



This year, December 8th occurs on the Second Sunday of Advent. In accordance with liturgical and canon law, the liturgical celebration of the Immaculate Conception is for this year transferred to Monday, December 9, 2024.

The Holy See has recently clarified that, in contrast to the prevalent understanding in the United States, as reflected even in the official *Ordo* published for the dioceses of our Province, the usual obligation for the faithful to attend Mass on the Solemnity applies even when the celebration is transferred to December 9.

Subsequent to the publication of that decision, I learned that many, if not most, of our parishes have already established their Mass schedules for December 8 and December 9 in reliance on the *Ordo* and past practice and not anticipating that December 9 would be a Holy Day of obligation. Given the difficulty of adjusting schedules and finding sufficient priests at this late date for the celebration of additional Masses on December 9, I hereby

**DISPENSE FROM THE OBLIGATION TO ATTEND MASS
IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS
ON DECEMBER 9, 2024**

This dispensation applies to those faithful domiciled or physically present in the territory of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis on December 9, 2024.

Those who are able to observe the Solemnity by participation at Mass are strongly encouraged to do so. All who enjoy the benefit of this dispensation are exhorted to commemorate the Immaculate Conception in another fitting manner, such as by reciting the Liturgy of the Hours or reflecting on the readings for the day, or engaging in prayer either individually, with others, or as a family.

As we each honor this special day dedicated to Our Blessed Mother, the Patroness of the United States of America, let us reflect on her unique role in salvation history and ask her intercession for this nation.

Given at Saint Paul, Minnesota, this 1st day of November, the Solemnity of All Saints, in the year of Our Lord 2024.

Susan Mulheron
Chancellor for Canonical Affairs

Most Reverend Bernard Hebda
Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

