FESTA DE PRAECEPTO

Holy Days of Obligation

On every Sunday and on these feasts the faithful are bound to assist at Holy Mass and to abstain from servile work — the first precept of the Church. Besides all Sundays, the universal law of the Church names ten holy days of obligation (1917 Code, can. 1247).

"Remember that thou keep holy the sabbath day." — Exodus 20:8

DEC 8

The Immaculate Conception

Our Lady preserved from every stain of original sin from the first instant of her conception — defined by Bl. Pius IX in 1854.

DEC 25

The Nativity of Our Lord

Christmas: the Word made flesh is born of the Virgin at Bethlehem. Every priest may offer three Masses — at midnight, at dawn and during the day.

JAN 1

The Circumcision of Our Lord

The Octave of Christmas: the Child receives the Holy Name of Jesus and first sheds His Precious Blood. Kept since 1969 as the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

JAN 6

The Epiphany

Christ manifested to the Gentiles in the Magi, and recalled with His Baptism in the Jordan and the first miracle at Cana.

MAR 19

St. Joseph

Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, foster-father of Our Lord, declared Patron of the Universal Church by Bl. Pius IX in 1870.

THU Easter + 39 days

The Ascension of Our Lord

On the fortieth day after Easter, Christ ascends into heaven before the Apostles. In 2027: Thursday, May 6.

THU after Trinity

Corpus Christi

The Most Holy Body of Christ, instituted in 1264 by Urban IV, with Mass and Office by St. Thomas Aquinas. In 2027: Thursday, May 27.

JUN 29

Sts. Peter and Paul

The two princes of the Apostles, martyred at Rome — the rock of the Church and the Apostle of the Gentiles.

AUG 15

The Assumption of Our Lady

Mary taken up body and soul into heavenly glory at the end of her earthly life — defined by Ven. Pius XII in 1950.

NOV 1

All Saints

The whole Church Triumphant honored together — every saint in heaven, known and unknown.

THE OBLIGATION

To miss Mass deliberately on a Sunday or holy day without a grave reason, such as illness or the care of infants, is a grave sin (CCC 2181). Servile work and business that hinder the worship owed to God are to be avoided.

WHERE YOU LIVE

With the Holy See's approval, bishops' conferences may suppress some of these days or transfer them to Sunday, so the number kept varies by country. Always check your own diocese's calendar.