

COVID-19 GUIDELINES FOR LENT AND THE TRIDUUM 2021

Please note that these liturgical guidelines are subject to change depending on the instructions from civil officials and medical professionals.

THE LENTEN SEASON

A distinction is to be made between Lent and the Easter Triduum. Strictly speaking, Lent ends with the beginning of the Triduum on Holy Thursday. The Ordo notes: *“Lent runs from Ash Wednesday until the Mass of the Lord’s Supper exclusive on Holy Thursday.”*

FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59. Those who are bound to fast may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to each one’s needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted. Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics 14 years or older on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and on all Fridays of Lent. The determination of certain days as obligatory days of penance should not be understood as limiting the occasions for Christian penance.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Pastors are reminded that daylight savings time this year will begin at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 14, which is the Fourth Sunday of Lent.

HOLY WATER Due to the pandemic, Holy Water fonts at the doors of the church and at the baptistery are to remain empty. It is not appropriate for the fonts to be filled with sand or other materials.

PALM SUNDAY: The commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem is to be celebrated within sacred buildings, i.e. the Church; in the Cathedral the second form given in the Roman Missal is to be adopted; in parish churches and in other places the third form found in the Roman Missal is to be used. The distribution of blessed Palms may occur in the manner deemed safest by the pastor according to the current COVID- 19 protocols.

THE BLESSING OF THE OILS, TUESDAY March 30, 2021, 10:00am

This year the Oils will be blessed at Mass at St George Church in the presence of the priests of the diocese, the Deacons and their wives, and two representatives from each parish who will receive the blessed oil supply for their parish. Diocesan vestments will be worn. Concelebrating priests will receive Holy Communion by intinction. All masking and social distancing will be observed. A lunch for priests will be offered. MORE DETAILS will be forth coming.

HOLY THURSDAY The Washing of the Feet, which is already optional, is to be omitted this year. At the end of the Mass of the Lord's Supper the Procession may be done bringing the Blessed Sacrament to the Tabernacle of the Church or to the Altar of Repose as long as that Altar is within the Church building. Adoration, with the appropriate COVID- 19 safety protocols may occur to a time not to extend beyond midnight.

GOOD FRIDAY Either the first or second form of the Showing of the Cross may be used. Then, the priest standing in the middle before the altar is to invite 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 it in silence. Then, those who would like to come forward may do so as and venerate the Cross with a bow only. Before being invited to come forward, all should be reminded to neither touch nor kiss the Cross. The adoration of the Cross by kissing it shall be limited solely to the Presider.

TIME FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE EASTER VIGIL

The Roman Missal states: "The entire celebration of the Easter Vigil must take place during the night, so that it begins after nightfall and ends before daybreak on the Sunday." No Mass may precede the Easter Vigil. Since the end of civil twilight (nightfall) will occur at 7:45 p.m. Central Daylight Time, **the Easter Vigil Liturgy may not begin before 8:00 p.m.** Central Daylight Time.

The Easter Vigil is not to be done in the daylight.

CELEBRATION OF THE EASTER VIGIL

The Easter Vigil is celebrated only in the cathedral and parish churches and should take place as usual keeping in mind requirements for masking, social distancing and all COVID -19 safety protocols. Only one Easter Vigil Mass is to be celebrated in each parish. The Easter Vigil may be livestreamed if possible, but is not to be taped for showing later. At "The Solemn Beginning of the Vigil or Lucernarium, the preparation and lighting of the new fire is to be done outside the open front doors of the Church, with the Assembly already in their places. The Paschal Candle is to be lit from the new fire, brought into the Church and the Easter Proclamation [Exsultet] follows.

The Liturgy of the Word proceeds according to the rubrics.

For Baptism, please keep in mind that new water is to be for each person.

Baptismal pools should not be used this year. A separate towel must be used for each person.

When there are multiple people being fully initiated the pastor will determine how many to do at the Easter Vigil and how many to do on Easter Sunday or another Sunday in the Easter season. Because of these unusual circumstances and pastoral needs, Bishop Duca is allowing for the initiation of the Elect [i.e. those receiving all three initiation sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist] to take place at a time outside of the Easter Vigil, if the pastor deems this appropriate to do. Those who are candidates for full communion or full initiation may receive the Sacraments on any Sunday of the Easter season.

EASTER SUNDAY: The Easter Sunday Mass propers, At the Mass During the Day [RM #71] are celebrated. The renewal of baptismal promises is done [RM #55]

CONFIRMATIONS Bishop Duca is once again extending a general delegation to Pastors to confirm those prepared candidates for Confirmation that were or will be unable to attend their parish Confirmation ceremony and all adults prepared and presenting themselves for the sacrament from Ash Wednesday through July 1, 2021. There will be no scheduled adult Confirmation liturgy at the Cathedral this year on the Feast of Pentecost. Please be sure to use the new translation of the Rite of Confirmation. The Office of Worship can supply you with the new Rite if needed.

WEDDINGS A Wedding liturgy may not be celebrated during the Easter Triduum, including on Holy Saturday after the Vigil and Easter Sunday (RM).

BAPTISMS A Baptism may not be celebrated on Holy Thursday, Good Friday or Holy Saturday before the Easter Vigil (RM).

FUNERALS A Funeral may be celebrated on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, but not within the context of Mass. The Eucharist may not be distributed at a funeral on these days. On Good Friday, funerals are to be celebrated without singing, music or bells (*Paschale Solemnitatis*, 61)