thursday and the Triduum</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mass other than the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper is prohibited on Holy Thursday without the permission of the bishop. • Funeral Masses and ritual Masses (marriages) are prohibited on Holy Thursday and the days of the Triduum.
<p>The Seventh Sunday of Easter Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the Archdiocese of Dubuque this solemnity is celebrated on the Seventh Sunday of Easter. • Ritual Masses and Funeral Masses are prohibited. Marriages celebrated at Mass must use the Scripture readings and orations of the day. • A marriage or funeral may be celebrated outside of Mass using the texts from the <i>Rite of Marriage</i> or the <i>Order of Christian Funerals</i>.
<p>August 15 The Assumption of Mary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The obligation to attend Mass is abrogated when it falls on a Saturday or Monday. • When the obligation is abrogated, ritual Masses (i.e., marriage, confirmation) are still prohibited. • Marriage may be celebrated outside of Mass using texts from the <i>Rite of Marriage</i>. • Funeral Masses may be celebrated when the obligation is abrogated.
<p>November 1 The Feast of All Saints</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The obligation to attend Mass is abrogated when it falls on a Saturday or Monday. • When the obligation is abrogated, ritual Masses (i.e., marriage, confirmation) are still prohibited. • Marriage may be celebrated outside of Mass using texts from the <i>Rite of Marriage</i>. • Funeral Masses may be celebrated when the obligation is abrogated.

January 22: A Day of Penance and Prayer

January 22 has been designated by the U.S. Bishops as a "particular day of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion, and of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life." The Mass "For Peace and Justice," (#22) from "Masses for Various Needs and Occasions," may be celebrated and violet vestments may be worn (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, #373).