



# Worship Office

Archdiocese of Newark

## Liturgy Note

### Christmas 2021

*And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.*

–John 1:14

#### December 25, 2021

In 2021, Christmas Day (December 25), will occur on a Saturday. Please carefully note the following:

- The Solemnity of Christmas is a holy day of obligation, even when it occurs on Saturday. Funeral Masses are not permitted on holy days of obligation.
- Christmas Vigil Masses (Friday, December 24) may not be celebrated earlier than 4 pm.
- Only Masses of Christmas may be celebrated during the 24 hours of Christmas Day (Saturday, December 25). (See *Roman Missal*.)
- Christmas Masses are to be celebrated according to the time of day (i.e., Mass during the Night, Mass at Dawn, Mass during the Day). (See *Roman Missal*.)
- The readings from Sacred Scripture may be used interchangeably for Masses on Christmas Day, “with the option of choosing from one or other of the three sets of readings according to the pastoral needs of each congregation.” (*Lectionary for Mass* #13.)
- Attendance at any Mass from 4 pm on Christmas Eve (Friday, December 24) through midnight on Christmas Day (Saturday, December 25) fulfills the obligation for the Solemnity of Christmas.
- Anticipated Masses for Sunday, December 26, the Feast of the Holy Family, may **not** be celebrated on Saturday, December 25.
- Parishes that usually have an anticipated Mass on Saturday evenings are not required to celebrate an evening Mass on Christmas Day. If circumstances suggest, they may celebrate one, but it must be the Mass for the Solemnity of Christmas.

**NOTE:** Should someone attend Mass for the Solemnity of Christmas on either Christmas Eve or the morning of Christmas Day AND attend a Mass on Christmas Day at 4 pm or later, that second Mass, even though it is also a Mass for the Solemnity of Christmas, could fulfill the Sunday (Holy Family) obligation. It should be noted that two obligations CANNOT be fulfilled with one Mass.

## January 1, 2022

In January of 2022, the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (New Year's Day), will occur on a Saturday. Please note the following:

- Because this Solemnity occurs on a Saturday in 2022, it is not a holy day of obligation. Because it is not a holy day of obligation this year, Funeral Masses are permitted on January 1, 2022.
- Masses scheduled after 4 pm on Friday, December 31, may be anticipated Masses for the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, using the appropriate texts. (See *Roman Missal*.)
- Masses scheduled after 4pm on Saturday, January 1, must be the Vigil Mass of the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord.
- Parishes that usually have an anticipated Mass on Saturday evenings are not required to celebrate an evening Mass on New Year's Day. If circumstances suggest, they may celebrate one, but it must be the Vigil Mass of the Epiphany of the Lord.

