

The Catholic calendar for 2011 is now available. However, before you go look at the new calendar why not take a little test to see how well you know your faith and the rubrics? Most of us have been looking at the calendar for many years one day at a time. How well do we remember what we read and see?

True or false: Pope Pius XII transferred the fast and abstinence laws from the vigil of the Assumption of Mary into heaven to the vigil of the Immaculate Conception of Mary?
True.

Can you name two saints whose feast days are moved to a different day of the month when there is a leap year? **St. Matthias, Apostle, and St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows.**

The feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord was on a Friday in 2010. The Nativity of Jesus Christ will be on a Saturday in 2010. What day of the week will the circumcision of our Lord be celebrated in 2011? **Saturday.** What day of the week will the Nativity of Jesus be celebrated in 2011? **Sunday.** What day of the week will the circumcision of our Lord be celebrated in 2012? **Sunday.** What day of the week will the Nativity of Jesus be celebrated in 2012? **Tuesday, because all the days after February 29th are moved two days.**

How many Ember Days are there during each year? **Twelve.**

What determines the dates when you will find the Ember Days on the calendar? **The movable dates of the Church year depend upon the sun and moon orbiting the earth. Easter Sunday is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the sun crosses the equator coming back up north toward the tropic of Cancer. Once the date of Easter Sunday is established, you count back the necessary weeks to know when the first Sunday of Lent begins. The Spring Ember Days are always the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday after the first Sunday of Lent. Fifty days after Easter Sunday is Pentecost Sunday. The Summer Ember Days are always the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday after Pentecost Sunday. The Fall Ember Days are always the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday after the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, September 14th. The Winter Ember Days are always the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday after the 3rd Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday).**

What important part of the sacred liturgy traditionally takes place on Ember Saturdays? **Ordinations to Minor and Major Orders. That is one reason why the Catholic Church has all of Her faithful children doing special prayers and penance during the Ember Days, so as to obtain the graces necessary for holy clerics and priests. A hint to help you answer this last question: remember there are five Lessons before the Epistle on Ember Saturdays. Ordination to a Minor Order takes place after each Lesson.**

Can you name at least six days during the year when the litany of the Saints is part of the liturgy? **Holy Saturday Vigil for Easter Sunday, the Vigil for Pentecost Sunday, April 25th, the Rogation Days which are the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before Ascension Thursday.**

Which days of the year are all priests permitted to offer three Masses? **All Souls Day and Christmas Day.**

During one of these days when priests are permitted to offer three Masses, there is a saint who is always commemorated during the second Mass. This saint is also mentioned during the canon of every Mass. Do you know the name of this saint? **St. Anastasia.**

Do you know what color the tabernacle veil is on the days when the priest wears black vestments? **Purple/violet**. Do you know the reason why? **Black is for death, but Jesus is not dead in the Blessed Sacrament and therefore, the tabernacle is never covered with a black veil.**

What day of the year does the priest or bishop celebrating the liturgy wear two separate colors of vestments? **The Holy Saturday Vigil going into Easter Sunday**. What are those two colors? **Purple/violet to begin with the blessing of the fire and so forth and later he wears white**. Although white is the official liturgical color, you might often also see them wear gold colored vestments. However, gold is not an official liturgical color.

Can you name the two days of the year when the clerics are permitted to wear rose-colored vestments? **The 4th Sunday of Lent and the 3rd Sunday of Advent**.

Can you give the Latin name for those two Sundays from the first word of the introit of the Mass when the clerics may wear rose-colored vestments? **Laetare Sunday in Lent and Gaudete Sunday in Advent**.

Can you name the 12 Apostles who ate supper with Jesus Christ on Holy Thursday night? **And the names of the twelve Apostles are these: The first, Simon who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew the publican, and James the son of Alpheus, and Thaddeus (who is also sometimes called Jude), Simon the Cananean, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Him. (Matthew 10: 2-4)**

Do you know what days of the year the Church celebrates the major feast day of the 11 Apostles who remained faithful? **May 11th, SS Philip and James; June 29th St. Peter (and St. Paul); July 25th, St. James the Greater; August 24th, St. Bartholomew; September 21st, St. Matthew the Evangelist; October 28th, SS Simon and Jude; November 30th, St. Andrew; December 21st, St. Thomas; December 27th, St. John the Evangelist**.

Does it make sense that the Church designates the feasts of the Apostles as days on which bishops are consecrated? **Yes, because the bishops are the successors of the Apostles**.

Do you know which day of the year the Church normally celebrates the feast of the other two Evangelists who were not one of the 12 Apostles? *Hint, one of them has his feast day transferred in 2011.* **April 25th, St. Mark; October 18th, St. Luke**.

Which Apostles had their feast day permanently transferred 11 days later when the feast of St. Joseph the Worker was introduced into the liturgy? **SS Philip and James, from May 1st to May 11th**.

On what day does the Lenten Fast begin? **Ash Wednesday**.

Excluding all Sundays during Lent, at what time and on what day does the Lenten Fast stop? **At midnight on Holy Saturday**. At one time it ended at noon on Holy Saturday, as can be read in Canon 1252, but Pope Pius XII changed it to midnight.

Is the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary ever celebrated outside of the holy season of Lent? **Yes, because it is a double 1st class feast it is transferred until after Easter Week if March 25th comes during Holy Week or Easter Week**.

Is the feast of St. Patrick ever celebrated outside of the holy season of Lent? **No, March 17th is always during Lent and because St. Patrick is only a double it is never transferred.**

Does the Catholic Church ever oblige Her children to fast or abstain from meat on any Sunday of the year, for example: some year when the Vigil of Christmas falls on a Sunday? **No.**

Does the Catholic Church ever oblige Her children to fast or abstain from meat on any Holy Day of the year that falls on a Friday? **No.**

Are Catholics permitted to eat meat on the Friday after Thanksgiving Day in the USA? **No, not any longer. Before the changes of Vatican II, the bishops had ordinary jurisdiction and were therefore permitted to dispense if they chose to do so. However, at this time I do not know of any bishop in the USA who remained faithful to the true Church and who received a papal mandate and ordinary jurisdiction from a valid and licit Successor of St. Peter. Therefore, as I understand it they do not have the necessary authority and jurisdiction to grant this dispensation to eat meat on the Friday after Thanksgiving Day.**

Can bishops dispense the Catholics under their charge from the obligation to abstain from meat on Good Friday? **No, bishops may not grant a dispensation to eat meat on Good Friday even if they have ordinary jurisdiction. Although he attempted it, the bishop in charge of CMRI did not have the authority to dispense his “religious subjects” and permit them to eat meat on Good Friday.**

On whose feast day do we begin the Christmas prayer: “Hail and blessed be the hour...?” **St. Andrew the Apostle.**

What must one do to receive a plenary indulgence, under the usual conditions, on the feast of the Immaculate Conception and April 28? **Renew their Total Consecration to Jesus Christ the Incarnate Wisdom through the Blessed Virgin Mary, as explained by Saint Louis Marie De Montfort in *True Devotion to Mary*. Hint: whose feast day is April 28th? Saint Louis Marie De Montfort.**

When are the Holy Days of obligation in the United States of America? **December 8th; December 25th; January 1st; Ascension Thursday; August 15th; November 1st.**

When are the Holy Days of obligation in Canada? **December 8th; December 25th; January 1st; January 6th; Ascension Thursday; November 1st.**