

MASS READINGS FOR SUNDAYS AND FEAST DAYS

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Introduction

The cycle of the Church's traditional liturgy - like the astronomical cycle - is completed within one year. While the calendar year always starts on January 1st, the Church begins her year on the first Sunday of Advent - the date of which varies between November 27 and December 3.

While the calendar year has four seasons (spring, summer, autumn and winter), the Church has six seasons - Advent, Christmastide, Septuagesima, Lent, Paschaltide and the time after Pentecost. These six seasons vary in length, depending on the date of Easter (which always falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon in spring.)

The four weeks of Advent precede the feast of Christ's birth, which falls on December 25th. The period between Christmas and Septuagesima Sunday is known as Christmastide. Septuagesima Sunday can fall anywhere between January 16th and February 22nd, depending on the date of the following Easter Sunday. (Its name comes from the Latin word for "seventy", marking the number of days until the Saturday after Easter.)

The season of Septuagesima is a preparation for Lent (just as Lent is a period of preparation for Easter, the feast of Christ's resurrection.)

Lent is the most ancient of the Church's seasons and is a period of self-denial, fasting and good works in preparation for Easter. It consists of six full weeks, plus the four days which follow Ash Wednesday. Excluding Sundays - which are never days of fasting - it lasts 40 days, in imitation of Christ's fast in the desert (recounted in the Gospel of the first Sunday of Lent).

The last two weeks of Lent - Passion Week and Holy Week - are not separate liturgical seasons, but form an integral part of Lent. The last three days of Holy Week (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday), together with Easter Sunday, comprise the most important days of the Church's liturgical year, since they recall the crucifixion and resurrection of our Saviour.

Paschaltide, which begins on Easter Sunday, runs for 50 days and is followed by the feast of Pentecost (or Whitsunday), which marks the start of the Season after Pentecost. This season, which may last as long as 28 weeks, ends on the day before the first Sunday of Advent, when the Church's year begins all over again.

Every day of the year has its own special liturgical readings. The Epistle is normally taken from one of the letters of the New Testament. The Gospel reading is always taken from the writings of one of the four Evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Because of the difficulty of obtaining Tridentine Missals nowadays, Massgoers may have no option but to use Mass leaflets or booklets which contain only the Common of the Mass and do not include the readings of the day. The following list of readings enables Catholics to use their Bible to follow the readings every Sunday and on the major feast days during the year.

SUNDAY

- 1st of Advent
- 2nd of Advent
- 3rd of Advent
- 4th of Advent
- Sunday after Christmas
- 1st after Epiphany
- 2nd after Epiphany
- 3rd after Epiphany
- 4th after Epiphany
- 5th after Epiphany
- 6th after Epiphany
- Septuagesima
- Sexagesima
- Quinquagesima
- 1st of Lent
- 2nd of Lent
- 3rd of Lent
- 4th of Lent
- Passion Sunday
- Palm Sunday
- Easter Sunday
- Low Sunday
- 2nd after Easter
- 3rd after Easter
- 4th after Easter
- 5th after Easter
- Sunday after Ascension
- Pentecost
- Trinity
- 1st after Pentecost
- 2nd after Pentecost
- 3rd after Pentecost
- 4th after Pentecost
- 5th after Pentecost
- 6th after Pentecost
- 7th after Pentecost
- 8th after Pentecost

EPISTLE

- Rom. 13. 11-14
- Rom. 15. 4-13
- Phil. 4. 4-7
- 1 Cor. 4. 1-5
- Gal. 4. 1-7
- Rom. 12. 1-5
- Rom. 12. 6-16
- Rom. 12. 16-21
- Rom. 13. 8-10
- Col. 3. 12-17
- 1 Thess. 1. 2-10
- 1 Cor. 9.24-10.5
- 2 Cor. 11.19-12.9
- 1 Cor. 13. 1-13
- 2 Cor. 6. 1-10
- 1 Thess. 4. 1-7
- Ephes. 5. 1-9
- Gal. 4. 22-31
- Heb. 9. 11-15
- Phil. 2. 5-11
- 1 Cor. 5. 7-8
- 1 John 5. 4-10
- 1 Peter 2. 21-25
- 1 Peter 2. 11-19
- James 1. 17-21
- James 1. 22-27
- 1 Peter 4. 7-11
- Acts 2. 1-11
- Rom. 11. 33-36
- 1 John 4. 8-21
- 1 John 3. 13-18
- 1 Peter 5. 6-11
- Rom. 8. 18-23
- 1 Peter 3. 8-15
- Rom. 6. 3-11
- Rom. 6. 19-23
- Rom. 8. 12-17

GOSPEL

- Luke 21. 25-33
- Matt. 11. 2-10
- John 1. 19-28
- Luke 3. 1-6
- Luke 2. 33-40
- Luke 2. 42-52
- John 2. 1-11
- Matt. 8. 1-13
- Matt. 8. 23-27
- Matt. 13. 24-30
- Matt. 13. 31-35
- Matt. 20. 1-16
- Luke 8. 4-15
- Luke 18. 31-43
- Matt. 4. 1-11
- Matt. 17. 1-9
- Luke 11. 14-28
- John 6. 1-15
- John 8. 46-59
- Matt. 26.36-27.60
- Mark 16. 1-7
- John 20. 19-31
- John 10. 11-16
- John 16. 16-22
- John 16. 5-14
- John 16. 23-30
- John 15.26-16.4
- John 14. 23-31
- Matt. 28. 18-20
- Luke 6. 36-42
- Luke 14. 16-24
- Luke 15. 1-10
- Luke 5. 1-11
- Matt. 5. 20-24
- Mark 8. 1-9
- Matt. 7. 15-21
- Luke 16. 1-9

• 9th after Pentecost	1 Cor. 10. 6-13	Luke 19. 41-47
• 10th after Pentecost	1 Cor. 12. 2-11	Luke 18. 9-14
• 11th after Pentecost	1 Cor. 15. 1-10	Mark 7. 31-37
• 12th after Pentecost	2 Cor. 3. 4-9	Luke 10. 23-37
• 13th after Pentecost	Gal. 3. 16-22	Luke 17. 11-19
• 14th after Pentecost	Gal. 5. 16-24	Matt. 6. 24-33
• 15th after Pentecost	Gal. 5.25-6.10	Luke 7. 11-16
• 16th after Pentecost	Ephes. 3. 13-21	Luke 14. 1-11
• 17th after Pentecost	Ephes. 4. 1-6	Matt. 22. 34-46
• 18th after Pentecost	1 Cor. 1. 4-8	Matt. 9. 1-8
• 19th after Pentecost	Ephes. 4. 23-28	Matt. 22. 1-14
• 20th after Pentecost	Ephes. 5. 15-21	John 4. 46-53
• 21st after Pentecost	Ephes. 6. 10-17	Matt. 18. 23-35
• 22nd after Pentecost	Phil. 1. 6-11	Matt. 22. 15-21
• 23rd after Pentecost	Phil. 3.17-4.3	Matt. 9. 18-26
• 24th after Pentecost	Col. 1. 9-14	Matt. 24. 15-35
• Christ the King	Col. 1. 12-20	John 18. 33-37

FEAST DAY

EPISTLE

GOSPEL

• Immaculate Conception	Prov. 8. 22-35	Luke 1. 26-28
• Christmas Day	Titus 2. 11-15	Luke 2. 1-14
• Circumcision	Titus 2. 11-15	Luke 2. 21
• Holy Name	Acts 4. 8-12	Luke 2. 21
• Epiphany	Isaias 60. 1-6	Matt. 2. 1-12
• Holy Family	Col. 3. 12-17	Luke 2. 42-52
• Purification	Malachy 3. 1-4	Luke 2. 22-32
• St Patrick	Eccli. 44.16-45.20	Matt. 25. 14-23
• St Joseph	Eccli. 45. 1-6	Matt. 1. 18-21
• Ash Wednesday	Joel 2. 12-19	Matt. 6. 16-21
• Holy Thursday	1 Cor. 11. 20-32	John 13. 1-15
• Good Friday	Osee 6. 1-6	John 18.1-19.42
• Annunciation	Isaias 7. 10-15	Luke 1. 26-38
• Ascension	Acts 1. 1-11	Mark 16. 14-20
• Corpus Christi	1 Cor. 11. 23-29	John 6. 56-59
• SS. Peter and Paul	Acts 12. 1-11	Matt. 16. 13-19
• Assumption	Jud. 13.22-25;15.10	Luke 1. 41-50
• All Saints	Apoc. 7. 2-12	Matt. 5. 1-12
• All Souls	1 Cor. 15. 51-57	John 5. 25-29