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OFFICE OF WORSHIP

## MEMORANDUM

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**Date:** Tuesday, November 14, 2017

**From:** Fr. John Grant

**To:** All Priests & All Deacons

**Subject:** Observance of Christmas and New Year's 2017

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Fathers and Deacons,

As you may know, December 25th and January 1st both fall on Mondays this year which creates some confusion about obligation and observance because of the custom in the dioceses of the United States to dispense certain Holy Days when they fall on Saturdays or Mondays.

This does not apply to Christmas, and so the liturgical celebration of **Christmas will take precedence over the Fourth Sunday of Advent on the evening of December 24th after 4:00pm**. Therefore, those parishes that customarily celebrate an evening Mass on Sundays will instead celebrate the anticipated Mass for the Solemnity of Christmas. However, the faithful are obliged to fulfill their Mass obligation both for Sunday and Christmas by participating in separate Masses. The Liturgy of the Hours are not affected since when the 4th Sunday of Advent falls on December 24th, the Breviary directs that everything be taken from the prayers for December 24th.

On the other hand, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, on January 1, 2018 loses its obligation this year since it falls on a Monday. Which means, liturgically, that there will not be any anticipated Masses celebrated for its observance. **Any Mass celebrated on the evening of December 31st, will be for the Sunday Solemnity of the Holy Family**. Evening Prayer should also be for the Holy Family if the people participate. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me: [fr.john.grant@icloud.com](mailto:fr.john.grant@icloud.com).