



Holy Week / Triduum Guidelines 2021

Palm Sunday

- Either the solemn entrance or simple entrance should be chosen for the beginning of Mass.
- Palms may be distributed.

Holy Thursday

- The washing of the feet is to be omitted.
- If celebrated outdoors, the liturgy may be held before it is evening.
- For the transfer of the Blessed Sacrament to the place of repose, careful planning will be needed to ensure appropriate distancing if the faithful participate in the procession. The place of repose needs to be sizeable enough to accommodate those who wish to pray. The period of solemn Adoration may continue until midnight (though a parish may choose to end it earlier), but the number of people present and spacing will need to be managed.

Good Friday

- The Adoration of the Cross should be done in the general manner, where the celebrant alone kisses the Cross and then holds it up for the faithful to adore in silence. Where desired, provision may be made for individuals to adore the Cross following the service, but they should do so with a genuflection or bow, without touching or kissing the Cross.
- A special petition should be included in the proper place in the Solemn Intercessions:

XI. Let us pray also for

all those who suffer the consequences of the current pandemic, that God the Father may grant health to the sick, strength to those who care for them, comfort to families and salvation to all the victims who have died.

Almighty ever-living God, only support of our human weakness, look with compassion upon the sorrowful condition of your children who suffer because of this pandemic; relieve the pain of the sick, give strength to those who care for them, welcome into your peace those who have died and, throughout this time of tribulation, grant that we may all find comfort in your merciful love. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

XI. Oremos, queridos hermanos, por un fin rápido a la pandemia del coronavirus que aflige nuestro mundo, que Dios nuestro Padre sane a los enfermos, fortalezca a quienes los cuidan, y nos ayude a todos a perseverar en la fe.

Luego el sacerdote dice: Dios todopoderoso y misericordioso Fuente de toda vida, salud, y sanación, Mira, con compasión, a nuestro mundo abatido por la enfermedad; Protégenos en medio de los graves desafíos que nos asaltan Y en tu providencia paterna Concédeles recuperación a los afectados, Fortaleza para quienes los cuidan, Y éxito para quienes trabajan a erradicar este flagelo. Por Cristo, nuestro Señor.

Easter Vigil

- The time for the Easter Vigil should be carefully considered. On the one hand, the normal rubric, which is stated quite strongly, is that it should not begin until after dark to preserve the character of a vigil. On the other hand, the current circumstances, suggest that everything possible be done to allow for greater participation by the faithful, especially for parishes where the Vigil may need to be held entirely outdoors to allow for a sizeable group. The celebration of the Vigil may need to begin even before sundown, for example at 5:00 or 5:30pm. Considering these principles, each pastor should make an appropriate decision. Under normal circumstances, the earliest start time this year would have been 8:15pm. Starting earlier in this way is only permitted this year because of the serious pastoral circumstances facing us.
- Due to the difficulty of managing the procession following the blessing of the fire, only the ministers and those who are being initiated (with perhaps their godparent/s) should be present for the blessing of the new fire when the rest of the Vigil takes place indoors.
- For the sake of brevity, due to the 'serious pastoral circumstances,' the number of readings from the Old Testament may be reduced. At least three readings and their psalms should be chosen. Chapter 14 of Exodus and its accompanying canticle are never omitted (RM, Easter Vigil, 21).
- For indoor gatherings the use of individual handheld candles by the ministers and faithful at the beginning and during the renewal of baptismal promises is not permitted, since this would require people to remove their masks and blow forcefully when it is time to extinguish them.
- Baptism should occur by pouring, not immersion. Because of the brief nature of the interaction, it is not necessary for the elect to wear a face mask at the moment of baptism (it may get wet and wet masks are ineffective).
- The sprinkling rite may take place as normal.
- Priests may use a cotton ball/swab in administering Confirmation.
 - As a routine reminder, priests generally need delegation to confirm an already-baptized Catholic. The faculty to confirm is given by the law itself when

celebrating the baptism of those 7 and older and upon receiving a baptized Christian into full Communion.