

# NOTES TO ALL LECTORS

## CYCLES – LECTIONARY FOR MASS

**YEAR C** - November 27, 2015 through November 20, 2016

**YEAR A** - November 27, 2016 through November 26, 2017

## HOLY DAYS (August 2016 – January 2017)

### **Monday, August 15, 2016 – The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year)**

The Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary commemorates the death of Mary and her bodily assumption into Heaven. Because it signifies the Blessed Virgin's passing into eternal life, it is the most important of all Marian feasts; The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a Holy Day of Obligation. However, when it falls on a Saturday or a Monday, the obligation to attend Mass is abrogated.

### **Tuesday, November 1, 2016 – All Saints Day (Holy Day of Obligation)**

All Saints Day, the day on which Catholics celebrate all the saints, known and unknown, is a surprisingly old feast. It arose out of the Christian tradition of celebrating the martyrdom of saints on the anniversary of their martyrdom. When martyrdoms increased during the persecutions of the late Roman Empire, local dioceses instituted a common feast day in order to ensure that all martyrs, known and unknown were properly honored.

### **Thursday, December 8, 2016 – The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy Day of Obligation)**

The Immaculate Conception refers to the condition that the Blessed Virgin Mary was free from Original Sin from the very moment of her conception in the womb of her mother, Saint Anne. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the patronal feast of the United States, is a Holy Day of Obligation. Because this feast honoring Mary, the Mother of God, celebrates one of the most important events in salvation history, it is never abrogated, even when December 8 falls on a Saturday or a Monday. However, if December 8 falls on a Sunday the celebration of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is transferred to Monday, December 9, because Sundays in Advent take precedence over any other feast.

### **Sunday, December 25, 2016 – Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) (Always a Holy Day of Obligation)**

### **Sunday, January 1, 2017 – The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)**

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God is celebrated on the octave of Christmas; it is the most important and oldest of the major feasts of Mary. It commemorates Mary's divine maternity. On this day, we are reminded of the role that the Blessed Virgin played in the plan of our salvation. It is also designated as the "World Day of Peace", further acknowledging the role of Mary in our hearts and in our world. If the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God falls on a Saturday or a Monday, the obligation to attend Mass is abrogated.

**Please find all Holy Days of Obligation for 2016 and 2017**

<http://dosp.org/worship/wp-content/uploads/sites/28/Holy-Days-2016-17.pdf>