

DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER
2021 GUIDELINES FOR LENT, HOLY WEEK AND EASTER
FROM THE OFFICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP

PLEASE NOTE GUIDANCE FOR CELEBRATING THESE LITURGIES IN THE MIDST OF COVID-19 WHICH ARE HIGHLIGHTED IN RED. NORMAL DIOCESAN AND STATE PRECAUTIONS SHOULD BE FOLLOWED.

The annual observance of Lent recalls the twofold theme of **baptism** and **repentance**.

1. The Faithful, listening more intently to the word of God and devoting themselves to prayer, are prepared through a spirit of repentance to renew their baptismal promises;
2. Catechumens are led to the sacraments of initiation by means of the rites of election, the scrutinies, and catechesis;
3. Validly baptized non-Catholics are received into the Church by renewal of the baptismal promises, the professions of acceptance of the Catholic Faith and reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.

CHURCH ENVIRONMENT DURING LENT

- On the Altar at least one cloth, white in color. In the U.S. other cloths are used in addition, provided that the mensa itself is covered in a white altar cloth.
- The Altar is not to be decorated with flowers, though solemnities, feasts and the Fourth Sunday of Lent are exceptions.
- Rose colored vestments may be worn on the Fourth Sunday of Lent.
- **From the Saturday eve of the Fifth Sunday of Lent until the beginning of the Easter Vigil images in the church may be covered.**
- **Holy Water Fonts continue to remain empty at this time as a Covid-19 precaution.**

THE COMMEMORATION OF THE SAINTS DURING LENT

- Solemnities and feasts are celebrated as usual.
- All memorials of Saints occurring during Lent are observed as *optional*.
- Saints are commemorated as follows:
 - ✘ At Mass: (*only the Opening Prayer may reflect the saint's commemoration*).
 - ✓ The color of vestments is always violet.
 - ✓ Opening prayer of the saint may replace that of the Lenten weekday.
 - ✓ Liturgy of the Word remains that of the Lenten weekday.
 - ✓ Prayer over the Gifts remain that of the Lenten weekday.
 - ✓ Preface of Lent remains (*except with Eucharistic Prayers having their own Preface*).
 - ✓ Prayer after Communion remains that of the Lenten weekday.

Commemoration of the Saints during Lent (cont'd)

- ✕ In the Liturgy of the Hours
 - At the Office of Readings:
After the Lenten weekday second reading and responsory, the reading of the saint and its responsory may be read.
The concluding Prayer of the Saint's commemoration may be offered.
 - At Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer:
The Antiphon for the Saint and the concluding Prayer of the Saint may replace those of the weekday.

FRIDAYS OF LENT FULL ANSTINENCE FROM MEAT

- All Fridays of Lent are days of full abstinence from meat for all who are 14 years of age and older (unless prohibited for reasons of health).

SAINT JOSEPH'S DAY *March 19, 2021*

Friday this year.

Liturgically, this is the Patronal feast of the Diocese of Manchester and a Solemnity

- White vestments
- Propers of St. Joseph, March 19
- Gloria is sung or said

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT *March 21, 2021*

- **Images in the church may be covered** from the conclusion of the Mass for **Saturday (morning) of the Fourth Week of Lent until the beginning of the Easter Vigil.**

PALM SUNDAY/ Passion Sunday *March 28, 2021*

- Palms should be spread out on long tables for people to take making sure to maintain social distance.
- Although there are three forms of Entrance for Palm Sunday Mass, it may be prudent to use the Solemn Entrance with the faithful, with palms, assembling inside the church at their places in the pews.
- The blessing of Palms may be followed by a procession by the priest and ministers through the church; if so, one must remember that this is not an historical re-enactment of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, but a ritual action that marks OUR entry into HOLY WEEK and the celebration of CHRIST'S PASSOVER.

The proclaimed Reading of the Passion is essential to the Palm Sunday Liturgy

- ✓ It cannot be omitted.

- ✓ Since we are not using missalettes and are not distributing printed materials for Mass, the Passion Narrative may be read in whole by the priest or deacon, or if read in parts, the part of the people should be read by the Narrator.
- ✓ It may be proclaimed by using one, two or three readers.
- ✓ Lay persons are allowed to proclaim any of the parts (Narrator, Voice, *Christ*).
- ✓ The part of Christ, if possible, should be reserved to a priest.

MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK *March 29, 2021*

- Confessions are heard throughout the Diocese – and in many dioceses – today for extended periods.

TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK *March 30, 2021 at 6pm*

- **THE CHRISM MASS** will be celebrated at St. Joseph Cathedral by the Bishop with the priests of the diocese and serving in the diocese of Manchester. The Chrism Mass will be livestreamed from the cathedral website: www.stjosephcathedralnh.org



THE SACRED TRIDUUM

Lent ends with the beginning of the Holy Thursday Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, which is the principal liturgy of the day.

HOLY THURSDAY *April 1, 2021*

- The TABERNACLE is EMPTY before the Liturgy begins. The Tabernacle door is OPEN.
- Beforehand, in addition to all of the usual items (chalice, purificator, paten with host, pall, corporal, wine and water, lavabo dish and towel, etc.) for the celebration of such a solemn Mass on such a solemn occasion, there should be prepared:
 - ✓ The place of repose (Repository) where the Blessed Sacrament will remain after the Mass of the Lord's Supper and Procession. The Repository remains intact and available with the Blessed Sacrament reposed throughout Good Friday, for private devotion of the Faithful. (the Roman Missal does not direct the dismantling of the Repository, but says only that there is no formal adoration after midnight on Holy Thursday.
 - ✓ The Blessed Sacrament will be carried (without solemn procession) from the Repository to the Altar at the proper time during the Good Friday Service of the Passion.
 - ✓ The Blessed Oils in appropriate containers, if they are to be presented or displayed.

- ✓ Enough hosts for Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper and Holy Communion at the Good Friday Solemn Service.
- ✓ A Ciborium that will be large enough for the number of Consecrated Hosts to be reserved, yet sized to fit the Repository Tabernacle.
- ✓ Bells which are to be rung during the Glory to God.
- ✓ *The Mandatum (Washing of the Feet), should be omitted.*
- ✓ Processional Cross, two candles, thurible with charcoal, and incense.
- ✓ Humeral Veil for carrying the Most Blessed Sacrament in procession. The faithful should remain in their place for the procession to the altar of reposition.
- ✓ A canopy or umbrelino, though rare in the U.S., may be used.

GOOD FRIDAY *April 2, 2021*

- The principal celebration of this day should take place at about three o'clock.
- The Priest wearing Mass vestments (red stole and chasuble) is the celebrant for this liturgy.
- *Since we are not using missalettes and are not distributing printed materials for Mass, the Passion Narrative may be read in whole by the priest or deacon, or if read in parts, the part of the people should be read by the Narrator.*
- During the Adoration of the Cross, only one cross should be used, unless the number of people is too great.
- First Form of showing the Cross:
 - ✓ The deacon or another suitable minister goes to the sacristy and obtains the veiled cross.
 - ✓ Two ministers with lighted candles accompany the cross and minister to the center of the sanctuary.
 - ✓ The priest accepts the cross and standing before the altar and facing the people, uncovers the upper part of the cross, the right arm and then the entire cross. Each time he sings "Behold the wood of the Cross, on which hung the salvation of the world".
 - ✓ At the end of the singing, all kneel and for a brief moment adore in silence, while the priest stands and holds the Cross raised.
- Second Form of showing the Cross:
 - ✓ The priest or deacon accompanied with ministers goes to the door of the church, where he receives the unveiled Cross.
 - ✓ Near the door, in the middle of the church and before the entrance of the sanctuary, two ministers with lighted candles accompany the cross and minister as he elevates and sings, "Behold the wood of the Cross..."
 - ✓ At the end of the singing, all kneel and for a brief moment adore in silence, while the cross is raised by the minister.
- Adoration of the Holy Cross
 - ✓ *Parishioners should not touch or kiss the cross. Coming forward as they do for Holy Communion, parishioners should be instructed to come toward the cross and venerate the cross by genuflecting or bowing and making the sign of the cross.*
 - ✓ *The veneration of the cross may also be done by the whole congregation remaining in their pews and spending time in prayer before the cross, rather than approaching it.*

- ✓ While the Cross is being adored it may be placed on a simply decorated table.
- ✓ Candles are placed on both sides of the Cross.
- Holy Communion
 - ✓ With a humeral veil the deacon or priest brings the ciborium to the altar from the place of reposition by a shorter route than taken on Holy Thursday.
 - ✓ After Communion either the deacon or priest takes the ciborium to a place prepared outside the church, or, if circumstances require, may place it in the tabernacle.
 - ✓ After saying “Let us pray” there is to be some period of sacred silence before the prayer after Communion.
 - ✓ After the prayer after Communion all depart after genuflecting toward the Cross and depart in silence.
 - ✓ The altar is stripped after the celebration but the Cross remains on the altar with two or four candlesticks.

HOLY SATURDAY *April 3, 2021*

- Referring to the rubrics for Holy Saturday found in the Roman Missal will be helpful to those involved in the preparation of this “mother of all vigils”.
- The Easter Vigil should begin at a time that allows for a new fire to break the darkness of night. In the City of Manchester the sun is scheduled to set at 7:14 p.m. **Please schedule the Easter Vigil at a time when the fire will break the darkness of night.**
- **The Service of Light**
 - ✓ In a suitable and safe place outside the church a “blazing fire” is to be prepared. In case of inclement weather a smaller alcohol fire may be prepared in the church.
 - ✓ **The number of faithful gathered at the fire should be limited to the space allowed for social distancing, all others should remain in the church at their pews.**
 - ✓ After the blessing of the fire, the Paschal Candle is then prepared according to the Rites in the Roman Missal.
 - ✓ After the Rites, the priest lights the candle from the fire and says: “May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds”.
 - ✓ All should be holding unlit candles.
 - ✓ The proclamation “The Light of Christ” is sung at the door of the church (after which the priest lights his candle), in the middle of the church (after which all light their candles), and before the altar, facing the people.
 - ✓ **Following the third “The Light of Christ” the electric lights are lit throughout the church.**
 - ✓ The Exsultet should be sung by one who can do so with grace and beauty.
- The Liturgy of the Word
 - ✓ At least three Old Testament readings must be read, including reading number three from Exodus.
 - ✓ After the last reading from the Old Testament with its Responsorial Psalm and its prayer, **the altar candles are lit** and the Gloria is sung, while the bells are rung.
 - ✓ After the Epistle has been read, all rise, and the priest intones the solemn Alleluia three times.

- The Baptismal Liturgy
 - ✓ For this part of the Vigil refer to the Roman Missal and the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.
 - ✓ **The priest is the minister who baptizes the adults and the children. The celebrant should celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation with great care and safety.**
 - ✓ Adults and children of catechetical age being baptized or brought into Full Communion during the Vigil are to be confirmed by the presiding priest.
 - ❖ Adults who have already received Baptism and Eucharist in the Catholic Church are to be Confirmed by the Bishop at a parish Confirmation Ceremony or at the Spring or Fall Adult Confirmation.
 - ❖ The Spring Adult Confirmation is Sunday, April 11, 2021 at 2 pm at St. Joseph Cathedral. Registration information will be forthcoming.

- The Liturgy of the Eucharist
 - ✓ **The rubrics of the Easter Vigil indicate the desirability for the neophytes as well as all the faithful, if the diocesan Bishop consents, to receive Communion under both kinds. Under the circumstances with Covid-19 the Precious Blood is not to be distributed.**
 - ✓ The Missal provides a solemn blessing to conclude the liturgy.

EASTER SUNDAY AND THE EASTER SEASON *April 4, 2021*

- The first eight days of the Easter Season make up the Octave of Easter and are celebrated as solemnities of the Lord.
 - ✓ In all the more solemn liturgical celebrations in the Easter Season the Paschal Candle is lighted.
 - ✓ At all Masses on Easter Sunday the Renewal of Baptismal Promises and its accompanying sprinkling rite may replace the Creed and Penitential Rite.
 - ✓ During the Easter Season the Sprinkling Rite may replace the more usual Penitential Rite.
 - ✓ The double Alleluia is sung throughout the Easter Octave, but NEVER sung BEYOND the LAST MASS of the SUNDAY AFTER EASTER.
 - ✓ Lent and The double Alleluia is then added to the sung dismissal on Pentecost Sunday.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord *Thursday, March 25, 2021*
 - ✓ All are asked to genuflect at “and by the Holy Spirit” in the Creed.
- Monday of Holy Week, *March 29, 2021* Diocesan Day of Reconciliation
- Fourth Sunday of Easter, *April 25, 2021*
 - ✓ World Day of Prayer for Vocations is celebrated this day. Prayers for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life should be inserted into the General Intercessions at Mass.
- Transitional Deacon Ordination, *May 29, 2021- 10 am St. Joseph Cathedral*
- Ascension Thursday, *May 13, 2021*
- Priesthood Ordination, *June 5, 2021 – 10 am St. Joseph Cathedral*
- The Most Holy Trinity, *May 30, 2021*
- Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, *June 11, 2021*
 - ✓ Today is World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests.

❖ *LITURGICAL QUESTIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE OFFICE OF WORSHIP, 663-0153*