

Important Announcement Regarding the Celebration of the Immaculate Conception obligation

As you are aware, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception occurs on Sunday, December 8, 2024, which coincides with the Second Sunday of Advent. As such, the Solemnity is transferred to Monday, December 9. Previously, when the date was transferred **the obligation was abrogated: This is no longer the case.**

Recently, the USCCB requested clarification from the Holy See about the obligation to attend Mass when a holy day of obligation in Advent, Lent, or Easter falls on a Sunday and is transferred to Monday. In a memo to U.S. Bishops dated October 10, 2024, Bishop Paprocki communicated the decision of the Dicastery for Legislative Texts: **“The feast must be observed as a day of obligation on the day to which it is transferred.”**

With this new directive, the following needs to be accounted for in the Diocese of Erie:

- Vigil Masses may be scheduled for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception after 4 pm on Sunday, December 8.
- Any Sunday evening Masses must celebrate the Solemnity rather than the Second Sunday of Advent. This should be communicated to the faithful in advance as their Sunday Obligation must still be fulfilled.
- Additional Masses for the Immaculate Conception need to be scheduled for Monday, December 9.

The faithful should be reminded that their Sunday obligation and obligation for the Solemnity are two separate obligations and must be observed by attending Mass twice.

The obligation for the Second Sunday of Advent may be fulfilled from the evening of Saturday, December 7 through Sunday, December 8.

- One may attend the Saturday afternoon/evening Mass or any Mass on Sunday, even if the text of the prayers is for the Immaculate Conception.

The obligation for the Immaculate Conception may be fulfilled from the evening of Sunday December 8 through anytime on Monday, December 9.

- One may attend afternoon/evening Mass on December 8 or the morning/afternoon/evening Masses on December 9.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Office for Divine Worship.