 March - SSPX Ordo Notices

*Society of Saint Pius X 🟏 Regina Coeli House*

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**Note:** This document is for the purpose of apostolate planning and offers a collection of practical advice and announcements. Items may be included in priory and church bulletins if desired; simply copy and paste these announcements. Please contact us at *ordo@sspx.org* to let us know of any corrections needed. This list can be found in the entry of the 20th day of each month in the online ordo.

**Month of St. Joseph**, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Confessor, and Patron of the Universal Church. *Fac nos innócuam, Ioseph, decúrrere vitam, sitque tuo semper tuta patrocínio.*

**Litany of St. Joseph:** It is ordinarily said after the Rosary and at Benediction during the month of March, in addition to the customary prayer *To Thee, O Blessed Joseph*.

**Feast of St. Joseph:** It is celebrated on March 19, and is often solemnized in a greater way outside of Lent. Formerly this was done on the feast of the Patronage of St. Joseph, on the Wednesday after Good Shepherd Sunday, with an External Solemnity on the Sunday following. In 1955, Pope Pius XII transferred the second feast (that of the Patronage) to May 1, incorporating an artisan theme.

**Lent:** Consult the seasonal notes in the online ordo by clicking on the Season icon. On Ash Wednesday the sanctuary should be scaled down from Septuagesima to Lenten mode, changing out the better altar appointments to those which are more sober (from gold to silver, for example). Flowers and reliquaries are removed from the altar.

**Fasting and Abstinence:** (1) *Traditional rules:* The last regulations issued in the USA before the conciliar reform were in 1957, and are these for the Lenten season, still observed by custom *(de more)* if not by law *(de jure):*Fasting (ages 21-59) is observed on all of the weekdays and Saturdays of Lent. Abstinence (ages 7+) is observed on Ash Wednesday, Fridays of Lent, and Holy Saturday, with partial abstinence observed on Ember Wednesday and Ember Saturday; (2) *Current rules:* The current regulations strictly oblige *de jure* fast for ages 18-59 on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and abstinence for ages 14+ on these two days and the other Fridays of Lent. They also require under pain of sin that Lent be observed as a time of penance (CIC 1250), and they enjoin abstinence from meat on all Fridays of the year unless superseded by a solemnity; this abstinence may be commuted to some other penance on all Fridays of the year with approval of the local Ordinaries (CIC 1253); (3) *Houses of the Society:* Consult the 1997 Regulations, Chapter One.

**Penance:** The faithful should be encouraged to take up some Lenten mortifications, and it is a common practice to give up something specific for Lent. Likewise they should add some additional spiritual practices during the season. “During these days, therefore, let us add something to the usual amount of our service, special prayers, abstinence from food and drink, that each one offer to God ‘with the joy of the Holy Ghost’, of his own accord, something above his prescribed measure; namely, let him withdraw from his body somewhat of food, drink, sleep, speech, merriment, and with the gladness of spiritual desire await holy Easter” *(Regula S. Benedicti)*.

**Stations of the Cross:** During Lent, it is customary that the *Via Crucis* be held, especially on Fridays. Announce the Stations schedule to the faithful, and that there is a plenary indulgence for making them. The faithful should be encouraged to privately make the Stations themselves at other times also, especially during Lent. There are no prayers strictly prescribed for this, although there are many manuals with prayers and meditations which may be used.

**Lenten reading:** Lent is a great opportunity to encourage the faithful to take up some good spiritual reading, to suggest some specific titles available in the chapel bookstore, and to suggest that the faithful consult the Angelus Press catalog or website to choose some good books for Lent, for themselves and their children.

**Ember Days:** On the First Sunday of Lent, announce that the following Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday are the Ember Days of Lent.

**Laetare Sunday:** The IV Sunday of Lent. Flowers may be used on the altar, the organ and other musical instruments may play, relics are exposed on the altar gradines, and Rose vestments are substituted for violet in the Office and Mass.

**Passiontide:** The last two weeks of Lent are Passiontide, beginning with Passion Sunday. Crosses and statues are covered with violet veils from Passion Sunday until Good Friday (for the Cross) and the Easter Vigil (for statues). Flat images are not covered, such as wall murals, stained glass, or bas-reliefs such as those on the front of the altar.

**Plan ahead for Holy Week:** Lent is the time to review the Holy Week rubrics and ensure that the servers are assigned to their positions for the Holy Week and Easter ceremonies, that their parents are committed to having their sons present at the assigned times for liturgical practices and the ceremonies themselves, and that the servers are provided with notes and good training so that they may fulfill their respective roles *digne, attente, ac devote*. It is important to ensure that they receive not only the necessary technical skills for Holy Week, but also a solid spiritual formation in the supernatural grandeur of the sacred ceremonies, which allows them to grow in the knowledge and spirit of the Faith. It will also be beneficial to post the Holy Week schedule for the faithful *early*, a few weeks in advance, so that they may plan accordingly.

**Holy Oils:** SSPX priories and chapels, make sure the sacristy has your order for Holy Oils.

**Weddings & Funerals:** Lent is a closed time for the solemn nuptial blessing; it may not be given without permission or equivalent supplied regulations. Nuptial blessings may resume on Easter Monday. Marriages may be celebrated, with the nuptial blessing to be imparted at a later time (*e.g.,* because of a military deployment), but spouses are to be admonished to avoid excessive festivity during this penitential season. Funerals are not permitted during this season on Sundays, the Sacred Triduum, and Easter Sunday.

**Daylight savings** time begins in the USA on the second Sunday of March (spring forward).

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**Local observances**

*Calendar: These apply to priests assigned to these priories. For the public celebration of the Office and Mass, they apply only to the local territory. If a priest is celebrating Mass privately in another location, he may follow either the calendar of his priory or the calendar of the place. For the private recitation of Office, he must follow the calendar of his priory.*

*Titulars & Patrons: The* ***External Solemnity*** *of the priory or chapel’s titular feast and of the local patronal feast (principal patron) may be celebrated on the Sunday immediately preceding or following the feast unless impeded by a first class Sunday or feast, in which case it can be commemorated in the Sunday Mass (collects under single conclusion).*

*Accidental Occurrence: A local first class feast takes precedence over a second class feast or liturgical day, but is trumped by all other first class feasts and liturgical days in the universal calendar. If the superior feast is of the same Divine Person or saint, the local feast is omitted, otherwise, it is transferred to the next available day which is not first or second class. (Sundays and the Feast of the Consecration of a Cathedral or Church are both of Our Lord).*

**Chapel Titular Feasts (I class)**

Armada: Mar 19, St. Joseph

Buckingham: Mar 7, St. Thomas Aquinas

Fort Collins: Mar 25, Annunciation

Greenwood: Mar 19, St. Joseph

Louisville: Mar 21, St. Benedict

Saint Maries: Mar 19, St. Joseph

San Antonio: Mar 19, St. Joseph

**Local Patronal Feasts (I class)**

Baton Rouge: Mar 19, St. Joseph

Boston: Mar 19, St. Joseph

Buffalo: Mar 19, St. Joseph

Carmichael and Chico: Mar 17, St. Patrick

El Paso: Mar 17, St. Patrick

Fort Worth: Mar 17, St. Patrick

Franklin: Mar 19, St. Joseph

Gilford: Mar 19, St. Joseph

Hartford: Mar 19, St. Joseph

Los Gatos: Mar 19, St. Joseph

Louisville: Mar 19, St. Joseph

New York: Mar 17, St. Patrick

Oklahoma City: Mar 19, St. Joseph

San Jose: Mar 19, St. Joseph

Sanger: Mar 17, St. Patrick

Wheeling: Mar 19, St. Joseph

**Local Cathedral Consecrations (I class)**

Armada: Mar 25 (transfers to next available day)

Detroit: Mar 25 (transfers to next available day)

El Paso: Mar 17 (transfers to next available day due to Patronal Feast)

Springfield: Mar 25 (transfers to next available day)