



LITURGICAL NOTES

Upcoming Dates

- **March 14: “The Light Is On for You”** – The Sacrament of Penance is scheduled to be made available in all parishes of the diocese on Tuesday, March 14, from 6:00-8:00 PM. Find additional information and parish resources here: <http://www.diocesefwsb.org/light>
- **Solemnity of Saint Joseph** – Since March 19 coincides with the Third Sunday of Lent this year, the observance of the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is transferred to Monday, March 20.
- **March 25:** On the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, please remind the faithful to genuflect during the Creed at the words, “and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.” As at Christmas, we pay homage to the Incarnation by symbolically touching ourselves to the ground, just as the Son of God came down among us as man.
- **Easter Vigil Start Time:** On Saturday, April 15, shortly before 9:00 PM is the earliest appropriate Vigil start time in the Diocese. True darkness—not just sunset—is essential to the nature of the Vigil. The 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 Sunday.”

Liturgical Updates and Reminders

- ◆ **Lectionary Supplement:** Per the USCCB Secretariat of Divine Worship, a *Lectionary for Mass Supplement* will be available for purchase on April 1, 2017, and then can be used immediately. This supplement will incorporate a number of additions and corrections that have been compiled since the current Lectionary was published fifteen years ago, including updates within the Proper of Saints, readings for Masses that were new with the *Roman Missal*, and providing all the optional readings for the extended form of the Pentecost Vigil Mass.

The supplement can be purchased from three liturgical publishers: Catholic Book Publishing, Liturgical Press, and Liturgy Training Publications. **All can be pre-ordered now through Cathedral Books & Gifts for a 20% discount. Please call 260-399-1442 for details.**

- ◆ **New Confirmation Prayer:** As was communicated last summer, a new translation of the *Order of Confirmation* has taken effect. Since Confirmation will be conferred on many catechumens and candidates for full communion this spring, a question arises regarding which translation of the Confirmation prayers priests should use within the context of the RCIA. Since the RCIA ritual book will not be updated for several years, the USCCB Committee on Divine Worship has affirmed that continuing to use the Confirmation prayer wording found there (and also in *Pastoral Care of the Sick*) remains valid and licit until it is republished with the new wording.

That said, it would be permissible and even laudable to incorporate the new translation of the prayer at the laying on of hands. Bishop Rhoades encourages this practice if at all possible. That prayer appears four times in the U.S. edition of the RCIA: initiation of catechumens (no. 234), initiation of children of catechetical age (no. 325), reception of baptized Christians into full communion with the Catholic Church (no. 493, and referenced at no. 502), and the combined rite of initiation of catechumens and reception of baptized Christians (no. 590).

For those situations, the new prayer at the laying on of hands may be printed and inserted. Download it at: <http://www.diocesefwsb.org/Data/Accounts/Files/1/newconfprayer.pdf>

Reminders for Lent, Holy Week, & Easter

- ◆ **Faculties for Conferring Confirmation:** While planning the Sacraments of Initiation this spring, please keep in mind that priests in this diocese do not possess faculties to confirm someone who is already a baptized Catholic. An attempt to do so would be an invalid Confirmation. The only exceptions involve someone who had apostatized from the faith, or someone who, through no personal fault, was instructed in or adhered to a non-Catholic religion. Please consult the Priestly Faculties handbook for additional details.
- ◆ **Emptying Fonts:** Holy water fonts should **not** be drained nor replaced with any other substance during Lent. The season of penance benefits greatly from access to the sacramental that reminds us of baptism. Holy water fonts should only be emptied of water during the Triduum—from after the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday until being refilled with water blessed at the Vigil.
- ◆ **Baptisms during Lent:** Lent is indeed a time of preparation for initiation, with an eye towards Easter baptisms. However, nothing prohibits infants from being baptized during Lent, and delaying until Easter is not always reasonable. The *Code of Canon Law* #867 states that “parents are obliged to take care that infants are baptized in the first few weeks.” The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1250 says: “The Church and the parents would deny a child the priceless grace of becoming a child of God were they not to confer Baptism shortly after birth.”
- ◆ **Candidates Not Dismissed at Mass:** Unlike catechumens, the Rites do not call for candidates to be dismissed prior to the Liturgy of the Eucharist during their preparation for full initiation (RCIA 433, 545, 560), on account of their existing baptism. Of course, they still do not receive Holy Communion until their initiation is complete.
- ◆ **Veiling of Crosses & Images:** Crosses in the church may be covered from the end of the Mass for Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent (April 1) until the end of the celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday. Images in the church may be covered from the end of the Mass for Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent (April 1) until the beginning of the Vigil. However, Stations of the Cross and stained-glass images should not be veiled. The USCCB describes the practice of veiling as a sort of fasting from sacred images, whereby the fasting culminates in a profound sense of veneration on Good Friday and in a renewed sense of awe at paschal glory on Easter.
- ◆ **The Reading of the Passion:** Changes to the flow and structure of the Passion Gospel reading on Palm Sunday and Good Friday are to be avoided. The *Circular Letter Concerning the Preparation and Celebration of the Easter Feasts* (Congregation for Divine Worship, 1988) states in #33: “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.” While certain sung settings of the Passion itself may be appropriate, interjecting hymn texts or otherwise dividing/altering the reading is not.
- ◆ **Holy Thursday:** Bells are rung during the *Gloria* at the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday. Afterwards, the bells should remain silent until the *Gloria* at the Easter Vigil.

As decreed by the Congregation for Divine Worship last January, the optional footwashing 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.”

When this rite is used, the priest still must carry out the actual washing of feet himself, as described in the Roman Missal.

Notes on Lent, Holy Week, and Easter (Continued)

- ◆ **Good Friday:** During the veneration of the cross, any cross containing a relic of the True Cross would be ideal, if a parish is fortunate enough to have one. Otherwise, using a crucifix is the most fitting icon of what we commemorate that day, because of the attached corpus.
- ◆ **Music During Lent and the Triduum** – No. 313 of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* states: “In Lent the playing of the organ and musical instruments is allowed only in order to support the singing.” The idea is to foster a sort of austerity appropriate to the season. There is also a tradition that from after the *Gloria* on Holy Thursday until the *Gloria* at the Easter Vigil no instrumentation is used at all. That is a fitting practice to observe whenever feasible.
- ◆ **Sacraments During the Triduum** – “Throughout the Sacred Paschal Triduum, it is important to emphasize that the Sacraments of Penance and the Anointing of the Sick may continue to be celebrated (see rubrics for Good Friday, no. 1). Holy Communion may be given to the sick and homebound immediately after the liturgies of Holy Thursday and Good Friday, and only as viaticum to the dying on Holy Saturday” - USCCB Newsletter, May 2011.
- ◆ **Readings at the Easter Vigil** – The Missal stipulates that “at least three” Old Testament readings must be read, and only “where more serious pastoral circumstances demand it” (Easter Vigil rubric no. 21). When using only three Old Testament readings, they should be “both from the Law and the Prophets, and their respective Responsorial Psalms should be sung. Never, moreover, should the reading of chapter 14 of Exodus with its canticle be omitted” (no. 21).
- ◆ **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. In any event, the Penitential Act still takes place as usual” - USCCB Newsletter, May 2011.
- ◆ **Extended Form of the Vigil Mass for Pentecost in the Roman Missal** – The Vigil Mass for Pentecost may be celebrated with an extended Liturgy of the Word, modeled after the extended Liturgy of the Word employed at the Easter Vigil. The readings for this will be included in the new *Lectionary for Mass Supplement*, detailed on the first page of this newsletter.
- ◆ **The Sequences:** The prescribed Sequences must be used at Mass before the Alleluia on Easter Sunday and on Pentecost Day (GIRM #64). The Easter Sequence is *Victimae Paschali Laudes* (“Christians, to the Paschal Victim...” in the Lectionary) and may also be used during Masses throughout the Easter Octave. The Pentecost Sunday (June 4) Sequence is *Veni Sancte Spiritus*.
The Gregorian chant for the *Victimae* is ancient, beautiful, and not very difficult. Keep in mind that sequences may be sung by the choir alone (*Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship*, 166).
- ◆ **“Double Alleluia”:** The melismatic “double Alleluia” is prescribed for the dismissal in the Easter Octave and on Pentecost. It is not used on other days in the Easter Season or the rest of the year.
- ◆ **Disposal of Old Oils and Paschal Candles:**
A simple yet reverent way to dispose of old remaining holy oils or paschal candles is to have them burned in the pre-Easter Vigil fire.

Notre Dame Center for Liturgy Summer Symposia

In summer 2017, the McGrath Institute for Church Life’s Center for Liturgy will host three different symposia. June 19-23 is Liturgy and Life: Encountering Jesus Christ in the Bible and the Liturgy. June 26-30 is Catechesis of the Good Shepherd: The Senses of Scripture. And July 17-21 is ND Vision for Liturgical Music Ministers: The Word, Music, and the Saint John’s Bible. Registration is available via <https://liturgy.nd.edu/events/summerliturgy/>