

LITURGY UPDATE

Liturgical Memos

March 18:

Saint Patrick's Day

In 2019, the feast day of Saint Patrick (observed as a solemnity in the Archdiocese of New York) is transferred to Monday, March 18. Evening Prayer II for the Second Sunday in Lent should be celebrated on Sunday evening, March 17. As well, Sunday evening Masses should use the texts for the Lenten Sunday.

April 7:

Veiling of Crosses and Images

Crosses may be covered until the end of the Good Friday Liturgy. Images may be covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil.

April 15:

Reconciliation Monday

Parishes are asked to offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation from 3:00 - 9:00pm on Holy Monday.

May 29:

Memorial of Pope Saint Paul VI

The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments recently announced that the feast of Pope Saint Paul VI has been moved from September 26 and inscribed in the General Roman Calendar on May 29 as an optional memorial. An English translation of the liturgical texts for this memorial has not yet been approved, but the "Common of Pastors - For a Pope" may be used in the interim.



Reminders for Lent and the Sacred Triduum

Since the time of the promulgation of the post-Conciliar liturgical books, the Holy See and the USCCB have issued a number of clarifying statements and guidelines regarding the liturgical celebration of Lent and the Sacred Triduum. These documents include the Congregation for Divine Worship's *Circular Letter Concerning the Preparation and Celebration of the Easter Feasts* (1988), the USCCB's *Built of Living Stones* (2000), the Third Typical Edition of the *Roman Missal* (2002), and the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments' decree on the rite of foot-washing in the Mass of the Lord's Supper, *In Missa in cena Domini* (2016). As a service to our readers, several of the principal points in these documents are summarized here:

- **Holy Water Fonts** – Holy water in fonts should not be drained or replaced with any other substance (e.g., sand) during Lent. Fonts should only be emptied during the Triduum, that is, from after the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday until they are refilled with water blessed at the Easter Vigil (Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments, Prot. N. 569/00/L).
- **Infant Baptisms during Lent** – Nothing prohibits infants from being baptized during Lent. Canon law indicates that “parents are obliged to take care that infants are baptized in the first few weeks after birth,” irrespective of the time of the liturgical year (c. 867).
- **Candidates Not Dismissed at Mass** – Unlike catechumens, the *RCIA* does not call for candidates to be dismissed prior to the Liturgy of the Eucharist during their preparation for full initiation (*RCIA*, 433, 545, 560).
- **The Proclamation of the Passion on Palm Sunday and Good Friday** – The *Circular Letter Concerning the Preparation and Celebration of the Easter Feasts* notes, “The Passion narrative occupies a special place. It should be sung or read in the traditional way, that is, by three persons who take the part of Christ, the narrator and the people. The Passion is proclaimed by deacons or priests, or by lay readers; in the latter case, the part of Christ should be reserved to the priest. The proclamation of the Passion should be without candles and incense, the greeting and the sign of the cross on the book are omitted” (33). The insertion of hymn texts, acclamations, or otherwise dividing/altering the reading is not envisioned by the rubrics.
- **Holy Thursday** – Bells are rung during the Gloria at the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday. Afterward, the bells should remain silent until the Gloria at the Easter Vigil.
- **Foot-washing** – As recently decreed by the Congregation for Divine Worship, the optional foot-washing rite on Holy Thursday is no longer restricted only to male participants. Rather, “pastors may select a small group of the faithful to represent the variety and the unity of each part of the people of God. Such small groups can be made up of men and women, and it is appropriate that they consist of people young and old, healthy and sick, clerics, consecrated men and women and laity” (*In Missa in cena Domini*). There is no requirement that the group of persons having their feet washed be twelve in number.
- **Good Friday** – Either a plain cross or a crucifix may be used for the Veneration of the Cross during the Celebration of the Passion of the Lord (*Built of Living Stones*, 83). Only a single cross or crucifix should be used for veneration in order to underscore the symbolism of the Cross as the sole instrument of humanity’s salvation.

As well, the *Roman Missal* clarifies that this liturgy “by its very nature may not... be celebrated in the absence of a priest” (“Friday of the Passion of the Lord,” 2).



- **Music During Lent and the Triduum** – In Lent, the playing of the organ and musical instruments is permitted only in order to support the singing of the congregation (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, 313). This same practice is to be observed from the Gloria in the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday through the Gloria at the Easter Vigil. Accordingly, instrumental pieces should not be played during these periods.
- **Sacraments During the Triduum** – The Sacraments of Penance and the Anointing of the Sick may be celebrated during the Triduum ("Friday of the Passion of the Lord," *Roman Missal*, 1). As well, Holy Communion may be given to the sick and homebound throughout the Triduum, but only as Viaticum to the dying on Holy Saturday.
- **Faculties for Conferring Confirmation** – For those Catholics who have fully participated in the process and catechesis of the *RCIA*, pastors, administrators, and any priest that a pastor or administrator sub-delegates may confirm when the celebration of Confirmation takes place during a Eucharistic Liturgy in the Easter season in the Archdiocese of New York. To confirm at any other time, delegation must be requested in writing from the Chancery.



- **Scheduling the Easter Vigil** -

On Saturday, April 20, 2019, the end of civil twilight will take place at approximately 8:10pm EDT in the New York area. Inasmuch as the *Roman Missal* states that the Vigil must begin in true darkness (*i.e.*, "after nightfall"), parishes should not schedule the start of the Easter Vigil until at least 8:30pm this year.

- **Readings at the Easter Vigil** -

The *Roman Missal* and *Lectionary* list seven Old Testament readings for the Easter Vigil. These are to be read in their entirety, unless "more serious pastoral circumstances demand" reducing their number

("Easter Vigil," *Roman Missal*, 21). At least three of the readings from the Old Testament must be used, always including the reading from Exodus concerning the passing through the Red Sea. In place of the accompanying responsorial psalms, a period of silence may also be observed (23).

- **Renewal of Baptismal Promises on Easter Sunday** – "On Easter Sunday, the optional nature of the Renewal of Baptismal Promises is emphasized in the rubrics, and the text itself is not included on Easter Sunday. If it is to be used, the text is taken from the appropriate place in the Easter Vigil, and the Creed is omitted. The Penitential Act still takes place as usual" (USCCB Divine Worship Secretariat Newsletter, May 2011).

Frequency Changes to Wireless Sound Systems

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has announced its planned completion of the transition of the 617-652 MHz and 663-698 MHz spectrum bands from wireless microphones and television broadcasts to wireless communicators (such as cellphone companies) by July 13, 2020. This transition began in 2017. Parishes should be aware that 600 Mhz wireless sound systems (an industry standard for churches, until recently) will be vulnerable to sound system failure as of the 2020 completion date, if not earlier. Churches are strongly advised to contact the company which installs or maintains their wireless system as soon as possible to determine whether an upgrade is needed.



Liturgical Q and A: Distribution of Holy Communion Via Intinction

The Liturgy Office has recently received a number of questions concerning the distribution of Holy Communion by means of intinction. Due to concerns regarding the spread of the flu and other illnesses during the winter months, many parishes have chosen to refrain from offering the Precious Blood via the chalice to communicants during this period. With this in mind, some have asked whether it still might be possible to offer Holy Communion under both species through intinction.

In response, the distribution of Holy Communion in this manner is indeed permitted in the United States. The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* describes the process in this way:

If Communion from the chalice is carried out by intinction, each communicant, holding a Communion-plate under the mouth, approaches the Priest who holds a vessel with the sacred particles, with a minister standing at his side and holding the chalice. The Priest takes a host, intincts it partly in the chalice and, showing it, says, The Body and Blood of Christ. The communicant replies, Amen, receives the Sacrament in the mouth from the Priest, and then withdraws (287).

The following additional points concerning intinction should also be noted:

- Communion under both species is permitted in parishes of the Archdiocese of New York at the discretion of the pastor.
- When distributing the Precious Blood, Communion from the chalice is generally the preferred form in the Latin Church (*Norms for the Distribution and Reception of Holy Communion Under Both Kinds for the Dioceses of the United States of America*, 42).
- Communicants are never permitted to self-communicate, including by means of intinction (50).
- Bearing in mind that it is the choice of the communicant, and not the minister, to receive the Precious Blood, when Holy Communion is distributed by way of intinction, communicants should be given the option to receive the host only (46).



Liturgical Preparation Aid for the Season of Lent

The Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions has published a free resource for the Lenten season. This preparation aid includes:

- the full text of the Rite of Reconciliation of Several Penitents with Individual Confession and Absolution;
- music suggestions;
- an Order for the Reception of the Holy Oils;
- a liturgical calendar advisory for Lent, the Triduum, and the Easter Season; and,
- preparation worksheets for the celebration of the Triduum.

This resource may be downloaded from the [Liturgy Office website](#) and distributed freely with the permission of the Confraternity for Christian Doctrine, the USCCB, and the International Commission on English in the Liturgy.

Archdiocesan Distribution of Holy Oils

In the Archdiocese of New York, the distribution of Holy Oils during Holy Week will take place according to the following schedule:

At Saint Patrick's Cathedral

Six-ounce bottles of Holy Oils will be prepared and distributed by the seminarians to clergy and official parish representatives at the conclusion of the Chrism Mass. Old oils will not be accepted at the Cathedral.

At Saint Joseph's Seminary

During Holy Week, seminarians will distribute the prepared bottles of Holy Oils at the following times:

Wednesday, April 17 - 10:30am-4:30pm

Thursday, April 18 - 10:30am-2:30pm

Saturday, April 20 - 10:30am-2:30pm

Parishes with larger vessels of oil may fill them at the Seminary. Old oils will be accepted at the Seminary for proper disposal.

The Holy See has also recently approved a new translation of the prayers for the blessing of Holy Oils. The updated version of these prayers must be used as of Ash Wednesday this year. While most parishes will not need a copy of the *Order of Blessing the Oil of Catechumens and of the Sick and of Consecrating the Chrism*, those interested in purchasing this book may do so from the [USCCB's online bookstore](#).



Day of Inspiration for Parish Musicians - March 9

On Saturday, March 9, from 10:00am - 3:00pm, music directors, adult choir members, instrumentalists, and others involved in parish music ministry are invited to join Dr. Jennifer Pascual, director of music and organist at Saint Patrick's Cathedral, for a day of prayer, reflection, and music-making with fellow parish musicians from around the Archdiocese. The day will take place at Marymount Convent in Tarrytown and include the celebration of Solemn Morning Prayer,

conferences given by Dr. Pascual, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, opportunities to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and time for fellowship. The registration fee is \$25 and includes lunch. Attendees are invited to register at the [Liturgy Office website](#).

Chant Workshop in Wappingers Falls - April 27

On April 27, from 1:30 - 3:30pm, Saint Mary's Church in Wappingers Falls will be hosting a workshop entitled "Introduction to Chant: Spirituality, History, and the Basics of Reading." The workshop is sponsored by the Office of Liturgy and will be led by Dr. Jennifer Donelson, D.M.A. Dr. Donelson is a nationally recognized expert in Gregorian Chant, and the Director and Associate Professor of Sacred Music at Saint Joseph's Seminary. The cost of the workshop is \$15.

This presentation is a wonderful opportunity for parish musicians and others in the northern counties of the Archdiocese to learn more about the Church's beautiful history and practice of sung prayer. Traditional chants in both English and Latin will be introduced. Participants may register for this workshop at the [Liturgy Office website](#).



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