Advent
December, 2023: First Sunday of Advent
* Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, December 8 (Friday) Holy Day of Obligation
December 12 (Tuesday): Our Lady of Guadalupe

Christmas Time
* December 24-25 (Sunday-Monday): Christmas Vigil/Day
December 31 (Sunday): Feast of the Holy Family
January 1, 2024 (Monday): Mary, Mother of God (not a Holy Day of Obligation)
January 6-7 (Saturday-Sunday): The Epiphany of the Lord Vigil/Day
January 8 (Monday): The Baptism of the Lord

Ordinary Time
January 17-24: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
January 14: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 22: Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children (Monday, white or violet)
January 25 (Thursday): Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle
February 2 (Friday): Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas; white) Optional Memorial, St. Blaise, Blessing of Throats

Lent
February 14: Ash Wednesday
February 17-18 (Saturday-Sunday): Rite of Election/Call to Continuing Conversion, February 17 at St. Patrick, Council Bluffs and February 18 at St. Francis of Assisi, West Des Moines
February 18: First Sunday of Lent
February 25: Second Sunday of Lent (Penitential Rite)
March 3: Third Sunday of Lent (First Scrutiny)
March 10 Fourth Sunday of Lent (Second Scrutiny)
March 13 (Wednesday): Anniversary of Election of Pope Francis (2013)
March 17: Fifth Sunday of Lent (Third Scrutiny)
March 26: Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Richard E. Pates (2001)

The Sacred Paschal Triduum
Holy Thursday: March 28
Good Friday: March 29
Holy Saturday/Easter Vigil: March 30 (Earliest Easter Vigil start time: 8:00 PM)
Easter Sunday: March 31

Easter Time
April 7: Second Sunday of Easter/Divine Mercy Sunday,
April 8 (Monday): Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord,
May 11-12: Solemnity of the Ascension Vigil/Day, tr. from May 9; replaces 7th Sun. of Easter
May 18-19: Pentecost Vigil/Day
**Ordinary Time**

**May 26 (Sunday): Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity**

**June 2 (Sunday): Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ**

**June 7 (Tuesday): Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus**

**June 24 (Monday): Nativity of the Birth of John the Baptist**

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

**June 23: Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**June 21 (Friday): Priesthood Ordination, 5 p.m., St. Ambrose Cathedral**

**June 29 (Saturday): Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles**

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

*August 15 (Thursday): Solemnity of the Assumption BVM Vigil/Day (Holy Day of Obligation)*

**August 22 (Thursday): Queenship of Mary, Principal Patroness of the Diocese of Des Moines, Feast**

**September 8 (Sunday): Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

**September 14 (Saturday): 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 (Friday): Solemnity of All Saints (Holy Day of obligation)*

**November 2 (Saturday): The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed**

**November 9 (Saturday): Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica**

**November 24 (Sunday): Solemnity of Christ the King**
The Year of Grace 2024: Roman Catholic Diocese of Des Moines
Calendar Notes

1. **Holy Days of Obligation (Weekday)**
   - November 1, 2023 (Wednesday): All Saints Day
   - December 8, 2023 (Friday)
   - December 25, 2023 (Monday): Christmas
   - August 15, 2024 (Thursday): Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord**
Solemnity Ascension of the Lord: Transferred to Sunday, May 12, 2024
This solemnity replaces the 7th Sunday of Easter. Thursday, May 9, 2024, becomes Thursday of the 6th Week of Easter.

2. **Chrism Mass:** Friday, March 22, 5 p.m. at St. Ambrose Cathedral

3. **The Easter Vigil:** *In the Diocese of Des Moines, the Easter Vigil is to begin no earlier than 8:00 p.m. on March 30, 2024.*

   **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.”