MEMORANDUM

Date: November 12, 2021
To: All Clergy, Parishes, and Institutions of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis
From: Reverend Tom Margevičius, Director, Office of Worship
Re: Farewell Bishop Cozzens; Ordination of Permanent Deacons; End of Year of St. Joseph; Time for Christmas Eve Masses; Christmas and New Year’s Masses.

I. Farewell Bishop Cozzens.
Due to space limitations, in-person attendance at the Installation of Bishop Cozzens in the Diocese of Crookston Monday December 6 is by invitation only. However, Bishop Cozzens invites all to a Mass of Thanksgiving at the Cathedral of St. Paul 12:00 noon Sunday November 28, 2021. Concelebrating clergy should bring a violet stole (First Sunday of Advent). After Mass, the Bishop will greet guests at a reception in Hayden Hall (Cathedral basement) from 1:00 – 4:00 pm. A Minnesota Wild game 1:00 pm at the Xcel Center may make parking near the Cathedral difficult, and we encourage all—especially priests—to take advantage of a free shuttle bus contracted for this event. You can park at the University of St. Thomas Anderson Parking Ramp (Grand and Cretin Avenues). Buses leave UST 11:00 am, 11:20, and 11:40; after Mass buses depart the Cathedral for UST at 1:30 pm, 2:00, and 2:30. Stay tuned to The Catholic Spirit and other media for details, including how to watch events live-streamed. Bishop Cozzens will also attend the Clergy Advent Reflection Day at St. Charles Borromeo Thursday December 2; priests and deacons who have RSVP’d to Deacon Dan Gannon may bid Bishop Cozzens a fond farewell there in a more intimate setting.

II. Ordination of Permanent Deacons.
All the faithful, ordained and lay, are invited to the Cathedral of St. Paul 10:00 am Saturday December 4, 2021 for Mass, during which Archbishop Hebda will ordain seven men as Permanent Deacons. Clergy should bring white stoles. Let us keep our brothers and their families in our prayers.

III. End of the Year of St. Joseph.
The end of the Archdiocesan and Universal Year of St. Joseph occurs Wednesday December 8, 2021. Archbishop Hebda will mark the occasion with a special Mass that evening 7:00 pm at the Cathedral of St. Paul, to which all are invited; this Mass fulfills the obligation to attend Mass on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Clergy desiring to concelebrate should bring a white stole.
IV. **Time for Christmas Eve Mass.**
According to [Archdiocesan Policy 502](#), Mass Christmas Eve December 24 is not permitted to begin before 4:00 pm without explicit approval of the Archbishop. This year, however, anxiety regarding the Delta Variant of the COVID virus lingers. Some of the faithful may be reluctant to pack into the usual standing-room-only 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass, and several Pastors have requested permission to add a Mass earlier that afternoon to thin out the crowds. Therefore, Archbishop Hebda will allow parishes to celebrate the first Christmas Eve Mass as early as **2:00 pm Friday December 24, 2021**. This exception to the Policy applies this year only; it may be wise to remind parish staff and faithful that next year the 4:00 pm earliest starting time resumes.

V. **Christmas Day and New Year’s Day Masses.**
As mentioned in the July 28, 2021 Office of Worship Memo, a [Newsletter](#) from the USCCB’s Committee on Divine Worship explains why attending one Mass Saturday evening December 25, 2021 does not fulfill the obligation to attend Mass for both Christmas and Sunday December 26 (Feast of the Holy Family). The faithful must attend two Masses. Mass celebrated Saturday evening December 25 is that of Christmas Mass during the Day (even for those attending that Mass to fulfill their Sunday obligation). In contrast, since the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God January 1, 2022 falls on a Saturday, the obligation to attend Mass that day is suspended. Mass Saturday evening January 1 is the Vigil Mass of the **Epiphany, Sunday January 2, 2022.**