

CLASSIFICATIONS

The new code of classification rubrics found in the 1962 *Missale Romanum*, were actually promulgated on July 25, 1960 and had force of law as of January 1, 1961. However, these new rubrics were not printed in the *Missale Romanum* until the 1962 edition, hence, why they are often referred to as the "1962 rubrics".

According to this new code, there are now only 4 classes of days during the liturgical year: 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th. Furthermore, there are 5 different kinds of liturgical days: Sundays, weekdays, vigils, octaves and feasts. However, not all of the different kinds of days have examples of all 4 classes:

SUNDAYS	WEEKDAYS	VIGILS	OCTAVES	FEASTS
1 st	1 st	1 st	1 st	1 st
2 nd	2 nd	2 nd	2 nd	2 nd
	3 rd	3 rd		3 rd
	4 th			

SUNDAYS

All Sundays are of 1st or 2nd class rank.

Sundays of 1st class:

Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Passiontide; Easter; Low Sunday; Pentecost Sunday.

Sundays of 2nd class:

All other Sundays of the year.

Rule of Precedence (for Sundays)

Sundays of 2nd class yield only to feasts of 1st class or to feasts of 2nd class of **Our Lord**.

LITURGICAL SEASONS OF THE YEAR

- Advent:** from first Vespers of 1st Sunday of Advent through None of vigil of Christmas.
- Christmas-Epiphany** (*tempus natalicium*): from first Vespers of Christmas through January 13. This is divided into:
 - Christmas season:* from first Vespers of Christmas through None of January 5; and
 - Epiphany season:* from first Vespers of Epiphany through January 13.

N.B. In Latin, the period from Christmas up to Epiphany is called: *tempus Nativitatis*.
- Septuagesima:** from first Vespers of Septuagesima Sunday through Compline of Tuesday of Quinquagesima week.
- Lenten season:** from Matins of Ash Wednesday up to Easter Vigil Mass. The season is divided into:
 - Lent:* from Matins of Ash Wednesday through None of Saturday before 1st Sunday of Passiontide; and
 - Passiontide:* from first Vespers of 1st Sunday of Passiontide up to Easter Vigil Mass.

In this period, days from 2nd Sunday of Passiontide through Holy Saturday are called *Holy Week*. Within this week, last 3 days are called *Triduum sacrum*.

N.B. In Latin, the period from Easter to Ascension is called: *tempus Paschatis*.
- Paschaltime** (*tempus paschale*): from beginning of Easter Vigil Mass through None of Saturday in octave of Pentecost. This period is further divided into:

- a. *Easter time*: from beginning of Easter Vigil Mass through None of vigil of Ascension;
 - b. *Ascension time*: from first Vespers of Ascension through None of vigil of Pentecost; and
 - c. *Octave of Pentecost*: from Mass of vigil of Pentecost through None of following Saturday.
6. **Per annum**: from January 14 through None of Saturday before Septuagesima Sunday, and from first Vespers of Trinity Sunday (1st Sunday after Pentecost) through None of Saturday before 1st Sunday of Advent.

LENTEN WEEKDAYS

Following the restoration of the usage of the ancient Lenten weekday propers by Saint Pius X, the 1962 further improve through these rules of precedence:

Rule of Precedence for Lenten Weekdays

All Lenten weekdays are of 3rd class, and have precedence over all feasts of 3rd class, hence, such feasts are reduced to the status of a **commemoration** during Lent.

EMBER DAYS

These too were restored to their proper usage.

Rule of Precedence for Ember Days

All Ember days are weekdays of 2nd class which thereby take precedence over all feasts of 2nd class, thereby ensuring their celebration. Furthermore, 3rd class votive and Requiem Masses may no longer be said on Ember days.

VOTIVE MASSES (a brief examination)

The issue of votive Masses, despite the reductions made by the 1962 rubrics, is nevertheless a rather lengthy one, and so only a basic overview will be made of this subject.

There are 4 classes of votive Masses: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th.

Rule of Precedence for Votive Masses

A 1st class votive Mass may be celebrated on a liturgical day of 1st class, or *a fortiori*, on a day of lower rank. Likewise a votive Mass of 4th class may be celebrated only on a day of 4th class, etc.

An example from each class:

- 1st. Mass of Dedication when a church is consecrated, a sung Mass of the Holy Eucharist on each day of a Eucharistic Congress, Masses allowed by the Holy See on extraordinary occasions.
- 2nd. Masses at solemn blessing of churches and oratories, consecration of altars, on the coronation day of the pope and the diocesan bishop, on particular occasions, for a grave or public cause, Nuptial Mass.
- 3rd. One votive Mass of Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest on 1st Thursdays or Saturdays, 2 Masses of the Sacred Heart on 1st Fridays, one Mass of the Immaculate Heart of Mary on 1st Saturdays.
- 4th. Votive Masses which may be celebrated only on liturgical days of 4th class.

REQUIEM MASSES

A similar arrangement of 4 classes of Requiem Masses also exists.

Rule of Precedence for Requiem Masses

An example from each class:

- 1st. All Souls' Day and the Funeral Mass.
- 2nd. Mass on the day of death, one Mass upon receiving news of the death, one final Mass for the burial.
- 3rd. Masses on the 3rd, 7th, and 13th days after death or burial, anniversary Masses, Masses in cemetery churches and chapels within the eight days after All Souls' Day.
- 4th. Daily Masses for the dead, allowed only on weekdays of 4th class outside the Christmas-Epiphany period.

TABLE OF LITURGICAL DAYS ACCORDING TO ORDER OF PRECEDENCE

Liturgical Days of 1st Class

1. Christmas, Easter, Pentecost (1st class with octave).
2. *Triduum sacrum* of Holy Week.
3. Epiphany, Ascension, Trinity Sunday, Corpus Christi, Sacred Heart, Christ the King.
4. Immaculate Conception and Assumption of the BVM.
5. Vigil and octave day of Christmas (December 24 and January 1)
6. Sundays of Advent, Lent, Passiontide, and Low Sunday.
7. Weekdays of 1st class not mentioned above: Ash Wednesday and the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week.
8. All Souls' Day (which nevertheless yields to Sunday).
9. Vigil of Pentecost.
10. Days within the octave of Easter and Pentecost.
11. Other feasts of 1st class of the universal Church.
12. Feasts of 1st class *proper* to particular calendars (e.g., titular saints, anniversary of the dedication of the church)
13. Feasts of 1st class conceded by *indult* to particular calendars, first movable feasts, then fixed feasts.

Liturgical Days of 2nd Class

14. Feasts of the Lord of 2nd class, first movable feasts, then fixed feasts.
15. Sundays of 2nd class.
16. Feasts of 2nd class of the universal Church other than feasts of the Lord.
17. Days within the octave of Christmas.
18. Weekdays of 2nd class: Advent from December 17 to 23, Ember days of Advent, Lent and September.
19. Feasts of 2nd class *proper* to particular calendars.
20. Feasts of 2nd class conceded by *indult* to particular calendars, first movable feasts, then fixed feasts.
21. Vigils of 2nd class.

Liturgical Days of 3rd Class

22. Weekdays of Lent and Passiontide, except Ember days, from Ash Wednesday through the Saturday before Holy Week.
23. Feasts of 3rd class in particular calendars.
24. Feasts of 3rd class of the universal Church, first movable feasts, then fixed feasts.
25. Weekdays of Advent through December 16, except Ember days.
26. Vigils of 3rd class.

Liturgical Days of 4th Class

- 27. Office of the BVM on Saturday.
- 28. Weekdays of 4th class.

SUNDAYS

Sundays of 1st Class

- 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays of Advent
- 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays of Lent
- 1st and 2nd Sundays of Passiontide
- Easter Sunday
- Low Sunday
- Pentecost

Sundays of 2nd Class

- All other Sundays

WEEKDAYS

Weekdays of 1st Class

- Ash Wednesday
- All weekdays of Holy Week

Weekdays of 2nd Class

- Weekdays of Advent from December 17 to 23
- Ember days of Advent, Lent and September

Weekdays of 3rd Class

- Weekdays of Advent through December 16, except for Ember days
- Weekdays of Lent and Passiontide not listed above.

Weekdays of 4th Class

- All other weekdays

VIGILS

Vigils of 1st Class

- Vigil of the Birth of the Lord
- Vigil of Pentecost

Vigils of 2nd Class

- Vigil of the Ascension of the Lord
- Vigil of the Assumption of the BVM
- Vigil of the Birth of St. John the Baptist
- Vigil of SS. Peter and Paul, Apostles

Vigil of 3rd Class

- Vigil of St. Lawrence, martyr

OCTAVES

Octaves of 1st Class

- Octave of Easter
- Octave of Pentecost

Octaves of 2nd Class

- Octave of Christmas

COMMEMORATIONS DURING THE COLLECT

This is one area of the rubrical reform of 1962 that is very welcomed. Previously, the rules regarding the making of commemorations were confusing and the number that could be used at each Mass were wearying.

The law now only allows **3 commemorations total with no exceptions allowed.**

Privileged Commemorations

During Low Mass, up to three commemorations may be made, depending on the rank. There are also *privileged commemorations* that not only take precedence over other commemorations, but which must be said in addition to the Mass propers (*Collect*, *Secret* and *Postcommunion*, of which all three are subject to the same rules, but only the *Collect* referred to).

However, during a **sung** Mass, a commemoration is never made during the *Collect* unless the commemoration is a **privileged commemoration** (or one made under a **single conclusion**; cf. below). Such commemorations are privileged due to their rank and connection with the Mass and Office.

Here is the list of the privileged commemorations:

- Sunday
- Liturgical day of 1st class
- Days within the octave of Christmas
- Ember days of September
- Weekdays of Advent, Lent and Passiontide
- Major Litanies

All other commemorations are simply *ordinary* and can only be commemorated during Low Mass.

Under a Single Conclusion

Normally, a *Collect* will be said with its proper conclusion (*Per Dominum nostrum...* etc), followed by a second *Oremus* and then the second *Collect* with its proper conclusion. However, in the case of three *Collects*, the first *Collect* is said as usual with its proper conclusion, but the second and third are combined under a single conclusion without *Oremus* being said between the second and third *Collect*.

Furthermore, there are particular times when a second *Collect* is considered so closely united to the *Collect* of the Mass as to form a single prayer with it. The two *Collects* then are said **or sung** under one conclusion (like the second and third *Collect* mentioned above).

These *Collects* said under a single conclusion are as follows:

1. **Ritual Collect or oration:** When Mass is celebrated in connection with or as an integral part of certain rites of blessing or consecration, the Missal provides prayers to be added under a single conclusion:
 - a. consecration of a bishop
 - b. conferral of Holy Orders
 - c. blessing of an abbot
 - d. blessing of an abbess

- e. blessing and consecration of virgins
 - f. blessing of a cemetery
 - g. reconciliation of a church
 - h. reconciliation of a cemetery
2. **Impeded Votive Masses of 1st and 2nd Class:** It may occur that certain votive Masses of high rank may not be celebrated because of the rank of the feast and Mass of the day. In such cases, the *Collect* is added to the *Collect* of the Mass of the day.
3. **Special Collects specified by the rubrics:** In a few cases, the rubrics designate *Collects* for special occasions which are added under the *Collect* of the day, even though they do not fall into either of the classes mentioned above:
- a. In the Mass of St. Peter or the Mass of St. Paul, the *Collect* of the other apostle is added under one conclusion to the *Collect* of the day (However, if St. Peter or St. Paul is *commemorated*, then the *Collect* of the other apostle is added to the commemoration, before all other commemorations).
 - b. If Mass is celebrated *by apostolic indult* at an altar where the Blessed Sacrament is exposed, the *Collect* of the Holy Eucharist is added to the *Collect* of the Mass, unless it is a Sunday, or unless the office, Mass or a commemoration is of the Lord.
 - c. The *Collect* for the coronation of the Roman Pontiff and for the anniversary of his coronation; the collect for the anniversary of the election *or* consecration *or* transfer of the diocesan bishop (namely, on the day chosen by the bishop).
 - d. The *Collect (pro seipso sacerdote)* for the anniversary of the Celebrant's ordination to the priesthood. This *Collect* may not be added on Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, the *Triduum sacrum*, Epiphany, Ascension, Trinity Sunday, Corpus Christi, Sacred Heart, Christ the King or All Soul's Day; in such cases, it is said on the next unimpeded day.
 - e. The *Collect* for the propagation of the Faith added on the 2nd last Sunday of October or other day designated by the local Ordinary.