

## LITURGICAL DATES TO CELEBRATE REUNITE IN CHRIST – *REVISED 7/28/2021*

See this resource for upcoming liturgical dates would be appropriate for celebrating the lives of those that were lost during the pandemic.

### **Description:**

The following Sundays, Solemnity and Memorial provide appropriate days for the celebration of the lives that were lost during the pandemic. Parishes can also have this celebration of lives on important days within the life of the parish (Feast of Parish Patron, yearly celebration of parish life, Feast of a Saint that has some special meaning in the life of the parish, etc.).

What is given here are samples that can be adapted to each parish's needs and also used either as a Mass or as a Liturgy of the Word.

**Tuesday, September 14** • [Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross](#)

**Wednesday, September 15** • [Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows](#)

**Wednesday, September 29** • [Feast of Sts. Michael, Gabriel, & Raphael \(Archangels\)](#)

**Tuesday, November 2** • [Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed \(All Souls' Day\)](#)

**Saturday, November 13** • [Memorial of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin](#)

**Friday, December 3** • [Feast of Saint Francis Xavier, Priest and Patron of the Diocese](#)

**Tuesday, September 14 • Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

***Introduction***

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. In today's Gospel Jesus tells us "And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life". We gather to remember and pray for all who have died during the pandemic and to also pray for all those who have suffered with the virus during the time of the pandemic. Jesus' promise of eternal life brings us much comfort and peace as we live our lives believing in this promise for all of us who believe in him.

**Prayers** from the Mass for Feast of The Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

**Readings** Lectionary #638

Number 21: 4b-9 Whenever anyone who had been bitten by a serpent looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 78: 1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38  
Do not forget the works of the Lord.

Philippians 2: 6-11 He humbled himself; because of this God greatly exalted him.

John 3: 13-17 So the Son of Man must be lifted up.

**Universal Prayers**

For all who have suffered during this pandemic, may they know the compassionate love of Jesus that brings them comfort and peace.

For all of us, may we always look upon the Holy Cross and remember the promise of eternal life that Jesus promised to all who believe in him.

For all people throughout the world, that as they work to bring about a newness of life may they experience the grace and strength given to them by Jesus Christ.

**Wednesday, September 15 • Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows**

**Introduction**

Today we celebrate the Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows. We remember the sorrow that Mary went through as she walked with Jesus to his crucifixion where he said 'Behold your mother'. And yet in three days there was rejoicing in Jesus' resurrection. Let us pray today that with the intercession of Our Lady of Sorrows we will all be able to live our lives believing in Jesus promise of life eternal.

**Prayers** from the Mass for the Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows

**Readings** Lectionary #638

Hebrews 5: 7-9 Christ learned obedience and became the source of eternal salvation.

Responsorial Psalm 31: 2 and 3b, 3cd-4, 5-6, 15-16, 20  
Save me, O Lord, in you kindness

Sequence (Optional) At the Cross he station keeping

John 19: 25-27 How that loving mother was pierced with grief and anguish when she saw the sufferings of her Son.

OR

Luke 2: 33-35 And you yourself a sword will pierce.

**Universal Prayers**

For all those who continue to suffer from the effects of the pandemic, may they know the gentle loving strength that is given to them by God.

For all people as they are beginning to experience life after that pandemic, may they be strengthened by God to move forward in a grace-filled life of service to each other.

That as we celebrate the Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows, may all of us learn from Our Lady the way of acceptance of our own sorrows and how to bring them to Jesus for his loving care.

**Wednesday, September 29 • Feast of Sts. Michael, Gabriel, & Raphael (Archangels)**

**Introduction**

Today we celebrate the Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels. The role of these saints in the Old Testament was to bring a message from God to his people. Today as we gather to remember what the roles of these Archangels were, let us recall in our own lives how these messengers of God may have at times brought God's message to us. May we also continue to pray that God sends messengers to us as a sign of his constant care for each of us.

**Prayers** from the Mass for the Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels

**Readings** Lectionary #647

Daniel 7: 9-10, 11-14 Thousands upon thousands were ministering to him.

OR

Revelation 12: 1-12ab Michael and his angels battled against the dragon.

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 138: 1-2ab, 2cde-3, 4-5

In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord.

John 1: 47-51 You will see the sky opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.

**Universal Prayers**

For all people, that as we move forward out of the pandemic we will be given a renewed heart to see in our daily lives God's unending care and love for all people.

For those who are still suffering from issues brought about during the pandemic, may they soon know complete recovery and a sense of God's loving care for them.

For those who live with the sorrow of the death of a loved one during the pandemic, may God's peace fill their lives knowing that eternal life is given to all who believe in Christ.

For those who have died during the pandemic, may they now be with Jesus enjoying the the blessedness of life eternal.

**Tuesday, November 2 • Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)**

*(Your parish celebration on this day will be very special to all who lost a loved one during this pandemic. If your parish is doing something special please share it with others through the Diocesan website 'Reunite in Christ' liturgical materials)*

**Saturday, November 13 • Memorial of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin**

*(This Memorial could be a good time to celebrate health care workers and all who minister to those in need—poor, marginalized, immigrants and children.)*

**Introduction**

Today we celebrate the Memorial of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini. She was an Italian born, American citizen, who founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. She took the religious name of Sister Frances Xavier Cabrini after the missionary Saint Frances Xavier. Her community mission is to prayer, service and ministry especially to the poor, marginalized, suffering and immigrants. They minister in orphanages, hospitals and schools. She is the patroness of immigrants and hospital administrators. She died in Chicago at Columbus Hospital, which she established in 1917. She is the first United States citizen to be canonized (in 1946). As we remember the work of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, we also gather to pray for all who have and continue to provide care for all who needed health care during the pandemic. We also pray for all who minister, as Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini did, to children, to the poor, the marginalized and the immigrants.

**Prayers** for the Memorial of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin

**Readings** from the Common of Holy Men and Women

Isaiah 58: 6-11 Lectionary #737-15 The fasting that will guide you always and give you plenty.

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 15: 2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5 Lectionary #739-2  
The just one shall live on your holy mountain, O Lord.

Matthew 25: 31-40 Lectionary #742-13 Whatever you did for the least of my brothers, you did for me.

**Universal Prayers**

For all of us, that like Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, we will always respond with loving compassion to the needs of the suffering, marginalized, immigrants, poor and children when their needs are presented to us.

For all who minister as health care workers, immigrant supporters, relief workers for the poor and marginalized, that they will be given abundant graces to continue their work for all who come to them in their need.

For those whose needs are not being fulfilled, may they soon find a place where they can be given assistance with the loving care that was shown by Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini.

**Friday, December 3 • Feast of Saint Francis Xavier, Priest and Patron of the Diocese**

**Introduction**

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Patron of our Diocese, Saint Francis Xavier. As a Missionary in Asia during the 1500s he ministered to the people in need and brought many of them to the Catholic faith. We pray to our Diocesan Patron Saint as we continue to move beyond the pandemic to more fully live out our faith in our Diocese, parish, family, work life, and day to day living. Saint Francis Xavier brought faith and hope to the people who were seeking a better life, let us today pray that with his intercession we can improve our own lives and those of everyone around us to be true instruments of God's peace and love.

**Prayers** for the Feast of Saint Francis Xavier, Priest

**Readings** Lectionary #685

1 Corinthians 9: 16-19, 22-23 Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 117: 1bc, 2  
Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.

Mark 16: 15-20 Go into the world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature

**Universal Prayers**

For our Diocese, that following the example of our Patron, Saint Francis Xavier, we would proclaim the good news of the Gospel through living a life of witness to the Christ life within us.

For all missionaries, that their ministry throughout the world would be fruitful and blessed as they witness with love and joy to the Gospel message of Christ.

For all of us, that as we move forward from the pandemic, we will be people of love and joy who share with others the blessings that full our lives and gives us strength to go out and proclaim the mystery of Christ.