



RITUAL MASSES
(Matrimony, Funerals, Confirmation etc.)

Following are the days which require their own scripture readings and proper texts:¹

1. The Sundays of Advent
2. The Sundays of Lent
3. The Sundays of Easter (including Pentecost)
4. All Solemnities
 - Mary, the Mother of God (January 1)
 - St. Joseph the Worker (March 19)
 - The Annunciation of the Lord (March 25)
 - The Birth of John the Baptist (June 24)
 - Ss. Peter and Paul (June 29)
 - The Assumption of Mary (August 15)
 - All Saints (November 1)
 - The Immaculate Conception (December 8)
 - Nativity of the Lord (Christmas - December 25)
 - The Days within the Octave of Easter
 - All Souls Day (November 2)

Moveable Dates:

- Epiphany of the Lord
- The Most Holy Trinity
- The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
- Sacred Heart of Jesus
- Christ the King
- Ascension
- Ash Wednesday
- The Weekdays of Holy Week

5. Proper Solemnities – pertaining to Diocese, Patrons, City, State, Dedications, Founders, etc.

¹ Cf. GIRM – Table of Liturgical Days I



Ritual Masses are connected to the celebration of certain Sacraments or sacramental. They are prohibited on Sundays of Advent, Lent and Easter, on Solemnities, on the days within the Octave of Easter, on the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, on Ash Wednesday, and during Holy Week, and furthermore due regard is to be had for the norms set out in the ritual books or in the Masses themselves.²

Funerals Masses may not be celebrated on:

Solemnities that are Holy Days of Obligation
Thursday of Holy Week
Paschal Triduum
Sundays of Advent, Lent and Easter.³

A Funeral Liturgy outside Mass can be celebrated on those days on which a Funeral Mass may not be celebrated.⁴

The Rite of Matrimony within Mass cannot be celebrated on Good Friday or Easter Saturday.

The Rite of Matrimony outside of Mass may be celebrated on any day of the year, “however Good Friday and Easter Saturday are to be avoided altogether”.⁵

“On this day and the following day, by a most ancient tradition, the Church does not celebrate the Sacraments at all, except for Penance and the Anointing of the Sick.”⁶

If the marriage is celebrated on a day that is penitential in nature the pastor should counsel the spouses to take that into account when choosing a date for the Marriage. This applies to other days that are special in the life of the universal Church or the local community.

The celebration of Marriages within Mass (the Ritual Mass) follows the norms of the liturgical precedence outlined above.⁷

² GIRM 372

³ GIRM 380

⁴ The Order of Christian Funerals (OCF) 1998 n.178

⁵ The Order of Celebrating Matrimony (OCM), 2016 n.32

⁶ Roman Missal – Friday of the Passion of the Lord n.1

⁷ OCM 34