



LITURGICAL ADVISORY: *Guidelines for Lent, Holy Week, the Sacred Paschal Triduum & Easter Season 2022*

The annual observance of Lent is the special season for the ascent to the holy mountain of Easter. Through its twofold theme of repentance and baptism, the season of Lent disposes both the catechumens and the faithful to celebrate the paschal mystery. Catechumens are led to the sacraments of initiation by means of the Rite of Election, the Scrutinies, and catechesis. 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.

Ceremonial of Bishops, #249

REGULATIONS FOR FAST AND ABSTINENCE

The following may be reproduced in parish bulletins for the purpose of reminding the faithful of the regulations for fast and abstinence:

**Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022, and Good Friday, April 15, 2022,
are days of fast and abstinence.**

All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence.

† **FASTING** is to be observed by all 18 years of age and older who have not yet celebrated their 59th birthday. On a fast day one full meal is allowed. Two other meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and juices, are allowed.

† **ABSTINENCE** is observed by all 14 years of age and older. On days of abstinence, no meat is allowed. Note that when health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige. When in doubt concerning fast and abstinence, the pastor or pastoral administrator should be consulted.

- Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. All the Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence.
- Fasting, almsgiving, and prayer are the three traditional disciplines of Lent. The faithful, the Elect, and those Candidates preparing for Reception into Full Communion in the Catholic Church should undertake these practices seriously in a spirit of penance and of preparation for baptism or of renewal of baptism at Easter.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS AND THE RITES

The Sacraments of Initiation

Because Lent is oriented toward the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter, care must be taken to maintain this central focus.

For those involved in the *RCIA*, the ***Rite of Election*** (ONLY) will be celebrated on Sunday, March 6, at 2:30 pm at the Cathedral of Mary of the Assumption Parish, Saginaw. Further questions can be directed to the Office of Parish Life and Evangelization (989-797-6608).

- † Bishop Gruss will call those preparing for Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion to the Easter Sacraments -- which will all be administered at the coming Easter Vigil. (*CB 250, 408-419 and RCIA 118-127*).
- † The *Rite of Sending of the Catechumens for Election* may be celebrated in parishes (*RCIA 106 – 117. (See this Rite in the Appendix of the Memorandum)*).
- † The Readings for the First Sunday of Lent (Year C) will be used.

The ***Penitential Rite*** for baptized candidates preparing for *Reception into Full Communion* during the Easter Season may be celebrated on the Second Sunday of Lent, March 13 (*RCIA 459-472*).

The ***Scrutinies*** for the Elect are celebrated on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent. The Mass at which the scrutiny takes place uses the texts from the *Ritual Mass for the Celebration of the Scrutinies* found in the Roman Missal. The Readings for Year A are used in these Masses (*RCIA 146, G: RCIA C: 1-4*).

The Sacrament of Penance

During Lent, the faithful should be urged to take a greater and more fruitful share in the Lenten liturgy. It is very appropriate for the Sacrament of Penance to be celebrated

during Lent in a more solemn form, as described in the ***Rite of Penance*** (CB 251). The faithful should be clearly and positively encouraged to receive this sacrament during Lent. Schedules for confessions and communal celebrations should be arranged in each parish so that all may be served adequately. Ideally, the faithful would celebrate the Sacrament of Penance before the Sacred Paschal Triduum begins; however, it is also now permitted to offer this sacrament on Good Friday. Efforts should be made to educate and plan accordingly (RP 13). Priests are encouraged to make the Sacrament of Penance generously available to our people.

A LITURGICAL AID for Lent, The Sacred Paschal Triduum, and the Easter Season (with sample Penance Liturgy), prepared by the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC), was sent to parishes last week. Please consult for the celebration of the Rite of Penance.

Funerals During the Season of Lent and the Easter Triduum

Good liturgical practice would suggest reflecting the liturgical season in the choice of music and scripture. The season of Lent may also reflect a change in the color of vesture and employ the option to use violet (OCF 39).

On Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, a Funeral Mass may not be celebrated. On these days the body of the deceased may be brought into the church for “Funeral Liturgy Outside Mass” using the ***Order of Christian Funerals***, Part I Chapter 4. A Mass for the deceased should be offered as soon as is convenient after Easter Sunday (OCF 107-203).

Marriages During the Season of Lent and the Triduum

Marriages during the season of Lent are not to be encouraged. However, if a marriage does take place, there should be a marked moderation in festivity. No flowers are allowed in the sanctuary (CB 252).

The celebration of marriage (and the “convalidation” of marriage) is not permitted during the Sacred Paschal Triduum (consult *RM III*).

Communion for the Sick and Viaticum

Communion may be brought to the sick on all days of Holy Week **except** Holy Saturday. On Holy Saturday Communion may be given only as viaticum. Please see the new pastoral instruction in the Roman Missal, 3rd Typical Edition (#33) for the dismissal of

those taking Communion to the sick after the Mass of the Lord's Supper.

Anointing of the Sick

The sick may be anointed on any day of Lent and throughout the Sacred Paschal Triduum in response to pastoral need.

LENT AND THE WORSHIP ENVIRONMENT

During Lent, the altar should not be enhanced with flowers. The Fourth Sunday of Lent (*Laetare Sunday*), solemnities, and feasts are exceptions to this norm. On the Fourth Sunday of Lent rose-colored vestments may be used (CB 252 and see Ordo).

The practice of covering statues, images, and crosses during the season of Lent is no longer suppressed in the United States. Crosses are uncovered following the celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday. Sacred images in the church may be covered from the conclusion of the Mass for Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent until the beginning of the Easter Vigil (see Ordo.) The cross is covered on Good Friday (*Roman Missal: 5th Sunday of Lent and CL 26 and Ordo*).

LENTEN LITURGICAL PREPARATIONS

During Lent, a "season of penance," the Penitential Act takes on a significant character during the celebration of the Eucharist. The *Roman Missal* offers three (3) different forms during The Introductory Rites:

- The *Confiteor* ("I confess...") which is a powerful communal confession of sin;
- The *Litany* with invocation addressed to Christ (many models in both the "Order of the Mass" and in "Appendix VI"); and
- The *Dialogue* between the priest and the people.

To highlight the penitential character of Lent you may consider chanting (or having the cantor sing) the *Kyrie* (or Lord, have mercy).

- † The Roman document *Paschale Solemnitatis* strongly recommends that, during the entire Season of Lent, the Faithful have a responsibility to pray for sinners and to include this intention in the Prayers of the Faithful. Likewise, whether there are Elect or Candidates in the parish or not, it is also good to pray for those who, throughout the entire Church – and most especially here in the Diocese of Saginaw – are preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil and throughout the

Easter Season.

- † The use of the 3rd option for “The Mystery of Faith” during the Eucharistic Prayer (“Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free”) may be the more appropriate choice for Lent.

HOLY HOURS, ADORATION (with Exposition and Benediction) OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AND OTHER LENTEN DEVOTIONS

The Office of Liturgy has received inquiries regarding Holy Hours (with or without Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament) asking about also celebrating other liturgical rites and devotions (e.g., Anointing of the Sick, the Rite of Penance, and the Stations of the Cross). After consultation with the USCCB’s Bishops’ Committee on Divine Worship and the liturgical theologian Father Paul Tuner may we offer the following:

1. The official liturgical document ***Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside Mass (HCWEOM)*** makes it abundantly clear that no other liturgical rituals are to be celebrated during Adoration/Exposition/Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Therefore, Anointing of the Sick, the Rite of Penance, and the devotional Stations of the Cross are to be celebrated independently.
2. With regard to liturgical options for the celebration of Eucharistic Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, there are examples outlined in **HCWEOM** (Appendix with “Model Services”). Additionally, the ritual ***Order for the Solemn Exposition of the Holy Eucharist (SEHE)*** (approved by the USCCB and published by Liturgical Press, Collegeville, MN) offers several options for the celebration of Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament (e.g., Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, Liturgy of the Word, Prayer and Praise, etc.).

A LITURGICAL AID for Lent, The Sacred Paschal Triduum, and the Easter Season (with sample Penance Liturgy), prepared by the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC), was sent to parishes last week. Please consult for details and planning guides for all the liturgies of Holy Week the Sacred Paschal Triduum.

PARTICULAR LITURGIES DURING THE SEASON OF LENT & HOLY WEEK

ASH WEDNESDAY, March 2, 2022

The blessing and distribution of ashes may take place at either a celebration of the Eucharist or at a Liturgy of the Word (see **Ordo**).

- The blessing and distribution of ashes follow the homily.
- The Penitential Act is omitted in all celebrations of the Eucharist on this day.
- The Season of Lent begins at MIDNIGHT on the morning of Ash Wednesday. It is not possible to anticipate Ash Wednesday with a Vigil Mass (or a Liturgy of the Word with the Distribution of Ashes) on Tuesday evening.
- After blessing the ashes and sprinkling them with holy water in silence, the priest-presider addresses those present, reciting once the formula found in the Roman Missal: “Repent, and believe in the Gospel” or “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return”. At that point, the priest may cleanse his hands, puts on a face mask, and distributes ashes to those who come to him or, if appropriate, he goes to those who are standing in their places. He may then make the Sign of the Cross with the ashes on each person’s forehead or sprinkles the ashes on each person’s head without saying anything.

SOLEMNITY OF SAINT JOSEPH, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saturday, March 19, 2022

Since the 1870’s, Saint Joseph was declared by Pope Pius IX as the Patron of the Universal Church. As such, it ranks as a Solemnity on the Liturgical Calendar and has its own Mass prayers and preface, along with the recitation of both the Gloria and Creed. As per the **ORDO**, white vestments are worn this day. It is not to be celebrated any later than midafternoon so as to not replace the Vigil of the 3rd Sunday of Lent.

SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD, Friday, March 25, 2022

In the gospel assigned to this date, the angel announces that Mary was chosen to be the Mother of Jesus, the Mother of God. Thus, this is a Solemnity on the Liturgical Calendar and has its own Mass prayers and preface, along with the recitation of both the Gloria and Creed. As per the **ORDO**, white vestments are worn this day when the Solemnity is celebrated.

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD, April 10, 2022

On this day the Church remembers Christ's entrance into Jerusalem to accomplish the Paschal Mystery. The commemoration on this day, with the blessing of palms and the procession, and like all the Church’s liturgy, is not an historical re-enactment (of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem), but rather a ritual action that marks our entry into Holy Week and the celebration of the Christian Passover (see the **Ordo**).

- Three forms are offered for the beginning of the liturgy on this day: the procession, the solemn entrance, and the simple entrance. Masses beginning with either the solemn entrance or the procession omit the penitential rite.
- The Passion proclaimed on this day is essential to the liturgy and cannot be omitted. It may be proclaimed (either read or chanted) using one, three, or more readers. Laypersons are allowed to do any of the parts.
- Red Mass Vestments are worn for both the Procession and the Eucharist which follows.

THE CHRISM MASS (with the Renewal of Priestly Promises), Tuesday, April 12, 2022

The Chrism Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday, April 12, at 10:30 a.m. at the Cathedral of Mary of the Assumption. No other parochial services that may conflict with the Chrism Mass should be scheduled that morning in the Diocese of Saginaw.

NB: Further information and instructions regarding the Chrism Mass will be forthcoming from the Office of Liturgy.

PARTICULAR LITURGIES DURING THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM

THURSDAY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (at the Evening Mass), Thursday, April 14, 2022

Lent ends with the beginning of the Mass of the Lord's Supper, which is the principal Liturgy of the day. The tabernacle is empty (and open) before the Liturgy begins. Enough bread should be consecrated at this Mass for the Liturgy of Good Friday as well (see **Ordo**).

- Only the celebration of the Mass of the Lord's Supper is permitted. All efforts should be made that there be only one Mass of the Lord's Supper which would include the many languages and cultures of a particular parish community. If pastoral needs of a particular ethnic group in a parish so dictate, another Mass of the Lord's Supper may be celebrated in their language.
- During the singing of the *Glory to God* the church bells, both outdoors and indoors, are rung. The bells remain silent until the *Glory to God* at the Easter Vigil.
- The "Washing of the Feet" (*mandatum*) should be celebrated in a way that allows for people to participate visually. Fuller instructions are provided in the **Ordo**.
- The reception of the Holy Oils may take place in individual parishes either before the celebration of Mass or at another time that seems more appropriate.
- Following the *Prayer after Communion*, the *Blessed Sacrament* is transferred to the place of Reservation. This may be the usual tabernacle if it is in a separate

chapel or area removed from the sanctuary. The place of reservation should be noble yet simply decorated.

- Under no circumstances is the Blessed Sacrament to be exposed in a monstrance or ciboria. (CL 55, 56) [only in a covered ciborium].
- The faithful should be encouraged to spend some time in adoration throughout the remainder of the evening. There is no adoration after midnight (CL 55, 56).
- After Mass, the altar is stripped. It is fitting that any crosses in the church be covered with a red or purple veil.
- Votive candles should not be lit before the images of saints (CL 57).

FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (Good Friday), April 15, 2022

The Liturgy of the Hours, particularly Morning Prayer, is strongly encouraged.

The celebration of the Lord's Passion, the principal celebration of this day, should take place about 3:00 pm. If pastoral need dictates, there may be another celebration later in the day, especially in another language for pastoral necessity (see *Ordo*).

- The Passion may be proclaimed or chanted using one, three, or more readers. Laypersons are allowed to do any of the parts.
- During the veneration of the cross, only one cross should be used. However, if the number of people is too great to permit individual veneration, other crosses may be used.
- Red Mass Vestments are worn for all liturgical celebrations on this day – including Morning Prayer and the Stations of the Cross.
- This Liturgy, by its very nature, may not be celebrated in the absence of a priest.

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD (the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night), Saturday, April 17, 2022

The Liturgy of the Hours, particularly Morning Prayer (with the incorporation of preparatory rites of the *RCIA*), is strongly encouraged.

According to custom, the **Blessing of Food** may take place before or after the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday or on Easter morning for consumption at the first meal of Easter, when fasting is ended and the Church is filled with joy. The rite, found in the *Book of Blessings* (Chapter 54), is to be followed replacing all other variations of this customary blessing. According to Liturgical Norms, it is not appropriate to sing Easter Hymns or verses containing the “Alleluia” before its solemn intonation at the celebration of the Easter Vigil.

The Easter Vigil should begin at a time that allows for new fire to break the darkness of night.

NB: Therefore, by way of reminder, in the Diocese of Saginaw the Easter Vigil may not be scheduled before 9:00 pm.

- Questions on scheduling and multiple celebrations should be directed to the Office of Liturgy.
- The Lucernarium calls for a “blazing fire” to be prepared outside of the Church. Prudence dictates that this fire must be supervised, that there be a fire extinguisher in the vicinity of the fire, that there be a responsible person who is capable of extinguishing the fire, and that there be a means of readily contacting the fire department if the fire gets out of control.
- The Preparation of the Easter Candle is no longer optional. The Easter Candle must be made of wax, never be artificial, be renewed each year, be only one in number, and be of sufficiently large size, that it may evoke the truth that Christ is the light of the world (*CL 82*).
- The Easter candle is lighted for all liturgical celebrations of the season (*CB 372*).
- Placed at the Ambo.

Considerations and Clarifications Regarding the Paschal Candle(s) at the Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord (The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night)

[Issued from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Divine Worship 2014]

1. What considerations should be given for the paschal candle used at the Easter Vigil? This candle should be made of wax, never be artificial, be replaced each year, be only one in number, and be of sufficiently large size that it may convey the truth that Christ is the light of the world. The paschal candle is the symbol of the light of Christ, rising in glory, scattering the darkness of our hearts and minds. Above all, the paschal candle should be a genuine candle, the pre-eminent symbol of the light of Christ. Choice of size, design, and color should be made in relationship to the sanctuary in which it will be placed.
2. In the case of mission churches and cluster parishes, can multiple paschal candles be used for the Service of Light? The Roman Missal, not envisioning the pastoral situation of mission churches or cluster parishes, specifies that only one paschal candle is used. To accommodate the particular circumstances, the Secretariat of Divine Worship might suggest that the candles from the mission churches or other parish churches could be present at the Easter Vigil, having been prepared in advance, and blessed alongside the

main candle (perhaps having deacons or other representatives holding them). In keeping with the rubrics, for the lighting and procession only one candle should be lit (the principle one, or the one which will remain in that particular church). As the other candles in the congregation are lit, the other paschal candles could be lit and held (but not high, in order to maintain the prominence of the one principal candle) by someone at their place in the assembly. Once all the candles are extinguished after the singing of the Exsultet, the other paschal candles are put aside. On Easter Sunday morning, those candles could be taken to each of the missions and carried [lit] in the entrance procession at the first Mass at each church and put in place in the sanctuary.

- The Exsultet (Easter Proclamation) should be sung by one who can do so with grace and beauty at the Ambo.
- At least three of the seven Old Testament readings must be proclaimed.
- The reading from Chapter 14 of the Book of Exodus with its canticle may never be omitted.
- The Glory to God should be sung. The ringing of the Church bells accompanies this hymn.
- The Elect (adults and children of catechetical age) being baptized during the Easter Vigil (RCIA 562-594) are to be confirmed by the presiding priest (RCIA 588).
- Only those Candidates for Reception into Full Communion (with natural connections to the Elect to be baptized) should be Received into Full Communion at the Easter Vigil. All questions regarding this should be addressed to the diocesan Office of Liturgy.

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD (at the Mass During the Day), Sunday, April 17, 2022, and EASTER TIME

The fifty days from Easter Sunday (April 17, 2022) to Pentecost (June 5, 2022), audibly and visually, are celebrated in joyful exultation as one feast day, or better, as one "great Sunday." The first eight days of the Easter Season make up the *Octave of Easter* and are celebrated as solemnities of the Lord (CB 371, 373 and see **Ordo**).

- At all Masses on Easter Sunday the *Renewal of Baptismal Promises* and its accompanying *Rite of Sprinkling* replace the Creed (RMIII #72). A *Rite of Sprinkling* may appropriately replace the more usual *Penitential Act* during the Easter Season, at the very least on the Sundays of Easter including Pentecost.
- The **Ordo** reminds us that the Easter Sequence is to be sung or recited during the entire *Octave of Easter* (Easter Sunday through the Second Sunday of Easter inclusive).

- Instead of the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed, especially during Lent and Easter Time, the Baptismal Symbol of the Roman Church, known as the Apostles' Creed, may be used. (*OM*)
- The double *Alleluia* is added to the *sung* dismissal during the octave (Easter Vigil through the Second Sunday of Easter inclusive) and the Vigil of Pentecost and on Pentecost (*CB 373*).

Easter Liturgical Preparations

The only approved text for the Easter Proclamation (*Exsultet*) is from the **Roman Missal III**. However, you may wish to explore the newly created musical arrangements which now use this approved text from various liturgical composers.

The use of the 1st option for *The Mystery of Faith* during the Eucharistic Prayer (“We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again”) may be the more appropriate choice for Eastertide.

Particular Liturgies During the Easter Season

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD, Sunday, May 29, 2022

In the Province of Michigan, the *Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord* has been transferred to Sunday and will be celebrated on Sunday, May 29. The *Solemnity of the Ascension* has a Vigil Mass with proper orations assigned for use (see **Ordo** and *RMIII*, pg. 431).

NB: Thursday, May 26, in the Province of Michigan is celebrated as an Obligatory Memorial of Saint Philip Neri, Priest.

SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST, Sunday, June 5, 2022

- The Solemnity of Pentecost has a proper (“extended”) Vigil Mass. As many as four Old Testament readings (with Responsorial Psalms and proper orations) may be used before the intonation of the Glory to God.
- The Sequence of Pentecost is sung or recited at all Masses, both of the vigil and the day. [Consult **Ordo** for specific instructions].
- After Pentecost, the Easter candle is returned to its place near the baptismal font. It is not extinguished after the Gospel of either the Ascension or Pentecost.
- The double *Alleluia* is added to the sung dismissal during Masses of Pentecost and its Vigil (see **Ordo**).

REFERENCES & ABBREVIATIONS

CB	Ceremonial of Bishops
CL	Circular Letter concerning the Preparation and Celebration of the Easter Feasts (Congregation for Divine Worship, 1988)
GIRM	General Instruction to the Roman Missal
Norms	Norms for the Celebration and Distribution of Holy Communion under Both Kinds in the Dioceses of the United States of America
OCF	Order of Christian Funerals
OM	Order of Mass
RCIA	Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
RM	Rite of Marriage
RMIII	Roman Missal (3rd Typical Edition)
RP	Rite of Penance

RESOURCES

- *Lectionary for Mass* (Cf: “Introduction”)
- *The Roman Missal, 3rd Typical Edition* (Cf: “GIRM”)
- The Order of Prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours & Celebration of the Eucharist 2022 (**Ordo**) [Province of Michigan]
- *Sourcebook for Sundays, Seasons and Weekdays* (The Almanac for Pastoral Liturgy) [LTP, Chicago, IL] © 2022
- USCCB/Bishops’ Committee on Divine Worship [Washington, DC]

***Catholic Diocese of Saginaw
Office of Liturgy
February 10, 2022***