

CATHOLIC COURIER

DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, NY

Vol. 104 No. 15

Thursday, January 14, 1993

75¢

16 pages



Church's Liturgical Year

Holy days direct attention to key mysteries of the faith

Story by Lee Strong, Senior Staff Writer

Most people are still trying to get used to writing 1993 on checks and other documents.

After all, the new year is just two weeks old.

In liturgical circles, however, the "new year" is actually almost two months old. It started Nov. 29, 1992.

The church's liturgical year begins with the first Sunday of Advent, and runs through the week following the feast of Christ the King. Thus the current liturgical year will end on Nov. 27, 1993 (see related article, page 14).

Theologically, Easter is the heart of the liturgical year. But in addition to that celebration, the church has developed a series of feasts and solemnities commemorating saints, events and mysteries of the faith.

According to canon law, in addition to Sundays (and conse-

quently, Easter Sunday) 10 of these solemnities — feasts of the highest order — are holy days of obligation.

The 10 holy days of obligation are: the Immaculate Conception; Christmas; Mary, the Mother of God; Epiphany; St. Joseph; the Ascension; the Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi); Ss. Peter and Paul; the Assumption; and All Saints.

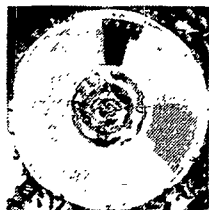
Some of these days fall on set dates, such as the Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8); Mary, the Mother of God (Jan. 1); and All Saints (Nov. 1.)

Other holy days move in relation to other holy days, or to the nearest Sunday. Thus, in the United States, the Ascension follows Easter by 40 days — with the date of Easter determined by the vernal (spring) equinox. And Epiphany, which actually falls on Jan. 6, was celebrated this year on Sunday, Jan. 3.

The fathers of the Second Vatican Council stressed the liturgical calendar's importance in the life of the church, even calling for its revision. That was ultimately accomplished through the Roman Calendar of 1969.

Continued on page 14

"The Year of Grace 1993" calendar features five illustrations from Scriptures: Winter — The Book of Jonah; Spring — The 14th and 15th chapters of the Book of Exodus; Summer — The third chapter of



the Book of Daniel; Autumn — The Book of Ruth; and Center — The first chapter of the Book of Genesis. The complete calendar is available through Liturgy Training Publications, 1-800-933-1800.