



**Office of the Bishop**  
Roman Catholic Diocese of Lubbock

**DECREE**

December 8 falls on Sunday this year. December 8 is the traditional date for the observance of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Second Sunday of Advent takes precedence over the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception according to the liturgical calendar and the classification of liturgical days found in *The Roman Missal*. Therefore, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is transferred to Monday, December 9 this year. Confusion has developed due to conflicting approvals and publications about whether or not the obligation to attend Mass on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on Monday, December 9, 2024 is binding. In recent weeks the U.S. Bishops received an opinion from the Vatican that the obligation to attend Mass does get transferred along with the observance of the Solemnity.

However, due to the confusion that has arisen, and the grave inconvenience caused by the only recently received Vatican opinion, as Bishop of the Diocese of Lubbock, in accord with the authority granted me by Canon 87 of the 1983 *Code of Canon Law*, **I am hereby DISPENSING the Faithful of the Diocese of Lubbock, and those present in the Diocese of Lubbock on**

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**Most Reverend Robert M. Coerver, Bishop of Lubbock**

**December 9, from the obligation to participate in Mass on December 9, 2024, this year's date of observance of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.**

It is my pastoral recommendation that the Faithful of the Diocese of Lubbock make an effort to attend Mass on Monday, December 9 to celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the Patronal Feast of the United States, and/or attend Mass on December 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas. I also want to take this opportunity to inform the Faithful of the Diocese of Lubbock that the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception will occur on Monday, December 8, 2025 and it WILL BE observed as a Holy Day of Obligation next year.

Given at the Catholic Pastoral Center of the Diocese of Lubbock on November 20, 2024.



Most Reverend Robert M. Coerver  
Bishop of Lubbock



Deacon Adrian Jimenez  
Chancellor