

Office of Divine Worship

Liturgical Guidelines for Holy Week and Triduum

To: All Clergy and Parish Staff
From: Office of Divine Worship
Date: March 24, 2020
Re: Liturgical Guidelines for Holy Week and Triduum

PART 1: Overview

Note: Until further notice, there may not be any processions in churches or outdoors, including the Stations of the Cross, other veneration or gatherings for communal prayer.

Also, at any permitted celebration of Mass allowed under the current directives, participants must receive Communion in the hand.

Chrism Mass

Cardinal O'Malley will celebrate the Chrism Mass at a later point when possible. Instructions on how to obtain the Blessed Oils will be provided at that time.

Holy Week

Each parish or collaborative should celebrate the Holy Week Liturgies fully according to the Rites contained in the Roman Missal even in the absence of the faithful. If it is possible for a parish to livestream these liturgies that is encouraged, as is widely publicizing the times of the livestreams. The Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has issued directives explaining what should and should not be done for the Sacred Paschal Triduum in the absence of a congregation during the Coronavirus pandemic. Please scroll down for English, Spanish, and French versions:

<http://www.cultodivino.va/content/cultodivino/it/documenti/decreti-generalisti/decreti-generalisti/2020/decreto-triduo-pasquale-2020.html>

Here are the highlights of that decree:

Where civil authorities have restricted or prohibited the gathering of people, priests may celebrate the elements of the Triduum with only the minimum number of persons required. In the Archdiocese of Boston there cannot be more than 10 persons total.

The Holy Father encourages that the people are to be informed of the time and that television or internet broadcasts are to be made available wherever possible.

Some highlights:

- The date of Easter may not be changed nor transferred.
- Where the Triduum is celebrated without a congregation, "it must be celebrated in the following ways..."

- **EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER** -- no foot-washing [It's optional anyway]; there is to be no procession with the Blessed Sacrament and it should be reposed in the tabernacle.
- **GOOD FRIDAY** -- Add a special Solemn Intercession "for the sick, the dead, the lost or dismayed" (*Missale Romanum* no. 13)
- **EASTER VIGIL** --
 - a) Preparation and lighting of the fire is omitted; Paschal Candle is lit, procession omitted, then Exultet is sung.
 - b) The Liturgy of the Word follows.
 - c) The Baptismal Liturgy will only include the Renewal of Baptismal promises.
 - d) The Liturgy of the Eucharist as usual with the Easter Preface.
 - The faithful are encouraged to pray the Office of Readings for Easter Sunday.

RCIA

The entire rite of Christian Initiation is arranged so that the sacraments will be celebrated during the Easter Vigil, however because of serious pastoral needs another time can be selected. When the Rite of Christian Initiation occurs at a different point of the liturgical year, the structure of the entire rite remains the same. [RCIA 26] Since performing these rites during the Easter Vigil is not possible this year, pastors are asked to reschedule the Rites when regular public Masses are allowed, at the appropriate time of their choosing, but without significant delay, if possible. **The Cardinal has dispensed the Elect from the celebration of the Scrutinies.**

For liturgy references for the pastor to initiate the Elect at a later time, see The Lectionary for "Initiation Apart from Easter Vigil", -- Lectionary nos. 751-755 and the Ritual Mass "For the Conferral of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation" #). Candidates for Reception into Full Communion may be welcomed nearly any Sunday of the year (Lectionary no. 761-763).

Office of Divine Worship

The Office of Divine Worship remains available to assist our priests and parishes with any liturgical or sacramental questions.

Feel free to contact Tom Lyman, Coordinator of Divine Worship, with any questions. Email is the best way to reach him at this time at tlyman@rcab.org **He is available to respond to phone inquiries if you email a phone number.**

PART 2: Triduum at a Glance

A note about live streaming

If the parish can do live streaming for their parishioners, it is encouraged to share that information in the local community. If not, it would be helpful to direct parishioners to CatholicTV to watch the Cardinal's broadcast from the Cathedral. Clergy from more than one parish could also consider joining for services at one church, if one parish has the resources and the expertise to live stream the services. In this case, the number of people present for the services must not exceed ten.

A note about participants

The participants in these liturgies can include the concelebrating priests, deacons, lector, altar server, music minister, and camera person if the parish is live streaming. In every case, no other participants should be present and there cannot be more than ten people participating.

Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020

- Bless Palm in sanctuary of church (could include the reading of the First Gospel)
- No procession
- Liturgy of Word and Reading of the Passion
 - May be read in three parts or only by a priest or deacon
- Liturgy of the Eucharist
- **There may not be any form of distribution of palms on Palm Sunday or at any other time.**

Chrism Mass

- Postponed until late Spring or early Summer

Holy Thursday, April 9, 2020

- Initial Rites and Liturgy of the Word
- No washing of feet
- Liturgy of the Eucharist
- No Eucharistic Procession after Communion
- Reserve Blessed Sacrament in Tabernacle

Good Friday, April 10, 2020: The Passion of the Lord

- Initial Rites and Liturgy of the Word
- Passion read by three people or only by a priest or deacon
- Solemn Intercessions
 - Special Intercession XI (Coronavirus Protection – see below for a sample version)
- No procession with the Cross
- Veneration of the Cross should be made only by bow or genuflection
- Holy Communion
- Remaining hosts to be reserved in Tabernacle

XI. For those suffering from the current pandemic.

Deacon or lay minister:

Let us pray, dearly beloved,
to God the Father almighty,
that he may extend his hand in mercy
to all those affected by the Coronavirus pandemic.

Silent Prayer

Priest:

Almighty ever-living God,
heal those who are ill,
comfort those who mourn,
give solace to all who are afraid and alone,
and protect those who are providing medical care.
Make us instruments of your peace
among our brothers and sisters.
In your mercy, alleviate our fears
and eliminate this scourge,
so that we may come together again
to give you praise and to build your Kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 11, 2020

- No Blessing of Fire
- Preparation of the Candle in the Sanctuary of Church
 - Cutting of Alpha and Omega with stylus
 - Insertion of five grains of incense
 - Lighting of Candle (no procession with candle)
- The Easter Proclamation (*Exsultet*)
- Liturgy of the Word
- Baptismal Liturgy
 - For the Baptismal Liturgy, only the “Renewal of Baptismal Promises” alone is necessary, see Roman Missal, p.371 No. 55
- Liturgy of the Eucharist
- Solemn Easter Blessing

Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020

- Liturgy of the Word with Sequence (*Victimae paschali laudes*)
- Liturgy of the Eucharist
- Solemn Easter Blessing