



COURAGEOUSLY  
Living the Gospel

## DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG

Office of Worship

Mailing Address:  
Post Office Box 40200  
St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0200  
[www.dosp.org/worship](http://www.dosp.org/worship)  
727-344-1611



## Scheduling Advisory:

Christmas,  
Holy Family,  
&

Mary, the Holy Mother of God

In 2023, the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) falls on a Monday, creating a scheduling headache. Sunday, December 24 is both the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent in the morning and early afternoon as well as the Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord in the evening. The U.S. Bishops' Committee of Divine Worship has clarified that Catholics are obliged to participate in two Masses, once for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, and once for Christmas. Sunday evening Mass on 12/24 does not fulfill both obligations. This is how Masses should be scheduled:

Date and Time	Texts to be Used
Sat., December 23 (after 4 PM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Missal:</b> IV Sunday of Advent</li> <li>▪ <b>Lectionary:</b> IV Sunday of Advent (#11B)</li> </ul>
Sun., December 24 (from morning to afternoon)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Missal:</b> IV Sunday of Advent</li> <li>▪ <b>Lectionary:</b> IV Sunday of Advent (#11B)</li> </ul>
Sun., December 24 (after 4 PM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Missal:</b> Christmas: At the Vigil Mass</li> <li>▪ <b>Lectionary:</b> Christmas: At the Vigil Mass (#13)</li> </ul>
Sun., December 24 (later, during the night)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Missal:</b> Christmas: Mass during the Night</li> <li>▪ <b>Lectionary:</b> Christmas: Mass at Night (#14)</li> </ul>
Mon., December 25 (all day)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Missal:</b> Christmas: Mass at Dawn or Mass during the Day</li> <li>▪ <b>Lectionary:</b> Christmas: Mass at Dawn (#15) or Mass During the Day (#16)</li> </ul>

The following Sunday, December 31, is the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Any evening Masses on December 31 should be celebrated for the Holy Family and not as anticipatory vigils for the Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God (January 1), since it falls on a Monday and is not a holy day of obligation.

Date and Time	Texts to be Used
Sun., December 31 (all day)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Missal:</b> The Holy Family</li> <li>▪ <b>Lectionary:</b> The Holy Family (#17)</li> </ul>
Mon., January 1 (NOT a Holy Day of Obligation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Missal:</b> Mary, the Holy Mother of God</li> <li>▪ <b>Lectionary:</b> Mary, the Mother of God (#18)</li> </ul>