



### The Choice of Day

A couple may get married on most days of the Liturgical Year, using the texts from Ritual Mass V: “For the Celebration of Marriage.” On our most solemn liturgical days, when the Sacrament of Matrimony is celebrated within Mass, there are restrictions on the choice of texts. On those days the Mass of the Day is used with its own readings, with the inclusion of the Nuptial Blessings and, if appropriate, the formula for the final blessing (OCM 34).

These solemn days are ranked as “1 through 4” in the “Table of Liturgical Days According to Their Order of Precedence” (Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the General Roman Calendar, 59). They are:

1. Easter Triduum of the Lord’s Passion and Resurrection
2. Christmas, Epiphany, Ascension, and Pentecost  
Sundays of Advent, Lent, and the Easter Season  
Ash Wednesday  
Weekdays of Holy Week (Monday to Thursday, inclusive)  
Days within the Octave of Easter
3. Solemnities of the Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Saints listed in the General Calendar  
The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls)
4. The solemnity of the principal Patron of the place  
The solemnity of the dedication of one’s own church  
The solemnity of the Title of a one’s own church [e.g., Sacred Heart]  
The solemnity of the title, founder, or patron of a religious order

If the Marriage is celebrated on a day having a penitential character, especially during Lent, the couple should be guided on how to take into account the special nature of that day. “The celebration of Marriage on Friday of the Passion of the Lord and Holy Saturday is to be avoided altogether” (OCM 32).

However, marriages which are celebrated outside of Mass (Rite II and Rite III) have fewer restrictions. While the Sacred Triduum still is to be avoided, the couple may get married on most days of the liturgical year. The choice of readings may be drawn from the *Order of Celebrating Matrimony* (see OCM, Chapter IV or *Lectionary for Mass*, 801-805).

There may also be particular law in the diocese in which the Marriage takes place. For example, there may be policies regarding the celebration of Matrimony within Mass on Saturday evenings and Sundays. In some dioceses, the celebration of Matrimony within Mass may not be used once the Anticipated/Vigil Mass has been celebrated, nor may weddings be celebrated on Sunday. Check with your diocesan chancery.

A Chronological List of the Days  
on which a  
Ritual Mass may not be used.

First Sunday of Advent  
Second Sunday of Advent  
Immaculate Conception of the BVM (December 8)  
Third Sunday of Advent  
Fourth Sunday of Advent  
The Nativity of the Lord /Christmas (December 25)  
Mary, the Holy Mother of God (January 1)  
Epiphany of the Lord  
Ash Wednesday  
First Sunday of Lent  
Second Sunday of Lent  
Third Sunday of Lent  
Fourth Sunday of Lent  
Fifth Sunday of Lent  
St. Joseph, Spouse of the BVM (March 19)  
Annunciation of the Lord (March 25)  
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord  
Monday of Holy Week  
Tuesday of Holy Week  
Wednesday of Holy Week  
Thursday of Holy Week (day)  
Holy Thursday  
Friday of the Passion of the Lord/ Good Friday  
Holy Saturday/ Easter Vigil  
Easter Sunday: Solemnity of the Resurrection of the Lord  
Monday within the Octave of Easter  
Tuesday within the Octave of Easter  
Wednesday within the Octave of Easter  
Thursday within the Octave of Easter  
Friday within the Octave of Easter  
Saturday within the Octave of Easter  
Second Sunday of Easter/ Sunday of Divine Mercy  
Third Sunday of Easter  
Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Fifth Sunday of Easter  
Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Ascension of the Lord  
Seventh Sunday of Easter  
Pentecost Sunday  
The Most Holy Trinity  
The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ  
The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus  
Nativity of John the Baptist (June 24)  
Sts. Peter and Paul (June 29)  
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15)  
All Saints (November 1)  
All Souls (November 2)  
Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

*This order will be impacted by the date of Easter in any given year.*