



Liturgical Guidelines for Holy Week and Easter Triduum 2021

In 2020, the parishes of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe were shut down during Holy Week due to the pandemic. The liturgies were celebrated virtually for the participation of parishioners through livestream technology. In 2021 parishioners are able to attend the liturgies of Holy Week but in limited numbers and with restrictions.

The Holy See previously released two decrees regarding the celebrations of Holy Week during Covid-19. According to the February 17, 2021, "Note to Bishops" from the Holy See, these indications given last year are still valid.

The following document has been prepared to assist parishes in safely celebrating these liturgies. They should be prepared for in advance and celebrated with reverence, dignity and beauty. Even with restrictions, these holy days should foster a deep encounter with the Paschal Mystery of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

General

The current guidelines for the celebration of the Mass and sacraments still apply, including social distancing, reasonable sanitization measures of surfaces, and wearing masks. Unless local regulations direct otherwise, churches may be occupied up to 33% capacity. These directives apply the Holy See's 2020 norms to the present conditions, as well as our own Archdiocesan Holy Week guidelines of 2020.

- Worship spaces should have pews marked with social distance guidelines
- Houses of Worship should be at 33%
- Holy water fonts ought to remain empty
- The exchange of peace omitted
- The Holy Communion distributed only under the species of bread

- Live (not recorded) televisual or internet broadcast are helpful, if possible
- All COVID – 19 protocols are still in place

Music Ministry

Archbishop Wester has approved a small schola of four music ministers (vocalists) to sing at Mass following these guidelines:

- to be vaccinated
- 7 to 8 feet social distanced
- N95 masks required during singing at all times (masks are not to be removed)
- proper sterilization of microphones, music stands after each person after each mass
- Electronic tablet (encourage) rather than handing out paper music, if possible.
- No sharing of music
- Proper ventilation and time between masses to let the air clear

Remember, each worship space is different and for this directive to work, the choir area needs to be a very large space. Look at your space and measure to see if this is possible.

Passion (Palm) Sunday

- The commemoration of the Lord’s Entrance into Jerusalem is to be celebrated within sacred buildings; in Cathedral churches the second form given in the Roman Missal is to be adopted.
- In parish churches and in other places the third form is to be used. (Covid-19 II)
Third Form: The Simple Entrance While the Priest proceeds to the altar, the Entrance Antiphon with its Psalm (no. 18) or another chant on the same theme is sung. Arriving at the altar, the Priest venerates it and goes to the chair. After the Sign of the Cross, he greets the people and continues the Mass in the usual way. (Roman Missal)

“The Third Form: Simple Entrance” does not include a gathering outside the church, the blessing of palm or the proclamation of the Gospel of the Lord’s entrance into Jerusalem. The requirement that this liturgy occur “within sacred buildings” is meant to prevent gatherings of large crowds and/or a large procession prior to the liturgy which could expose people to contagion.

- Palm Branches may be blessed and distributed with reasonable caution.

The palms should be blessed outside of Mass, perhaps using the “Order for the Blessing of Religious Articles” from the Book of Blessings or incorporating the prayer for the blessing of palms as found in the Roman Missal for Palm Sunday (6).

Holy Thursday

- The washing of feet, which is already optional, is to be omitted
- At the End of Mass, the procession with the Blessed Sacrament to the place of repose is to be omitted and the Blessed Sacrament is to be kept in the tabernacle. The washing of feet, which is already optional, is to be omitted. At the end of the Mass of the Lord’s Supper the procession is also omitted and the Blessed Sacrament is to be kept in the tabernacle. On this day, the faculty to celebrate Mass in a suitable place, without the presence of the people, is exceptionally granted to all priests. (Covid-19 II) Priests who are unable to celebrate Mass should instead pray Vespers of the day. (Covid-19)

Good Friday

- The celebration of the Lord's Passion, the principal celebration of this day, should take place about 3 p.m. unless a later time is chosen for pastoral need. The celebration of the Lord’s Passion may not be celebrated after 9 p.m. (Paschale Solemnitatis, 63).
- The adoration of the Cross by kissing it shall be limited solely to the celebrant. If because of the large number of people, it is not possible for all to approach individually, the Priest, after some of the clergy and faithful have adored, takes the Cross and, standing in the aisle before the altar, invites the people in a few words to adore the Holy Cross and afterwards holds the Cross elevated higher for a brief time, for the faithful to adore in silence. (Roman Missal, “Friday of the Passion of the Lord,” 19)
- In the Universal Prayer, Bishops will arrange to have a special intention prepared for those who find themselves in distress, the sick, the dead, (cf. Roman Missal). Unless the USCCB provides a different text for 2021, the same text from 2020 should be used:

XI. For those suffering the effects of Covid-19

Deacon or other minister:

Let us pray for all enduring the effects of the coronavirus pandemic, the sick and the dead, those who feel lost or dismayed; as well as those who care for the sick. Though chastised now by affliction, may they find relief at last through God's loving mercy. Pray in silence. Then the priest with hands extended sings or says:

Priest

Almighty and merciful God, look with compassion on our affliction; lighten our burden and so confirm our faith, that we may always trust without hesitation in your Fatherly providence. Through Christ our Lord. R: Amen.

Easter Vigil

Easter Vigil should begin no earlier 8:00 p.m.

Sunset for April 3, 2021 is set for 7:27 p.m.

- Due to the nature of COVID-19, for pastoral reasons, the pastor may consider having 2 Easter Vigils. This will have to be an extraordinary circumstance (i.e. large number of Elect, etc.). The parish will need to call the Archbishop's Office for permission.
- To be celebrated only in Cathedral and parish churches.
- At "The Solemn Beginning of the Vigil or Lucernarium" the preparation and lighting of the fire is omitted, the Paschal Candle is lit, the procession is omitted and the Easter Proclamation (Exsultet) follows.
- The Liturgy of the Word takes place as usual
- Reception into the Church for catechumens and candidates
- The "Liturgy of the Eucharist" then follows
- Sprinkling with holy water may take place or be omitted