

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we prepare for the celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Saturday, December 12, 2026, the Office for Divine Worship offers the following guidance regarding the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy on **Saturday evening**.

Because December 12 falls on a Saturday, it is important to observe the liturgical norms governing the celebration of the Church's liturgical year. According to the *Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the General Roman Calendar* (nos. 5, 16, and Table of Liturgical Days), the **Third Sunday of Advent takes precedence over the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**. Consequently, **all Masses celebrated beginning 4:00 p.m. on Saturday are to be the Mass of the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)**.

Accordingly:

- The Mass proper, readings, and prayers are those assigned for the **Third Sunday of Advent**.
- The Gloria is not sung or recited, in keeping with the norms for the season of Advent.
- The prescribed liturgical color is rose or violet.

Although the Mass itself must be that of the Third Sunday of Advent, the Church's profound devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, may be fittingly expressed within the limits of the liturgical norms. Pastors are encouraged to incorporate Marian elements in appropriate ways, including:

- Preaching on the significance of Our Lady of Guadalupe within the homily, especially as her witness illuminates the Advent themes of joyful expectation, discipleship, and the coming of Jesus Christ.
- Including petitions in the Universal Prayer that invoke the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe for the Church, our nation, and all peoples.
- Using the Collect from the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe as the concluding prayer following the Universal Prayer, in accord with the pastoral practice approved for such celebrations.
- Selecting hymns that appropriately honor the Blessed Virgin Mary while remaining consistent with the Advent season.
- Celebrating devotional expressions before or after Mass, such as processions with the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the traditional dramatization (*Las Apariciones*), and the participation of *Matachines* or other traditional devotions, provided these are integrated in a manner that respects the integrity of the Sacred Liturgy.



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As a point of clarification, Masses **before 4:00pm Saturday, December 12th, 2026** are for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Mass propers from the *Roman Missal* and assigned readings are for this Feast day. Any other devotional practices related to this Feast day may take place as usual (for example: mañanitas, atzec dances outside the celebration of the liturgy, etc.).

May Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of the True God and Mother of the Church, continue to intercede for us as we joyfully await the coming of her Son.

Fr. Juan J. Ochoa

Director

Office for Divine Worship