



The Year of Grace 2026: Roman Catholic Diocese of Des Moines

Lectionary: Sunday Year A (Matthew)/Weekday Year II

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

Advent

November 30, 2025: First Sunday of Advent

*December 8 (Monday) Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

December 12 (Friday): Our Lady of Guadalupe

Christmas Time

***December 24-25 (Wednesday-Thursday): Christmas Vigil/Day**

December 28 (Sunday): Feast of the Holy Family

*January 1, 2025 (Thursday): Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)

January 4 (Sunday): The Epiphany of the Lord Vigil/Day

January 11 (Sunday): The Baptism of the Lord

Ordinary Time

January 18-25: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

January 18: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 22: Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children (Thursday, white or violet)

January 25 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 25: Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Joseph Charron, C.P.P.S. (1990)

February 1: Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 2 (Monday): Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas; white) Optional Memorial,
St. Blaise, Blessing of Throats

February 8: Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 15: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lent

February 18: Ash Wednesday

February 21-22 (Saturday-Sunday): Rite of Election/Call to Continuing Conversion, February 21 at St. Peter, Council Bluffs and February 22 at St. Francis of Assisi, West Des Moines

February 22: First Sunday of Lent

March 1: Second Sunday of Lent (Penitential Rite)

March 8: Third Sunday of Lent (First Scrutiny)

March 15: Fourth Sunday of Lent (Second Scrutiny)

March 26: Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Richard E. Pates (2001)

March 22: Fifth Sunday of Lent (Third Scrutiny)

March 25 (Wednesday): Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord,

March 27: Chrism Mass, Friday, 5 p.m., St. Ambrose Cathedral, Des Moines

March 29: Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

The Sacred Paschal Triduum

Holy Thursday: April 2

Good Friday: April 3

Holy Saturday/Easter Vigil: April 4 (Earliest Easter Vigil start time: 8:00 PM)

Easter Sunday: April 5

Easter Time

April 12: Second Sunday of Easter/Divine Mercy Sunday,

May 8: (Thursday): Anniversary of Election of Pope Leo XIV (2025)

May 17-18: Solemnity of the Ascension Vigil/Day, tr. from May 14; replaces 7th Sun. of Easter

May 23-24: Pentecost Vigil/Day

Ordinary Time

May 31 (Sunday): Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

June 7 (Sunday): Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ

June 12 (Friday): Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

June 19 (Friday): Transitional Diaconate Ordination, 5 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi, West Des Moines

June 24 (Wednesday): Nativity of the Birth of John the Baptist

June 24: (Wednesday): World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests

June 21: Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

June 26 (Friday): Presbyteral Ordination, 5 p.m., St. Ambrose Cathedral

June 29 (Monday): Solemnity of Ss. Peter and Paul, Apostles

August 12: Anniversary of the Foundation of the Diocese (1911)

August 15 (Saturday): Solemnity of the Assumption BVM Vigil/Day (not a Holy Day of Obligation)

August 22 (Friday): 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

September 27: Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination of Bishop William M. Joensen (2019)

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 22 (Sunday): Solemnity of Christ the King



The Year of Grace 2026: Roman Catholic Diocese of Des Moines Calendar Notes

1. Holy Days of Obligation (Weekday)

December 8, 2025 (Monday): Immaculate Conception

December 25, 2025 (Thursday): Christmas

January 1, 2026 (Thursday): Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

Solemnity Ascension of the Lord: Transferred to Sunday, May 17, 2026

This solemnity replaces the 7th Sunday of Easter. Thursday, May 14, 2026, becomes Thursday of the 6th Week of Easter.

2. Chrism Mass: Friday, March 27, 5 p.m. at St. Ambrose Cathedral, Des Moines

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, 2026.*

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.”