

GUIDELINES FOR HOLY WEEK & THE TRIDUUM DURING THE SUSPENSION OF MASSES IN PUBLIC



Liturgical celebrations with the physical participation of the faithful will continue to be suspended in the Diocese of Calgary indefinitely. Therefore, the celebrations of Holy Week, especially those of the Paschal Triduum, will be celebrated in accordance with the decree issued on March 19, 2020 by the Congregation of Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments, In Time of Covid-19, Prot. N. 153/20 (attached) and the following diocesan guidelines.

Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020 – 10:00 am Mass by Bishop McGrattan, Cathedral

When celebrating Mass for the intentions of the people, pastors may bless the palms. However, due to the difficulty of safely distributing them to the faithful, palms should be burned and the ashes saved for Ash Wednesday 2021.

Chrism Mass, Thursday, April 9, 2020 – 10:00 am Mass by Bishop McGrattan, Cathedral

The Bishop will celebrate the Chrism Mass privately with the Vicars General, the Deans, assisting Deacons and Seminarians who will serve. The Mass will be live-streamed at www.calgarydiocese.ca. The Holy Oils will be blessed but will be made available to parishes at a later date.

Once public Masses resume, a Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated by the Bishop with all the priests concelebrating and renewing their Priestly Promises. The Holy Oils which had been blessed will be brought in procession during the Mass and will be distributed to the parishes.

Paschal Triduum

The following Masses and services will be celebrated by Bishop McGrattan in the Cathedral and will also be live-streamed at www.calgarydiocese.ca.

Holy Thursday, April 9 – 7:00 pm Mass
Good Friday, April 10 – 3:00 pm Service
Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 11 – 9:30 pm Mass
Easter Sunday, April 12 – 10:00 am Mass

General Instructions for All Liturgies

- In the Cathedral and parish churches the Bishop and parish priest(s) celebrate the liturgies of the Triduum without the physical participation of the faithful
- Priests will follow the direction in the GIRM for the Celebration of *Mass at Which Only One Minister Participates* nos. 252 – 272
 - The participating minister must either be a deacon or another priest so as to avoid all exclusivity and favouritism among the faithful
 - Should no priest or deacon be available to assist, the priest should offer the service alone, in which case, the greetings, instructions, and blessing at the end of Mass are omitted (no. 254)
- Apart from the modifications indicated below, celebrants should follow the instructions in the Ordo and Roman Missal for each celebration as usual
- All safety measures already in place for concelebration, social distancing, and sanitization should be maintained for the safety of the priest and minister
- The faithful should be informed of the times of the celebration so that they can prayerfully unite themselves in their homes
- Bishop McGrattan will celebrate the liturgies of Holy Week at St. Mary's Cathedral and these will be live-streamed
- Resources will be provided to support family and personal prayer
- Live-streaming of Holy Week liturgies for ethnic, linguistic and oriental rite communities may be made available.

Holy Thursday

In the Cathedral and parish churches, the Bishop and the priest(s) of the parishes can celebrate the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper without the physical participation of the faithful.

- The faculty to celebrate Mass on this day in a suitable place, without the people, is granted in an exceptional manner to all priests
- Washing of the Feet: omitted
- Procession with the Blessed Sacrament: omitted
- The Blessed Sacrament is to be kept in the tabernacle
- Only those who do not participate in the Mass of the Lord's Supper should pray Evening Prayer (Ordo p. 196)

Good Friday

In the Cathedral and parish churches, the Bishop and parish priest(s) will celebrate the Passion of the Lord without the physical participation of the faithful

- For health reasons, the priest(s) and minister should venerate the Cross with a genuflection or profound bow rather than by touching or kissing it

- A special intention is added to the Universal Prayer for the sick, the dead, for those who feel lost or dismayed. See Roman Missal p. 296 no. 13 “In a situation of grave public need, the Diocesan Bishop may permit or order the addition of a special intention.” Following the prescribed Solemn Intercessions, please add this prayer For the Afflicted in the Time of Pandemic:

Let us pray for the sick and the dead
and for all who feel lost or dismayed in this time of global pandemic,
that they may find relief through our Lord’s loving mercy.

Almighty ever-living God,
our refuge in trials, our strength in sickness, our comfort in sorrow,
spare your people, we pray,
that, though greatly afflicted at present,
they may always trust without hesitation
in your fatherly providence.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

- Only those who do not participate in the liturgy should celebrate Evening Prayer (Ordo p. 198)

Easter Sunday

The Easter Vigil

In the Cathedral and parish churches, the Bishop and the priest(s) of the parishes can celebrate the Easter Vigil without the physical participation of the faithful.

Mass

- As usual, the entire celebration does not start before nightfall, which in the Diocese of Calgary is not before 9:30pm
- The celebration of Mass alone apart from the Vigil Service is forbidden
- The Solemn Beginning of the Vigil or Lucernarium is modified omitting the preparation and lighting of the fire and the procession. The liturgy thus begins in this manner:
 - The Paschal Candle is lit
 - The Easter Proclamation (Exsultet) is said or sung
- The Liturgy of the Word then takes place (Ordo notes 5 and 6 on pp. 200-201)
 - Nine readings are provided, all of which should be read whenever this can be done, so that the character of the Vigil, which demands an extended period of time, may be preserved.
 - When serious pastoral circumstances demand it, the number of readings from the Old Testament may be reduced, bearing in mind that the reading of the Word of God is a fundamental part of this Easter Vigil.
 - When the number of readings is reduced, at least three should be read from the Old Testament (both from the Law and from the Prophets), always including the reading of chapter 14 of Exodus
 - In place of the Responsorial Psalm, a period of sacred silence may be observed

- The Baptismal Liturgy consists only of the Renewal of Baptismal Promises *Roman Missal* pp. 361-362 (no. 55).
- The Liturgy of the Eucharist follows as usual

Office

- Only those who do not celebrate the Easter Vigil pray night prayer from Sunday after Evening Prayer II
- The clergy who do not celebrate the Easter Vigil should pray the Office of the Readings for Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday

Please celebrate Easter Sunday for the intentions of the people in the same manner you have been celebrating other Sundays in the time when Masses with the faithful are suspended.

Christian Initiation in the Diocese of Calgary

The rites of initiation normally celebrated on the Easter Vigil along with the Lenten initiation rites will be rescheduled and celebrated with modifications in accordance with the instructions from the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* and the Code of Canon Law on the Scrutinies and the Sacraments of Initiation 'in extraordinary circumstances' provided by the CCCB (attached)

As of March 27, 2020, Bishop McGrattan has not decided upon the timetable as it is dependent on the unfolding situation dealing with COVID-19 and the safety measures put in place by the Alberta Government. Information will be forthcoming concerning the official timeline once it is determined.

Scrutinies, Presentations, and Preparation Rites

- The Bishop dispenses the elect from the First Scrutiny (if not already celebrated) and from the Second Scrutiny (RCIA 20)
- The priest will present the Creed to the elect on a weekday liturgy prior to the celebration of the Third Scrutiny (RCIA 145)
- The elect will undergo the Third Scrutiny either on the chosen Sunday Mass (if not a solemnity) or at a weekday Mass following that Sunday (RCIA 30)
- The priest will present the Our Father to the elect as part of the Preparation Rites on the day of the initiation (RCIA 172)
- Details concerning these rites and any related health precautions that need to be taken will be provided once a date is chosen

Baptism of Adults

Once public liturgical celebrations may resume, the Bishop will select a date on which parishes may celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation and provide a schedule for celebrating the preparatory rites with appropriate intervals (RCIA 26-30).

Danger of Death

Should the health of an inquirer, catechumen or elect be jeopardized, *Christian Initiation of a Person in Danger of Death* is found in Part II, Chapter 3 of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (pages 207-221). *Christian Initiation of the Dying* is found in the CCCB publication, *Pastoral Care* (© 1983), pages 231-243.

Candidates – Concerning the Baptized

Once public liturgical services resume, the rite should be celebrated at a Sunday (preferred) or weekday Mass. No greater burden than necessary should be placed upon the Candidate (RCIA 387).