

Diocese of Kalamazoo

HOLY WEEK DIRECTIVES 2020

During the time of the COVID-19 Pandemic

After reflection of the Decrees of the Congregation for Divine Worship (Prot. 153/20), and in consultation with medical experts, the following directives are given for the Holy Week and Easter Celebrations:

GENERAL INDICATIONS

- The **Ritual** for each of the Holy Days is to be followed as closely as possible, employing the adaptations below for each Day, as indicated.
- For **Collaborative Parishes during the Triduum**, each parish within them may have the Liturgies of Holy Thursday and Good Friday, as long as there is a priest available to celebrate. Otherwise, the pastor is to have only one celebration of these Liturgies at one of the parishes, according to his prudent, pastoral judgment. In such cases, the most central parish would seem to be the most practical choice. For the Easter Vigil, there is to be only one celebration within each Collaborative.
- The **Blessed Sacrament** is to be kept in the Tabernacle throughout the Sacred Triduum; suitable times for prayer are to be made available.
- The **Sacraments of Penance and Anointing of the Sick** are to be made available to the faithful, according to the provisions already in force.
- The **Sign of Peace** is to be omitted.
- The use of **live broadcast** (not recorded) of liturgies is encouraged, if helpful.
- Priests and Deacons are reminded to “dedicate an **adequate time to prayer**, giving importance above all to the *Liturgy of the Hours*”.

PALM SUNDAY

- **Mass for Palm Sunday** is to take place, observing the restrictions previously in place
- The **Blessing of Palms** is to take place using the Third Form in parish churches. However, the distribution of Blessed Palms is NOT to take place; they are to be stored safely and appropriately. For the sake of equity around the Diocese, they are not to be made available until such time as the restrictions are lifted and the public celebration of the Mass resumes.

- The **Chrism Mass** will take place as scheduled in the Cathedral Church; however, the Presbyterate will not be gathering together at this time. They are strongly urged to join in the celebration via live-streaming.
- The **Holy Oils** will be blessed, as usual, during the Chrism Mass. They will be distributed at a special Mass that will be arranged once the restrictions for the pandemic are lifted. Priests will renew their Ordination Promises together and the new Holy Oils will be distributed at this Mass
- All priests are to **maintain the Holy Oils that were blessed last year** for use during this time and until the new Holy Oils are distributed.

HOLY THURSDAY

- The **Washing of Feet** and the **Procession with the Blessed Sacrament** are to be omitted.
- The **Blessed Sacrament** is to be kept in the Tabernacle and suitable times made available for private prayer.
- All priests have been granted the **faculty to celebrate Mass** in a suitable place without the presence of the people on this day.
- An adequate number of **Hosts should be reserved** for the Good Friday Liturgy.

GOOD FRIDAY

- The reading of **the Passion** may take place as usual.
- For the **Universal Prayer**, the Holy Father has asked that an additional intercession be added, following “For Those in Tribulation”:

XI. For Those Suffering from the Current Pandemic.

Deacon (or lay minister): Let us pray, dearly beloved, to God the Almighty Father, by the coronavirus pandemic, the He may extend His hand in mercy to all those affected

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 build your Kingdom. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

- For the **Adoration of the Cross**, only the celebrant is to kiss the Cross.

HOLY SATURDAY

- The **Easter Vigil** is to be celebrated only in the Cathedral and parish churches, no earlier than 9:00pm. Within Collaboratives, the Easter Vigil is to be celebrated in only one of the churches, with all of the Paschal Candles from each of the parishes to be blessed and lit together at the one Solemn Liturgy.
- The **preparation and lighting of the fire** “The Solemn Beginning of the Vigil” or *Lucinarium*, as well as the **procession**, are omitted. The **Paschal Candle(s)** [cf. instructions for Collaboratives] is (are) to be simply lit, and the **Easter Proclamation** (*Exultet*) is then proclaimed; the **Liturgy of the Word** follows.
- The **Baptismal Liturgy** is to be omitted, and only the “Renewal of Baptismal Promises” maintained (cf. *Missale Romanum*, p. 371, n.55)
- The **Rites of Christian Initiation** are to be delayed until Pentecost Sunday, if possible. However, if for a serious reason, and using prudential judgment, the pastor determines that the Rites should be celebrated for individual cases at the Vigil or another Sunday during the Easter Season, he may do so, provided the restriction of not more than ten (10) people may gather at once, and all health and safety precautions are strictly employed.
- The **Liturgy of the Eucharist** is celebrated as usual.
- Those with absolutely no possibility of uniting themselves to the Paschal Vigil are to pray the Office of Reading for Easter Sunday in the *Liturgy of the Hours*.

EASTER SUNDAY

- The celebration of **Easter Mass(es)**, as well as those within the **Octave of Easter**, including **Divine Mercy Sunday**, should be done according to the protocols currently in place.

OTHER CELEBRATIONS

- Celebrations of the **Sacrament of Marriage**, subsequent to reception into the Church, are to either be delayed or to take place according to the protocols already in place.
- Expressions of **popular piety and processions** that normally occur during Holy Week should be postponed until later in the year.

Effective Date: March 27, 2020

