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OFFICE OF WORSHIP

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LENT AND HOLY WEEK NOTES 2019

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Each year the Lord Jesus calls the entire Church to a special season of penance and renewal. As we begin this holy time of Lent, we should reflect on our need for conversion of heart, prayer, charitable works and penance.

The season of Lent extends this year from Ash Wednesday, March 6, to the Mass of the Lord’s Supper, April 18, inclusive.

1. Everyone 14 years of age or over is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all Fridays of Lent.
2. Everyone 18 years of age and under 59 years of age is also bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
3. On these two days of fast and abstinence, only one full meatless meal is allowed. The other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to one’s needs, but altogether they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted on these two days, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices are allowed. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the obligation of the law is modified. Because Lent is a special season for all Christians, we should not lightly excuse ourselves from these penitential practices.
4. To completely disregard the law of fast and abstinence is seriously sinful.

HOLY SATURDAY: TIME OF THE EASTER VIGIL

The first Mass of Easter, the Easter Vigil, falls between nightfall of Holy Saturday, April 20 and daybreak of Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019. On Saturday evening, April 20, the sun will set in our diocese at 7:41 p.m. The end of civil twilight (nightfall) will occur at 8:09 p.m. **It is suggested that the Easter Vigil celebration not begin before 8:00 p.m.**

According to a most ancient tradition, this night is one of vigil for the Lord, and the Vigil celebrated during it, to commemorate that holy night when the Lord rose from the dead, is regarded as the mother of all holy vigils. For in that night, the Church keeps vigil, waiting for the resurrection of the Lord, and celebrates the sacraments of Christian initiation.

— *Paschale Solemnitatis*, no. 77

(quoting Exodus 12:42; St. Augustine, Sermon 219; and the *Ceremonial of Bishops*)

The entire celebration of this vigil **should take place at night**, that is, it should either begin after nightfall or end before the dawn of Sunday.

LENTEN SEASON

- ✘ The *Alleluia* is not sung or said during the Lenten liturgies.
- ✘ The *Gloria* is not sung or said during Lent except on the Solemnity of Saint Joseph (March 19) and the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord (March 25).
- ✘ Violet is the color of the season. Rose may be used on the Fourth Sunday of Lent (*Laetare* Sunday).
- ✘ In order to help emphasize the penitential character of the Lenten season (with the exception of *Laetare* Sunday), the altar and sanctuary should not be decorated with flowers. In addition, musical instruments should only be used to support the singing.
- ✘ Holy water must not be removed from the fonts or replaced with anything else (sand, gravel, etc.) during the Lenten season. While Lent is a time of fasting, it is not a time to fast from our sacraments. The holy water is removed after the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday and replaced with the waters blessed at the Easter Vigil.

FUNERALS, WEDDINGS, AND OTHER SACRAMENTS DURING LENT AND HOLY WEEK

- ✘ Funeral Masses are not permitted on the Sundays of Lent, anytime on Holy Thursday, or during the Easter Triduum. Funeral Rites on these days make use of a liturgy of the Word, closing with the rite of Farewell. Readings should reflect the nature of these days, and communion is not given.
- ✘ Marriages celebrated during Lent, be they in Mass or out of Mass, should be planned keeping in mind the special nature of the season (especially in terms of decoration and musical selection.).
- ✘ The ritual Mass for Marriage is not permitted on Ash Wednesday or the Sundays of Lent. The Rite of Marriage Outside of Mass can be used these days if needed.
- ✘ No Rite of Marriage at all, in or out of Mass, is permitted during the Easter Triduum.
- ✘ The Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick may be celebrated on Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

USCCB LENT/EASTER RESOURCES

The USCCB's Committee on Divine Worship has once again assembled web pages offering resources for Lent, the Triduum, and the Easter season:

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/lent/index.cfm>

On this site one can find resources such as:

- ✘ [Calendar – Daily Inspiration for Your Lenten Journey](#)
- ✘ [Cuaresmo - Inspiración diaria para tu viaje cuaresmal](#)
- ✘ [Almsgiving](#)
- ✘ [A Scriptural Way of the Cross for Lent](#)
- ✘ [A Reflection on Lenten Fasting](#)
- ✘ [For Individuals – Rediscovering the Sacrament of Penance](#)

This will prove to be an invaluable source of information for you as you prepare the celebration of your Lenten and Holy Week liturgies, write homilies, catechetical pieces, etc.

MULTIPLE PASCHAL CANDLES AND THE EASTER VIGIL

Q. When multiple parishes or churches come together at one church to celebrate the Easter Vigil, can multiple paschal candles for the other churches be used for the Service of Light?

A. The *Roman Missal*, not envisioning the pastoral situation of partnership parishes, specifies that only one paschal candle is used. To accommodate the particular circumstances, the USCCB Secretariat of Divine Worship makes the following suggestion: Candles from the other churches could be present at the Vigil, having been prepared in advance and blessed alongside the main candle (perhaps having deacons or other representatives holding them). In keeping with the rubrics, for the lighting and procession only one candle should be lit (the principal one which will remain in that particular church). As the other candles in the congregation are lit after the second “Lumen Christi” proclamation, the other paschal candles could be lit and held (but not high, in order to maintain the prominence of the one principal candle) by someone at their place in the assembly. Once all candles are extinguished after the singing of the *Exsultet*, the other paschal candles are put aside. On Easter Sunday morning, those candles could be taken to each of the partnership parishes and carried, lit, in the entrance procession at the first Mass at each church and put in place in the sanctuary.

VEILING OF CROSSES AND IMAGES

Q. What is the purpose of veiling images in church during Lent?

A. The current option to cover the crosses and other images (such as statues, but not stained glass windows or the Stations of the Cross) has been a practice of the Church for many centuries. While there are a few early practices that may have contributed to this custom, the most likely origin is the tradition in the Middle Ages to cover the beautiful pieces of artwork depicting images of the mysteries of our faith and the representations of the saints. Just as we fast in other ways during the Lenten season in preparation of the Easter celebration, the Church would offer this “fast” for the eyes that is broken with our adoration of the cross on Good Friday and celebration on Easter of the new life Christ won for us and in turn those who are enjoying their fruits of their participation in the life of Christ.

Customarily, violet/purple cloths have been used to cover the images. The practice today still follows the custom since the 17th century of covering the images during “Passiontide,” *the last two weeks* of Lent prior to Easter.

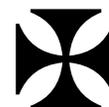
If images and crosses are not covered for Passiontide, they may instead be covered after the Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday in preparation for the Good Friday and Easter Vigil liturgies. Each parish/pastor has the discretion to decide on this practice.

DEACONS AND GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY

Q. May a deacon preside at the Good Friday Celebration of the Passion of the Lord in place of a priest?

A. Deacons are not permitted to lead the Good Friday Celebration of the Passion of the Lord. The rubrics of the liturgy do not foresee this as an option, and looking at the history and development of the Good Friday liturgy shows it has not been a part of the tradition. In addition, the Triduum liturgies can be seen as one continuous event, since there is no formal liturgical dismissal after Holy Thursday and Good Friday, and no greeting or welcome at the start of the Good Friday liturgy. This would seem to imply that the same priest who presided on Thursday would preside on Friday and Saturday as well.

Deacons, however, should fulfill their proper role in all of the Triduum liturgies including Good Friday. This would include assisting in the proclamation of the Passion, the introductions to the Solemn Intercessions, the Adoration of the Holy Cross, and Holy Communion.



FAQS ON THE SCRUTINIES

Q. What are the Scrutinies?

A. The Scrutinies are a series of liturgical rites that are part of the Lenten preparations for the spiritual benefit of the Elect, those who will celebrate the three Sacraments of Christian Initiation during the Easter Vigil. The Scrutinies ritually celebrate the central mystery of life, death, and resurrection in the lives of the Elect.

From the RCIA, no. 141.: "...The scrutinies are meant to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good....to give them strength in Christ...and deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ and to carry out their decision to love God above all."

Q. What and where are the proper texts for the three Scrutinies?

A. Some liturgies are so important that the given texts must be used without any change for "pastoral reasons." The three Scrutinies fit this category.

- ✘ **Readings:** The *Lectionary for Mass*, nos. 745-747 provides no texts in place. The rubrics refer the minister to the readings and chants as given for the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent, Year A – LM, nos. 28A, 31A, and 34A. There is one option given for the Second Scrutiny; Exodus 13:21-22 may replace the First Reading. It is not, however, found in the Lectionary.
- ✘ **Mass Prayers:** The *Roman Missal, Third Edition* provides the texts in two places. In the Ritual Masses section are found the proper presidential prayers (Collect, Prayer over the Offerings, and Prayer after Communion); proper inserts for Eucharistic Prayers I, II, and III; as well as the two antiphons. In the Proper of Time section for Lent are found the proper Prefaces for the Samaritan Woman (First Scrutiny on the Third Sunday of Lent), the Man Born Blind (second on the Fourth Sunday), and Lazarus (third on the Fifth Sunday). Note: these Prefaces are always used when the Year A readings are used whether the Scrutiny is celebrated or not.
- ✘ **Ritual Prayers:** Both the pastoral notes and the ritual texts for all three Scrutinies are found in the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, nos. 141-146; 150-156; 164-177.
- ✘ **Music:** The ritual text gives the places and recommendations for necessary singing during the celebrations. See also *Sing to the Lord*, no. 205.

Q. How many Scrutinies are celebrated?

A. Three are always celebrated. Only the Bishop may dispense from one for a serious obstacle or two in extraordinary circumstances. Pastoral reasons alone are not sufficient.

Q. When are the Scrutinies celebrated?

A. Sundays Masses on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent are the proper days. "When, for pastoral reasons these ritual Masses cannot be celebrated on their proper Sundays, they are celebrated on other Sundays of Lent or even convenient days during the week" [RCIA, no. 146]. They may be celebrated outside Lent. This, however, requires permission of the Bishop in each instance.

Q. There is no "combined rite" in RCIA Appendix I for a single celebration with the Elect and baptized candidates. Is that a mistake?

A. No. Scrutinies, which includes an exorcism, are pre-baptismal rites. RCIA, no. 463 reads in part: "Because the prayer of exorcism in the three scrutinies for catechumens who have received the Church's election properly belongs to the elect and uses numerous images referring to their approaching baptism, those scrutinies of the elect and this penitential rite for those preparing for confirmation and Eucharist have been kept separate and distinct. Thus, no combined rite has been included in Appendix I."

LENTEN DISCIPLINES: FASTING AND ALMSGIVING

For these Forty Days we are conscious of how we must sharpen our senses and focus mind and heart on the Reign of God. We are, above all, aware of those waters in which we were baptized into Christ's death. We died to sin and evil and began a new life in Christ. The waters of Baptism wait at Lent's end for the catechumens, but we are called to renew our Baptism as well.

The Church asks us to give ourselves to prayer and to the reading of Scripture, to fasting and to giving alms. The fasting that all do together on Fridays is but a sign of the daily Lenten discipline of individuals and households: fasting for certain periods of time, fasting from certain foods, but also fasting from other things and activities. Likewise, the giving of alms is some effort to share this world equally – not only through the distribution of money, but through the sharing of our time and talents. – *Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers*, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2007

HOLY OILS AND CHRISM MASS

The Mass of Chrism will be celebrated at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on **Tuesday, April 16 beginning at 11:30 a.m.** All are invited to this diocesan celebration.

- ✘ If you have a need for extra oil to place in larger vessels, please bring containers with your parish name clearly identified to the Rectory of the Cathedral the week before. You may also bring them to the Cathedral sacristy the day of the Chrism Mass.
- ✘ Holy oils from the previous year should be burned or buried. The holy oils received at the Chrism Mass may be ritually received by your parish before the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper unless, according to pastoral necessity, there is "another time that seems more appropriate."
- ✘ The original text of the *Reception of the Holy Oils* is still in force as an optional rite in the United States. As indicated in its introduction, the text may be adapted as needed. Whether or not a formal reception of the oils is celebrated, the pastor may wish to acknowledge the presence of the newly received holy oils as a sign of unity with the Bishop and the diocesan Church.
- ✘ The rite is available online at <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/triduum/order-for-the-reception-of-the-holy-oils.cfm>

For a **Blessing of the Season and of a Place of Prayer** in the home, see *Catholic Household Book of Blessings and Prayers*, 92-95

PARTICULAR FEASTS IN THE LENTEN SEASON

March 19—Saint Joseph

The Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, takes precedent over the Lenten weekday. The *Gloria* is to be sung at this Mass, and the Creed is said.

It is custom in some places today to bless bread, pastries, and other food and to give a large portion of it to the poor. For the **Order for the Blessing of St. Joseph's Table**, see *Book of Blessings*, nos. 1679-1700.

March 25—Annunciation of the Lord

All of the Mass texts for the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord are proper for the day and can be found in the Proper of Saints at March 25. The *Gloria* is to be sung at this Mass and the *Creed* is said.

Many religious orders celebrate this special day with festivity. Remember to keep them in your prayers as you pray the Rosary for their charism of service under Mary's patronage. Tour a convent or rectory as part of a vocation fair or event to have young people know more about the religious orders that serve our country. Dedicate a special Rosary or walk for vocations on this day, or plan one now for later in the year.

RITE OF ELECTION AND CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION – MARCH 10, 2019

Docent-led tours of Cathedral – 12:15 to 1:15 p.m.
Catechumens and Candidates to Undercroft – 1:15 p.m.
Parish Representatives Meet in Cry Room – 1:45 p.m.
Celebration Begins – 2:00 p.m.

All of the information in this memo is available on the Office of Worship [website](#).