



Diocese of
OWENSBORO

GUIDELINES FOR HOLY WEEK AND TRIDUUM LITURGIES | 2021

PALM SUNDAY

Entrance and Blessing of Palms

- The First Form (The Procession) is not to be used.
- The Second Form (Solemn Entrance) is preferred and may be used in parishes that can safely accommodate it. Otherwise, the Third Form (Simple Entrance) is used.
 - The Second Form (Solemn Entrance): Palm branches are *not* distributed to the faithful as they arrive. They may pick up their blessed palms while exiting the church. The faithful are seated in the body of the church. The priest and any other ministers begin the Solemn Entrance (Antiphon, blessing of the branches, proclamation of the Gospel of the Lord's entrance) from inside the church— at the back of church or some other location visible to the faithful. The procession to the sanctuary follows, and Mass continues with the Collect.
 - The Third Form (Simple Entrance): Mass begins with the Entrance Antiphon or other suitable song, while the priest proceeds to the altar. The Sign of the Cross, greeting, and usual Introductory Rites follow. The blessing of palms and proclamation of the Gospel of the Lord's entrance are omitted. Palms may be blessed before Mass, and available to the faithful to pick up while exiting the church.
- Blessed palms (whether blessed during the Solemn Entrance or outside of Mass) may be distributed to the faithful as sacramentals for use in the home. Great care should be taken to do this both safely and reverently. For example, blessed palm could be delivered to the homebound using gloves and/or plastic sheaths. Blessed palm branches could be available for pickup at the parish, but these should not be left outdoors in the elements and unattended.

Reading of the Passion

- The part of the "crowd" for the reading of the Passion is to be given to one person to read, rather than the entire congregation.
- It is optional to divide the reading into many different roles; it may all be read by the Priest and a lector, or the Priest alone.

HOLY THURSDAY

- As a reminder, it is only permitted to celebrate one Mass of the Lord's Supper, which is to take place in the evening.

Presentation of the Oils

- This is an optional rite and not mandatory. It may take place at a different Mass.

- The oils may be carried in procession by a family in the same household. Rather than handing the oils to the priest, consider alternatives that do not require touch, such as being placed in a basket on a small stand in front of the priest.

Washing of Feet

- The *Mandatum* ritual—washing of feet—is not to take place this year due to COVID-19. It should be noted that this rite is always optional (RM, no. 10). See the attached free resource from Liturgical Press, *Holy Week at Home*, which includes a washing of feet ritual for families.

Transfer of the Blessed Sacrament

- The Transfer of the Holy Eucharist to a place of repose is optional this year.
- If choosing to omit a place of repose, a procession around the inside of the church by the ministers of the Mass may be done, ending with placing the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle and inviting the faithful to stay for a time in adoration.
- If choosing to process to a place of repose, only the ministers of the Mass may take part in the procession.
- The altar is stripped after the celebration. Crosses are removed or veiled (RM).

GOOD FRIDAY

- Addition to Solemn Intercessions:
XI. **For an end to the pandemic**

Let us pray, dearly beloved, for a swift end
to the coronavirus pandemic that afflicts our world,
that our God and Father will heal the sick,
strengthen those who care for them,
and help us all to persevere in faith.

Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:

Almighty and merciful God,
source of all life, health and healing,
look with compassion on our world, brought low by disease;
protect us in the midst of the grave challenges that assail us
and in your fatherly providence
grant recovery to the stricken,
strength to those who care for them,
and success to those working to eradicate this scourge.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

- Either the first or second form of the showing of the Cross may be used. Before being invited to come forward, all should be reminded to neither touch nor kiss the Cross, they may bow or genuflect.
- Consider holding cross at top of step into the sanctuary so people don't forget and automatically touch or kiss the cross.

- The Eucharist for Communion may be taken from the tabernacle or place of repose.

EASTER VIGIL

Time

- The *Roman Missal* states: “The entire celebration of the Easter Vigil must take place during the night, so that it begins after nightfall and ends before daybreak on the Sunday” (no. 3, Easter Vigil in the Holy Night). No Mass may precede the Easter Vigil. Since the end of civil twilight (nightfall) will occur at 7:45 p.m. Central Daylight Time, the Easter Vigil Liturgy may not begin before 8:00 p.m. Central Daylight Time.

The Blessing of the Fire and Preparation of the Paschal Candle

- Due to social distancing requirements, the congregation may not crowd around the Easter fire. The faithful are to already be seated in the pews, while the blessing and preparation are to take place in either of two ways:
 - Inside as stated in no. 13 in the First Part of the Easter Vigil in the *Roman Missal*.
 - If inside, a smokeless fire may be used for the Blessing of the Fire or it may be simplified by blessing the flame of a separate (not Paschal) candle.
 - Outside with only the ministers of the Mass, provided that some of the faithful would be able to see from their seats inside (i.e., keeping the doors open if weather permits). This will greatly depend upon the layout of each parish.
- Consider ways to lessen contact by placing candles in the available seats before the congregation arrives, have gloved ushers hand them out on arrival, or have spaced candles available to pick up on arrival. The faithful should be asked to take their candles with them rather than leaving them in the pew.

Baptismal Liturgy

- You may choose to only have the Renewal of Baptismal Promises if there are no Elect or Candidates.
- If there are none to be baptized, it is still permitted to bless water in the font, provided it is emptied after Mass and not available for the faithful to bless themselves with.
- The sprinkling rite at the end of the Renewal of Baptismal Promises is encouraged.

Initiation Rituals

- For the Baptism of those entering the Church, please keep in mind that new water is to be used for each person. Baptismal pools should not be used this year. A separate towel must be used for each person.
- When there are multiple people being baptized and confirmed, for Confirmation and pre-baptismal anointing, wash hands with warm soapy water and dry in between each anointing.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

USCCB Resources for Lent

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/lent/index.cfm>

USCCB Resources for the Paschal Triduum

- 18 Questions on the Paschal Triduum
<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/triduum/questions-and-answers.cfm>
- The Holy Thursday Mandatum
<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/triduum/holy-thursday-mandatum.cfm>
- The Roman Missal and the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper
<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/triduum/roman-missal-and-the-evening-mass-of-the-lords-supper.cfm>
- The Roman Missal and the Good Friday Liturgy
<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/triduum/roman-missal-and-the-goodfriday-liturgy.cfm>
- The Roman Missal and the Easter Vigil
<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/triduum/roman-missal-and-the-eastervigil.cfm>
- *Paschale Solemnitatis*: CDWDS Circular Letter Concerning the Preparation and Celebration of the Easter Feasts
<http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Calendar/Seasons/Documents/Paschale-Solemnitatis.pdf>

TEXT FOR THE RECEPTION OF THE HOLY OILS IN THE PARISH

The Presenter of the Oil of the Sick announces:

The Oil of the Sick.

The Priest says:

May the sick who are anointed with this oil experience the compassion of Christ and his saving love, in body and soul.

The people may respond:

Blessed be God for ever.

The Presenter of the Oil of Catechumens announces:

The Oil of Catechumens.

The Priest says:

Through anointing with this oil, may our catechumens who are preparing to receive the saving waters of Baptism be strengthened by Christ to resist the power of Satan and reject evil in all its forms.

The people may respond:

Blessed be God for ever.

The Presenter of the Holy Chrism announces:

The holy Chrism.

The Priest says:

Through anointing with this perfumed Chrism may children and adults, who are baptized and confirmed, and Priests, who are ordained, experience the gracious gift of the Holy Spirit.

The people may respond:

Blessed be God for ever.