

Catholic Church Days of Obligation

In the Catholic Church, Holy Days of Obligation are the days on which the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass. They have also abstain from unnecessary works, "which hinder the worship to be rendered to God, the joy proper to the Lord's day, or the suitable relaxation of mind and body." (Canon 1247 of the Code of Canon Law).

The list of Days of Obligation includes **all Sundays** in all countries. Some feasts, e.g. Easter, are always celebrated on Sundays, so they are always obligatory.

Date	Holiday Name	Is Obligatory in 2017
Sunday, January 1, 2017	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God	Yes
***Thursday, May 25, 2017	Ascension of Jesus	Yes
Tuesday, August 15, 2017	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Yes
Wednesday, November 1, 2017	All Saint's Day	Yes
Friday, December 8, 2017	Feast of the Immaculate Conception	Yes
Monday, December 25, 2017	Christmas	Yes

Notes

The number of Days of Obligation **vary from year to year**, because the percept to attend Mass is lifted (abrogated) if any of the following days:

- 1 January (Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God),
- 15 August (Feast of the Assumption),
- 1 November (Solemnity of All Saints)

falls on a Saturday or on a Monday. The faithful, however, are encouraged to attend Mass on those days. This was decided by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops of the United States of America on December 13, 1991 ([Canon 1246](#)) and is effective as of January 1, 1993.

******* Ascension is the Day of Obligation only in the ecclesiastical provinces of Boston, Hartford, New York, Newark, Omaha, and Philadelphia; the others have transferred this celebration to the following Sunday (in which case it is also a day of obligation, as any other Sunday).