

Celebrating the Patronal Feast of a Family of Parishes

Archdiocese of Cincinnati

The celebration of particular feasts by a parish is important. While these feasts (including the patron of the parish, patron of the diocese, anniversary of the dedication of the parish church, etc.) are celebrated on the proper day, the liturgical norms of the Church also permit – in some cases – for such feasts to be observed on an adjacent Sunday in Ordinary Time or some other suitable day. (cf. *General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar*, Chapter II)

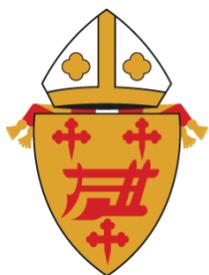
The *General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar* makes clear that a parish may celebrate the anniversary of the dedication of their church building and the title of the church building in such a manner. The Church has also clarified that the term “place” may refer to not only a geographic entity, but also a “parish”. (cf. Congregation for Divine Worship and Disciplines of the Sacraments, *De Patronis constituendis*, 1973 March 19.) Thus any of these feasts may be celebrated by a parish, in accord with liturgical law, with no further permission needed.

Since a Family of Parishes does not enjoy legal “personhood” in the same way parishes or other entities do, permissible dates for celebrating the patron of the Family of Parishes (which is not also a parish patron or title of the parochial church) are not as clearly indicated nor is the permission to observe them on an adjacent Sunday assumed.

To facilitate the celebration of the patronal feasts of Families of Parishes, permission of the Archbishop may be sought to observe such celebrations on another day permitted by the law as found in the *General Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar*, similar to the norms for celebrating the patron of a “place”. (cf. Table of Liturgical Days, *GNLYC*)

For permission to establish an annual observance within the parishes of the Family or for one-time permission, please contact the Chancery, chancellor@catholicaoc.org.

For questions about which days are possible or with any further questions or concerns about the above, please contact the Office for Divine Worship & Sacraments, worship@catholicaoc.org.



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**DIVINE WORSHIP
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