The Year of Grace 2020: Roman Catholic Diocese of Des Moines
Lectionary: Sunday Year A (Matthew)/Weekday Year II

An asterisk (*) denotes a weekday holy day of obligation

Advent
December 1, 2019: First Sunday of Advent
Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, transferred to December 9 (Monday) Not obligatory;
optional memorial of St. Juan Diego is omitted this year
December 12 (Thursday): Our Lady of Guadalupe

Christmas Time
*December 24-25 (Tuesday-Wednesday): Christmas Vigil/Day
December 30: Feast of the Holy Family
*January 1, 2020 (Wednesday): Mary, Mother of God
January 4-5 (Saturday-Sunday): The Epiphany of the Lord Vigil/Day
January 12 (Sunday): The Baptism of the Lord

Ordinary Time
January 18-25: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
January 19: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 22: Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children (Monday, opt. violet vestments)
January 25 (Saturday): Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle
February 2 (Sunday): Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas; white)
February 3 (Monday): Optional Memorial, St. Blaise, Blessing of Throats

Lent
February 26: Ash Wednesday
February 29 (Saturday): Rite of Election/Call to Continuing Conversion, 11:00 a.m. (Council Bluffs)
March 1: First Sunday of Lent
March 1: Rite of Election/Call to Continuing Conversion, 2:00 & 4:00 p.m. (Cathedral)
March 8: Second Sunday of Lent (Penitential Rite)
March 13 (Friday): Anniversary of Election of Pope Francis (2013)
March 15: Third Sunday of Lent (First Scrutiny)
March 19 (Thursday): Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Solemnity
March 22: Fourth Sunday of Lent (Second Scrutiny)
March 25 (Wednesday): Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord,
March 26: Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Richard E. Pates (2001)
March 29: Fifth Sunday of Lent (Third Scrutiny)
April 3: Chrism Mass, Friday, 7 pm, Cathedral of St. Ambrose
April 5: Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion

The Sacred Paschal Triduum
Holy Thursday: April 9
Good Friday: April 10
Holy Saturday/Easter Vigil: April 11 (Earliest Easter Vigil start time: 8:00 PM)
Easter Sunday: April 12

Easter Time
April 19: Second Sunday of Easter/Divine Mercy Sunday,
May 23-24: Solemnity of the Ascension Vigil/Day, tr. from May 21; replaces 7th Sun. of Easter
May 30-31: Pentecost Vigil/Day

Prepared by the Diocese of Des Moines Office for Worship
**Ordinary Time**

June 7 (Sunday): Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity
June 12 (Friday): Diaconate Ordination (Seminarians), 7 p.m. St. Ambrose Cathedral
June 14 (Sunday): Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ
June 19 (Friday): Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
June 19: (Friday): World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests
June 21: Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time
June 24 (Wednesday): Solemnity of the Birth of John the Baptist
June 29 (Monday): Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles
August 12: Anniversary of the Foundation of the Diocese (1911)
August 14-15 (Fri.-Sat.): Solemnity of the Assumption BVM Vigil/Day
August 22 (Saturday): Queenship of Mary, Principal Patroness of the Diocese of Des Moines, Feast
September 8 (Tuesday): Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
September 14 (Monday): Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
October 11: Anniversary of Dedication of Cathedral, Feast in Diocesan Churches; Solemnity in Cathedral

*November 1 (Sunday): Solemnity of All Saints*
November 2 (Monday): The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed
November 9 (Monday): Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

November 25 (Sunday): Solemnity of Christ the King
1. **Holy Days of Obligation (Weekday)**
   - December 25, 2019 (Wednesday): Christmas
   - January 1, 2020 (Wednesday): The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
   - November 1, 2018 (Sunday): Solemnity of All Saints’

2. **Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord**
   - **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception: Transferred to Mon., Dec. 9, 2019**
     In 2019, December 8 falls on Sunday. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is thus transferred to Monday, December 9. **December 9 is not a holy day of obligation.** The observance of the Second Sunday of Advent begins at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 7. **All Masses** on Sunday, December 8, are that of the Second Sunday of Advent.

   - **Solemnity Ascension of the Lord: Transferred to Sunday, May 24, 2020**
     This solemnity replaces the 7th Sunday of Easter. Thursday, May 21, 2020, becomes Thursday of the 6th Week of Easter.

3. **Chrism Mass:** Friday, April 3, 2018, 7:00 p.m. at the Cathedral. Please extend a special invitation and word of encouragement to the following groups at your parish:
   - RCIA catechumens, candidates, sponsors, team
   - Children who are to be or were recently baptized, their parents and sponsors
   - Youth preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation.

   **Please note:** All the blessed oils will be poured and distributed during Mass. Watch for directions regarding this year’s process for picking up the oils.

4. **The Easter Vigil:** In the Diocese of Des Moines, the Easter Vigil is to begin no earlier than 8:00 p.m. on April 11, 2020.

   From the General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar (#21):
   “The Easter Vigil, during the holy night when Christ rose from the dead, ranks as the “mother of all vigils.” Keeping watch, the Church awaits Christ’s resurrection and celebrates it in the sacraments. Accordingly, the entire celebration of this vigil should take place at night, that is, it should either begin after nightfall or end before dawn of Sunday.”

   From the Ordo: “This rule is to be taken in its strictest sense. The Easter Vigil is not to be celebrated at the time of day that it is customary to celebrate anticipated Sunday Masses.”