

MEMORANDUM

TO: Clergy, Liturgy Coordinators, Music Directors, and Wedding Coordinators
FROM: Deacon Modesto Cordero, Director, Office for Worship
RE: **2027 LITURGICAL NOTES FOR THE DIOCESE OF ORANGE**
(Year B, Cycle I)
DATE: July 29, 2026

This memorandum provides important calendar information to assist parishes in planning for the **2026–2027 Liturgical Year** in the Diocese of Orange. The dates and guidelines provided are based on the *Liturgical Calendar for the Dioceses of the United States of America*, published by the Secretariat of Divine Worship of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, as well as the **General Roman Calendar**.

The following are the **principal celebrations and observances of the 2027 Liturgical Year** for the Diocese of Orange:

Solemnity of All Saints	November 1, 2026
First Sunday of Advent	November 29, 2026
Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	December 8, 2026
The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)	December 25, 2026
Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God	January 1, 2027
Ash Wednesday	February 10, 2027
Easter Sunday	March 28, 2027
Ascension of the Lord	May 9, 2027
Pentecost Sunday	May 16, 2027
The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ	May 30, 2027
Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	August 15, 2027
First Sunday of Advent	November 28, 2027

Cycles – Lectionary for Mass for 2027

Sunday Cycle	Year B	Nov 29, 2026 to Nov 21, 2027
Weekday Cycle	Cycle I	Jan 11 to Feb 9, 2027 May 17 to Nov 27, 2027
Sunday Cycle	Year C	Nov 28, 2027 to Nov 26, 2028



Anniversary of the Dedication of the Parish Church: This occasion is to be celebrated as a Solemnity within the parish, unless it falls on a day of higher liturgical rank. [*The Order of the Dedication of a Church and an Altar*, Chapter II, no. 27; *General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar*, no. R10.]

Memorial of the Parish's Patron(s): The feast day of the parish's patron saint(s) is likewise to be celebrated as Solemnity within the parish, unless impeded by a day of higher rank. [*Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the General Roman Calendar* (Pope Paul VI, 1969), no. 59, Table of Liturgical Days I, no. 4a.]

Funeral Masses: Funeral Masses may be celebrated on all days except:

- Solemnities that are holy days of obligation
- Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Easter
- Days of the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday)

On these days, the funeral rites should consist of a Liturgy of the Word followed by the Rite of Final Commendation (Farewell), as outlined in the *Order of Christian Funerals*, Part I, no. 4 (nos. 177–203). [*ORDO*, Masses for the Dead.]

Saturday Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Outside of Advent, Christmas Time, Lent, and Easter Time, on Saturdays where no Obligatory Memorial or higher-ranking celebration occurs, an Optional Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary may be observed. [*Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the Calendar*, no. 15.] The prayers and readings may be chosen from the *Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary*, the *Votive Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary* in the *Roman Missal*, or the *Collection of Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary*.

Marriage Celebrations with Liturgical Constraints: On days when a Ritual Mass is not permitted, the Order of Celebrating Matrimony may still be used in one of the following ways:

1. Celebration within Mass:

- Use the *Mass of the day* and include the *Nuptial Blessing*.
- Use the appropriate Solemn Blessing at the conclusion of Mass, when provided.
- One reading may be selected from the Lectionary for the Celebration of Marriage (nos. 801–805).

2. Celebration without Mass:

- Use the *Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass* (Chapter II of *The Order of Celebrating Matrimony*).

These options allow for the dignity of the sacrament to be upheld while observing the liturgical norms of the day.

On days when Ritual Masses are permitted, use the proper Ritual Mass for the celebration of Matrimony, including its prescribed prayers and readings.



Dates to remember for the rest of 2026 Liturgical Year (Year A, Cycle II)

August 13 th , 2026 (Thu)	St. Emydius, bishop and martyr Obligatory Memorial in the Diocese of Orange in California.
August 15 th , 2026 (Sat)	The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ritual Masses (i.e., Order of Matrimony) are not permitted. Funeral masses are permitted. <i>Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year.</i>
September 14 th – 20 th , 2026	Third week of September/Special Days of Prayer, Harvest and Fruits of the Earth
September 20 th , 2026 (Sun)	Catechetical Sunday
September 21 st – 25 th , 2026	National Migration Week Last week in September.
September 27 th , 2026 (Sun)	Priesthood Sunday
October 4 th , 2026 (Sun)	Respect Life Sunday Note: the month of October is Respect Life Month.
October 18 th , 2026 (Sun)	World Mission Sunday For resources, please go to the website: https://www.missio.org/redirect.aspx
October 23 rd , 2026 (Fri)	Saint John of Capistrano , secondary patron of the Diocese of Orange. <i>Obligatory Memorial in the Diocese of Orange</i>
November 1 st , 2026 (Sun)	All Saints Day (Solemnity) Ritual Masses (i.e. Order of Matrimony) are not permitted. Funeral masses are permitted.
November 2 nd , 2026 (Mon)	Commemoration of All the Faithful departed (All Souls' Day) Ritual Masses (i.e. Order of Matrimony) are not permitted. Funeral masses are permitted.



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November 2 nd – 8 th , 2026	National Vocation Awareness Week
November 22 nd , 2026 (Sun)	Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (Solemnity)
November 26 th , 2026 (Thu)	Thanksgiving Day

2027 Liturgical Year (Year B, Cycle I)

November 29 th , 2026 (Sun)	First Sunday of Advent
December 8th, 2026 (Tue)	The Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary (Solemnity) (Patronal Feast Day of the United States of America) Ritual Masses (i.e., Order of Matrimony) are not permitted. Funeral masses are not permitted. <i>Holy Day of Obligation this year.</i>
December 12 th , 2026 (Sat)	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (USA) Principal patroness of the Diocese of Orange Elevated to Solemnity in our Diocese Second Reading permitted Vigil Masses allowed this year Ritual Masses (i.e. Order of Matrimony) are not permitted. Funeral masses are permitted. <i>Not a Holy Day of Obligation.</i>
December 25th, 2026 (Fri)	The Nativity of the Lord / Christmas (Solemnity) Ritual Masses (i.e. Order of Matrimony) are not permitted. Funeral masses are not permitted. <i>Holy Day of Obligation</i>
January 1st, 2027 (Fri)	Mary, the Holy Mother of God (Solemnity) The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord Ritual Masses (i.e. Order of Matrimony) are not permitted. Funeral masses are not permitted. <i>Holy Day of Obligation in the Diocese of Orange.</i> <i>"Please check Shepherds Update to see if the bishop will dispense the obligation to attend Mass this year."</i>
January 3 rd , 2027 (Sun)	The Epiphany of the Lord (Solemnity)
January 10 th , 2027 (Sun)	The Baptism of the Lord (Feast) End of the Christmas Season



January 18 th – 25 th , 2027	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity For resources, please go to the website: https://www.christianunity.va/content/unitacristiani/en.html and http://www.geii.org/week_of_prayer_for_christian_unity/index.html
January 22 nd , 2027 (Fri)	Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children (USA) Particular Day of Penance <i>Masses “shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life in all the USA (and the world) and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion” (GIRM #373). The readings for Mass can be found in the new Lectionary for Mass Supplement (1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/ Mk 3:7-12 [314]). For the Day of Prayer, the reading from the “Lectionary for Mass Supplement,” or any of the readings from the “Lectionary for Mass” from the section “For Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life,” (nos. 947A-947E) or from “For Peace and Justice” (nos. 887-891) could be used.</i>
January 24 th , 2027 (Sun)	Word of God Sunday Observed as a special day devoted to “the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God”. For more information: https://www.usccb.org/committees/divine-worship/sunday-word-god
January 30 th , 2027 (Sat)	World Day for Consecrated Life For resources go to: https://www.usccb.org/committees/clergy-consecrated-life-vocations/world-day-consecrated-life
February 2 nd , 2027 (Tue)	Presentation of the Lord



February 6 th , 2027 (Sat)	World Day of the Sick Our Lady of Lourdes (February 11th) In our Diocese a special Celebration for World Day of the Sick will be celebrated on Saturday, February 6 th at Christ Cathedral at 10:00 am. There will be anointing of the sick and a blessing for those who care for the sick.
February 7 th – 14 th , 2027	World Marriage Week
February 14 th , 2027 (Sun)	World Marriage Day For clergy and parish resources go to: http://wmd.wwme.org More information about a diocesan celebration honoring wedding anniversaries is to follow by the Office for Family Life.
February 10 th , 2027 (Wed)	Ash Wednesday Day of Fasting and Abstinence Ritual Masses (i.e. Celebration of Matrimony) are not permitted. Funeral masses are permitted.
February 12 th – 16 th , 2027	Rite of Election (for Catechumens to be initiated at the Easter Vigil) In the Diocese of Orange, the Rite of Election of Catechumens and of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversation will be held at Christ Cathedral on Friday, February 12 th ; Saturday, February 13 th ; Monday, February 15 th ; and Tuesday, February 16 th , 2027. Date assignments for parishes will be sent in Early November 2026. Priests should ensure that one or more occasions are scheduled for the anointing of catechumens with the Oil of Catechumens, following the Rite of Entrance into the Catechumenate and prior to the Easter Vigil.
March 8 th – 13 th , 2027	Fourth Week of Lent/Special Days of Prayer, General Needs of Humankind



March 22 nd , 2027 (Mon)	Chrism Mass at 5:30 PM at Christ Cathedral. Ritual Masses (i.e. Celebration of Matrimony) are not permitted. Funeral masses are permitted. <i>All the faithful are invited to participate in this Mass. The teens preparing for Confirmation are to be especially encouraged to witness the consecration of the Holy Chrism Oil.</i>
March 25 th , 2027 (Thu)	Triduum begins with the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper Ritual Masses and Funeral masses are not permitted.
March 26 th , 2027 (Fri)	Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday) Ritual Masses and Funeral masses are not permitted.
March 27 th , 2027 (Sat)	Holy Saturday Easter Vigil should begin after 7:45 p.m. Ritual Masses and Funeral masses are not permitted <i>The entire celebration of the Vigil is to take place at night: it should begin after nightfall and end before the dawn of Sunday. Please note that there is to be only one Easter Vigil: for pastoral reasons an additional Mass may be celebrated after the Mass of the Easter Vigil using the liturgy of the Word of the Mass of the Easter Vigil and omitting the Service of Light. The intention of the Missale Romanum is clear: the Easter Vigil is to take place in darkness.</i>
March 28 th , 2027 (Sun)	Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord Although not given the title of Solemnity, "[t]he first eight days of Easter Time constitute the Octave of Easter and are celebrated as Solemnities of the Lord" [<i>Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the Calendar</i>, no.24]. A double 'Alleluia' is added to the dismissal with the response at Mass during the Octave. Ritual Masses (i.e. Order of Matrimony) are not permitted. Funeral masses are permitted.



April 4 th , 2027 (Sun)	Second Sunday of Easter (or Sunday of Divine Mercy)
April 5 th , 2027 (Mon)	The Annunciation of the Lord (Solemnity) Ritual Masses (i.e. Order of Matrimony) are not permitted. Funeral masses are permitted.
May 6 th , 2027 (Thu)	The Ascension of the Lord (Solemnity) <i>Our ecclesiastical province (and most dioceses in USA) has transferred this Solemnity from Thursday, May 6th to Sunday, May 9th. Thursday, May 6th is observed as an Easter Weekday.</i>
May 9 th , 2027 (Sun)	The Ascension of the Lord (Solemnity) Celebrated in the Diocese of Orange.
May 16 th , 2027 (Sun)	Pentecost (Solemnity) <i>The extended Vigil Mass for Pentecost has additional readings, each with its own responsorial psalm. The Pentecost Sequence, "Veni Sancte Spiritus," is obligatory on Pentecost Sunday and may be omitted at the Vigil. It is fitting to use the sprinkling rite on this day and the Paschal candle is to be lit at all masses. A double 'Alleluia' is added to the dismissal. The Paschal Candle is moved to the baptistery after the last Mass or Vespers, which concludes the Easter Season.</i>
May 17 th , 2027 (Mon)	The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church This Obligatory Memorial has its own proper found under Votive Mass for the Blessed Virgin Mary, option #10B, Our Lady, Mother of the Church. There are also readings proper for the day (Lectionary no. 1002). Additionally, proper text for Liturgy of the Hours can be found at http://www.usccb.org/motherofthechurch .
May 23 rd , 2027 (Sun)	The Most Holy Trinity (Solemnity)
May 30 th , 2027 (Sun)	USA: The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ - Corpus Christi (Solemnity)



June 4 th , 2027 (Fri)	The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (Solemnity) Ritual Masses (i.e. Order of Matrimony) are not permitted. Funeral masses are permitted.
June 21 st – 26 th , 2027	Fourth Week of June/Special Days of Prayer, Religious Freedom Week
July 1 st , 2027 (Thu)	Saint Junípero Serra <i>Obligatory Memorial in the Diocese of Orange.</i>
July 5 th , 2027 (Mon)	Our Lady, Refuge of Sinners <i>Obligatory Memorial in the Diocese of Orange.</i> This Marian feast honors the first patroness of California, established by Bishop Garcia Diego in 1843.
July 17 th , 2027 (Sat)	Dedication of Christ Cathedral The anniversary of the Dedication of the Cathedral is observed with the rank of Feast at churches and chapels in the Diocese of Orange. At Christ Cathedral, the anniversary is observed as a Solemnity.
July 25 th , 2027 (Sun)	World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly Pope Francis designated the 4th Sunday of July (closest to the memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne) to be "World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly."
August 13 th , 2027 (Fri)	St. Emydius, bishop and martyr <i>Obligatory Memorial in the Diocese of Orange.</i>
August 15th, 2027 (Sun)	The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ritual Masses (i.e. Order of Matrimony) are not permitted. Funeral masses are not permitted. Remains a Holy day of obligation and is observed instead of the 20 th Sunday in Ordinary Time.
September 19 th – 25 th , 2027	Third Week of September/Special Days of Prayer, Harvest and Fruits of the Earth
September 19 th , 2027 (Sun)	Catechetical Sunday



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November 21 st , 2027 (Sun)	Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (Solemnity)
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Please feel free to contact the Office for Worship, (714) 282- 3040 /4283 or email at mcordero@rcbo.org / jvenegas@rcbo.org should you have any questions.