

2024 Celebration of the Sacraments and Liturgical Guidelines for Lent & Triduum

This Guide contains helpful information about celebration of the Sacraments and Rites during the 2024 holy season of Lent and the Sacred Triduum. Our liturgies catechesis and devotions express the importance of this sacred time in many different ways. May this guide help you as you prepare for the celebration of the Paschal Mystery.

- The Cycle A Readings must be used during the Scrutinies celebrated on the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent. Proper Mass of the Day or from the Ritual Masses: The Scrutinies.

DISPOSAL OF HOLY OILS

"Each year when the bishop blesses the oils and consecrates the Chrism, the pastor should see that the old oils are properly disposed of by burning (*adding the oils into the holy fire of Easter vigil*) and that they are replaced by the newly blessed oils." (*Book of Blessings, 1127*). If for any reason the holy oils cannot be burned, another acceptable practice is to bury them in sacred ground.

"The pastor is to obtain the sacred oils from his own bishop and keep them carefully in a fitting place." (*Canon 847*) Representatives from parishes receive the Holy Oils during **Chrism Mass, Thursday, March 21**.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

When planning communal Reconciliation services for the parish, please be reminded that the Rite for Reconciliation of Several Penitents with Individual Confession and Absolution should be used. The option of general confession and general absolution is not permitted in the diocese.

A reminder that the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick can never be denied to the faithful who legitimately seek it. These

Sacraments can be celebrated on any day, including Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

VIATICUM

Communion for the Sick may be brought to the sick on all days except Holy Saturday. That day, communion may be given only as Viaticum. Communion services outside of the liturgy are not held on Holy Thursday, Good Friday or Holy Saturday. According to the Church's ancient tradition, except for Confession, the sacraments are not celebrated on Good Friday or Holy Saturday.

FUNERALS

Funeral Mass may not be celebrated on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. On these days the body of the deceased may be brought into the church for a Funeral Liturgy outside Mass, using the Order of Christian Funerals, part I—chapter 4. A Mass for the deceased should be offered as it is convenient after Easter Sunday (*Order of Christian Funerals, 107- 203*).

SPECIAL DAYS AND FEASTS

March 13.

A special intention for Pope Francis may be included in the Universal Prayer on the anniversary of his election as pope (*13 March 2013*).

March 17. Fifth Sunday of Lent

In the Diocese of the United States, the practice of covering crosses and images throughout the church from this Sunday may be observed. Crosses remain covered until the end of the celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, but images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil." (*Roman Missal, introduction to the Fifth Sunday of Lent*).

March 19. Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

A proper Mass of the Day (*including proper Preface: "The Mission of Saint Joseph"*) Gloria and Creed. The gospel acclamation as during the Lenten season.

It is the custom in some places to bless bread, pastry and other food and to give a large portion of it to the poor. For the Order of Blessing of St. Joseph's table (*Book of Blessings, nos. 1679-1700*). See also Catholic Household Book of Blessings and prayers (*from the USCCB Committee on the Liturgy, nos. 104-141*)

March 24. Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

The Passion proclaimed on this day is essential to the liturgy and cannot be omitted. The narrative of the Lord's Passion is read without candles and without incense, with no greeting (*"The Lord be with you" is not said*) or signing of the book. It is read by a Deacon or, if there is no Deacon, by a Priest. It might also be proclaimed using several ministers. Lay persons are allowed to do any of the parts, but the part of our Lord should be reserved to a priest. Deacons, but not others, ask for the blessing of the Presider before reading the Passion, as at other times before the Gospel. The Proclamation of the Passion of the Lord during Mass is not to be changed for a play or other type of theatrical representation.

Palms may be distributed and blessed using holy water, following the formula given in the Roman Missal.

March 25 (transferred to Monday April 8). Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord

A proper Mass of the Day (including proper Preface: "The Mystery of the Incarnation") Gloria and Creed. When the Annunciation falls on Palm Sunday or on any day in Holy Week, it is transferred to the Monday after the Sunday after Easter. There should not be vigil masses for this feast on Easter Sunday.


HOLY TRIDUUM

Holy Thursday – Mass of the Lord's Supper

The Easter Triduum begins with the *Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper* ending with the conclusion of Vespers on Easter Sunday. Before Mass begins, the Tabernacle should be entirely empty. A sufficient number of hosts should be consecrated at this Mass for the communion of the clergy and the faithful for today and tomorrow.

Holy water should be removed from all fonts before Mass. The optional Rite of the Reception of the Holy Oils may take place during the introductory rite of the Mass.

The Washing of the Feet should represent a cross-section of the local community.

The procession to the  Altar of Repose should be taken with extra care. The faithful should be encouraged to adore the Blessed Sacrament for a suitable period of time during the night. Parishes participating in the Visita Iglesia devotion should plan to have their Altars of Repose open until at least 12 AM.

Good Friday - Veneration of the Cross

Fasting and abstinence are important spiritual disciplines of Good Friday and are observed as a way of participating in the suffering and death of our Lord. The Passion of the Lord is proclaimed as on Passion (Palm) Sunday.

Only one Cross should be used for the veneration as this contributes to the full symbolism of the rite. Proper care must be taken during the individual veneration of the cross. The cross may be venerated by touching or by a simple bow depending on the custom of the local community.

Note: Pending addition to this document - Bishop will be adding an intention for Peace in the Holy Land as part of the Solemn Intercession of Good Friday.

The Altar is stripped after Communion and the Cross remains in the sanctuary with lighted candles.

Holy Saturday – Easter Vigil

The vigil may begin as early as 8:00 PM (*sunset on March 31, 2024 is at 7:29 PM*)

The *Lucernarium* procession should be taken with extra care for the safety of all.

During the rites of Initiation, immersion into big baptismal font must be taken with the knowledge and approval of the candidate or a pitcher of blessed water poured over the head may be used for the candidates of Baptism. Individual towels must be provided to every candidate.

The Renewal of Baptismal Promises and the Sprinkling of Holy Water is to take place as usual.

Bishop will not be giving delegation to pastor for the conferral of the sacrament if the candidate for Confirmation is a baptized Catholic. Candidates for Confirmation should take part in the celebration arranged by the parish or the diocese.

Pastor does not need a delegation to confer the sacrament if a candidate is being received into full communion into the Catholic church. (CC, #883.2)