# The Year of Grace 2021: Roman Catholic Diocese of Des Moines

**Lectionary:** Sunday Year B (Mark)/Weekday Year I  
**An asterisk (*) denotes a weekday holy day of obligation**

## Advent
November 29 2020: First Sunday of Advent  
Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, December 8 (Tuesday) Holy Day of Obligation  
December 12 (Saturday): Our Lady of Guadalupe

## Christmas Time
**December 24-25 (Friday-Saturday): Christmas Vigil/Day**  
December 27: Feast of the Holy Family  
**January 1, 2021 (Friday): Mary, Mother of God**  
January 2-3 (Saturday-Sunday): The Epiphany of the Lord Vigil/Day  
January 10 (Sunday): The Baptism of the Lord

## Ordinary Time
January 17-24: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity  
January 17: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time  
January 22: Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children (Friday, opt. violet vestments)  
January 25 (Monday): Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle  
February 2 (Tuesday): Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas; white) Optional Memorial, St. Blaise, Blessing of Throats

## Lent
February 17: Ash Wednesday  
**February 20-21 (Saturday-Sunday): Rite of Election/Call to Continuing Conversion, Held in parishes due to COVID-19**  
February 21: First Sunday of Lent  
February 28: Second Sunday of Lent (Penitential Rite)  
March 7: Third Sunday of Lent (First Scrutiny)  
March 13 (Saturday): Anniversary of Election of Pope Francis (2013)  
March 14: Fourth Sunday of Lent (Second Scrutiny)  
**March 19 (Friday): Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Solemnity**  
March 21: Fifth Sunday of Lent (Third Scrutiny)  
March 25 (Thursday): Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord,  
March 26: Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Richard E. Pates (2001)  
**March 26: Chrism Mass, Friday, 2 p.m., St. Patrick, Imogene**  
March 28: Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion

## The Sacred Paschal Triduum
**Holy Thursday:** April 1  
**Good Friday:** April 2  
**Holy Saturday/Easter Vigil:** April 3 (Earliest Easter Vigil start time: 8:00 PM)  
**Easter Sunday:** April 4

## Easter Time
April 11: Second Sunday of Easter/Divine Mercy Sunday,  
**May 15-16: Solemnity of the Ascension Vigil/Day, tr. from May 13; replaces 7th Sun. of Easter**  
**May 22-23: Pentecost Vigil/Day**

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Ordinary Time
May 30 (Sunday): Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity
June 6 (Sunday): Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ
June 11 (Friday): Diaconate Ordination (Seminarians), 5 p.m. St. Ambrose Cathedral
June 11 (Friday): Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
June 11: (Friday): World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests
June 20: Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time
June 24 (Thursday): Solemnity of the Birth of John the Baptist
June 25 (Friday): Priesthood Ordination, 5 p.m., Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart, Ankeny
June 29 (Tuesday): Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles
August 12: Anniversary of the Foundation of the Diocese (1911)
August 14-15 (Sat.-Sun.): Solemnity of the Assumption BVM Vigil/Day
August 22 (Sunday): Queenship of Mary, Principal Patroness of the Diocese of Des Moines, Feast
September 8 (Wednesday): Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
September 14 (Tuesday): Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
October 11: Anniversary of Dedication of Cathedral, Feast in Diocesan Churches; Solemnity in Cathedral

November 1 (Monday): Solemnity of All Saints (not a Holy Day of obligation)
November 2 (Tuesday): The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed
November 9 (Tuesday): Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

November 21 (Sunday): Solemnity of Christ the King
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Calendar Notes

1. Holy Days of Obligation (Weekday)
   December 8, 2021 (Tuesday)
   December 25, 2021 (Saturday): Christmas
   January 1, 2021 (Saturday): The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

   Solemnity Ascension of the Lord: Transferred to Sunday, May 16, 2021
   This solemnity replaces the 7th Sunday of Easter. Thursday, May 13, 2021, becomes
   Thursday of the 6th Week of Easter.

2. Chrism Mass: Friday, March 26, 2 p.m. at St. Patrick, Imogene.

3. The Easter Vigil: In the Diocese of Des Moines, the Easter Vigil is to
   begin no earlier than 8:00 p.m. on April 4, 2021.

   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.”

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