

Holy Week & Triduum Guidelines 2021

Palm Sunday – Weekend of March 28

- Palms may be distributed at Mass. It is recommended to have USHERS HAND OUT THE PALMS BEFORE OR AFTER MASS rather than leaving them on tables for people to rummage through. Remember: ushers are to wear masks while in the church.
- The Entrance Rites:
 - o FORM 1 (The Procession) is not to take place this year.
 - o FORM 2 (The Solemn Entrance) may take place in the back of church, with the people gathered inside in their pews as usual. Ministers (altar servers, clergy, others in procession) are to remain 6 feet distanced from each other and wear masks while the opening rites are taking place (except the priest concelebrant or deacon proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem) and during the entire liturgy. The procession (single file, ministers 6 feet apart, down the center aisle) may take place. Lectors and a select number of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion ("representative group of the faithful" see no. 13) carrying palm branches may be in the opening procession, at the discretion of the celebrant.
 - o FORM 3 (The Simple entrance) may take place at all the Masses. The special rites at the beginning of Mass in the back of church do not take place at all. This form would be appropriate if all the palms were blessed at a previous Mass.
- The Proclamation of the Passion
 - o The proclamation of the Passion may be done by one minister, or by multiple ministers if they can observe physical distancing. The short version of Mark's Gospel may be proclaimed by a single minister.
 - o The part of the assembly may instead be taken by one of the readers of the Passion OR a **single-use** worship aid may be created (see below).
- Worship aids (for Palm Sunday and the Triduum liturgies).
 - o **The practice of removing hymnals and missalettes from the pews is to be continued,** unless there are at least 24 hours between liturgies (including daily Mass or Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament) or other activities in the church.
 - o **Hymnals and missalettes MAY NOT be distributed in the back of church,** UNLESS individual parishioners are then instructed to take them home and then bring them back when they come to church. Such hymnals and missalettes are NOT to be returned to the back of church for general circulation.
 - o Parishes may opt to create SINGLE-USE worship aids that are taken home by parishioners or collected and RECYCLED after each Mass. Ensure that the proper copyright permissions are secured.
 - For music: <http://www.onelicense.com>
 - For readings, including proclamation of the Gospel: <https://www.usccb.org/offices/new-american-bible/permissions>
 - o The Office of Worship is available to advise on the creation of worship aids.

Holy Tuesday – March 30, 2021 – The Diocesan Chrism Mass

- The Chrism Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph at 11:00 am on March 30. Priests are invited to concelebrate and should RSVP to Josh at jperry@vermontcatholic.org. Please bring an alb; chasubles and stoles will be provided. Priests will vest in the chapel downstairs. All concelebrants are required to wear a face mask before and during the liturgy.
- Others are invited to attend in person or watch via live-stream from the diocesan website. Those who wish to attend in person MUST RSVP at <http://www.vermontcatholic.org/events>.
- Parishes are asked to request holy oils ahead of time by filling out the Holy Oil Request Form (attached to this email).
- There will be no receptions after the Chrism Mass. Holy Oils will be available downstairs to pick up following the Mass.
- Bulletin Announcement: The Chrism Mass will be held Tuesday, March 30, at 11:00 am at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Burlington. At this special Mass celebrated by Bishop Coyne, the Oil of Chrism is consecrated, the Oils of Catechumens and the Sick are blessed, and the priests within the Diocese of Burlington recommit themselves to the Priesthood of Jesus Christ. The seating capacity for the Chrism Mass is 250. Registration is required to attend the liturgy in person, and can be done at <http://www.vermontcatholic.org/events>. The liturgy will also be live-streamed and available at <http://www.vermontcatholic.org/tvmass>.

Holy Thursday – April 1, 2021

- The washing of the feet is to be omitted this year.
- The optional Rite of Reception of the Holy Oils may take place at the discretion of the pastor/administrator. The oils should NOT be processed this year but rather placed on a table in the sanctuary or in the ambry before Mass begins.
- Any collection for the poor (see no. 14) may take place by placing baskets at the entrance and exits to the church for people to put their donation/offering in as they arrive or leave (similar to the Sunday Mass collection in time of covid). There is to be no procession of the faithful during the Preparation of the Altar and Gifts.
- The Transfer of the Holy Eucharist is to take place, but the assembly is asked to remain in their pews and not join in the procession as it will be difficult to maintain 6 feet of separation. Only the necessary altar servers and clergy are in the procession.
- “If the celebration of the Passion of the Lord on the following Friday does not take place in the same church, the Mass is concluded in the usual way and the Blessed Sacrament is placed in the tabernacle” (see no. 44).
- Adoration may take place as usual and for the customary amount of time in each church. As a reminder: the church should be sanitized after the period of adoration.
- It is recommended that the faithful NOT visit multiple churches this year for adoration.

Good Friday – April 2, 2021

- It is recommended that churches be open for at least part of the day outside of the scheduled time of the Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion or other devotional to allow those hesitant to be in groups to observe the Triduum with private prayer in the church. Such times should be advertised in parish bulletins and on social media.
- The Entrance of the Ministers (with prostration before the altar) is to take place as usual in the parish.
- Although there are no alternatives or shorter versions of the Passion from the Gospel of John, the same options provided for Palm Sunday may be utilized today – a single minister or multiple readers observing physical distancing.
- Bishop Coyne decrees that the Solemn Intercessions on Good Friday in 2021 include a 11th petition/prayer for an end to the pandemic and for those affected by the coronavirus. The attached text and/or musical notation are to be used.
- Either Form of the Showing of the Cross may be used. If FORM 1 (procession of the cross down the aisle) is used, care should be taken to use the minimal number of people in the procession (i.e. no more than three: the minister and two servers holding candles). All ministers should be masked while processing down the aisle.
- The Adoration of the Holy Cross will be general this year: “[T]he priest, after some of the clergy and faithful have adored, takes the Cross, and standing in the middle before the altar, invites 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.” After the priest and other ministers have venerated the cross with a genuflection, the priest holds the cross up for general adoration in silence. The faithful are not to come forward to venerate the cross individually during the liturgy.
- Holy Communion takes place as provided by the rubrics.
- The faithful may be encouraged to remain after the liturgy concludes for private prayer and adoration. The faithful may approach the cross at this point to venerate it but should be instructed NOT to kiss or touch the cross.

Holy Saturday – April 3, 2021

- The Lucernarium is to be adapted as follows
 - o The people are assembled in the pews already. They do NOT take part in the procession.
 - o Either a fire may be prepared outside the church as usual, or alternatively, a small flame, such as a small candle or sterno, should be set on a table in the back of the church by the door (see no. 13).
 - o The priest, deacon, and necessary servers gather around the fire/flame. All wear masks. Those ministers not carrying anything else may carry candles.
 - o The greeting and address take place as in no. 9, then the fire is blessed and the candle prepared, as in no. 10-12.

- The Procession takes place as usual, with the candles of the ministers and people being lit along the way.
- The Exultet is sung as usual using either the longer or shorter form.
- After the Exultet and Introduction to the Liturgy of the Word, instruct people to momentarily lower their masks and gently extinguish their candles. (At the end of Mass, instruct people to return their candles to the baskets at the exits or to take the candles home. Although the baskets can be secured in a storage room, the candles themselves should not be handled by anyone for at least 24 hours.)
- Liturgy of the Word
 - The number of readings may be reduced at the discretion of the priest celebrant “always bearing in mind that the reading of the Word of God is a fundamental part of the Easter Vigil.” There should be at least three readings from the Old Testament (one of which must be Exodus 14 and its accompanying canticle), the Epistle, and the Gospel.
 - In place of the Responsorial Psalm between the readings, a period of silence may be observed instead (except for the response after Exodus 14 which must be read/sung).
- Rites of Initiation
 - Initiation may be celebrated at the Easter Vigil. Those participating in the initiation rites are to observe physical distancing and remain masked.
 - Before the baptism itself, the minister must sanitize his hands.
 - The water used for baptism must be in a vessel and poured over each person. Scooping water from the baptismal font for each candidate is not permitted.
 - A new towel is to be given to each person after the baptism.
 - The baptismal candle and garment are given to the newly baptized as usual.
 - When confirming a candidate on the forehead, do not move your hand directly in front of the nose and mouth of the candidate. Rather, your hand should move to the forehead from the side of the face. Simply make contact with your thumb; do not place your whole hand on their head.
 - The Renewal of Baptismal Promises and the Sprinkling of Holy Water is to take place as usual. No candles are lit for the Renewal of Baptismal Promises this year.

Easter Sunday – April 4, 2021

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