



Worship Office

Archdiocese of Newark

Liturgical Directives Ash Wednesday and Holy Week 2022

Although the infection rate and case numbers for COVID-19 are declining in the Archdiocese of Newark, the following directives are to be observed for the safety of all during the pandemic recovery:

Ash Wednesday

After the homily, the ashes are blessed by the priest according to the *Roman Missal*. The formula “Repent, and believe in the Gospel”, or “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return” may be said once over all in general or individually when distributing the ashes. The minister should wear a mask when distributing ashes. To avoid touching each person, the minister should either sprinkle the ashes on the head or sign the ashes on the forehead with an instrument (e.g. cotton swab or cotton ball, etc.).

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

The Commemoration of the Lord’s Entrance into Jerusalem may be celebrated with any of the three forms as found in the *Roman Missal*. Consideration should be given to the third form, the simple entrance, to limit contact if the parish is unable to gather outside for the first form.

Holy Thursday – Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper

Only one Mass is to be celebrated on Holy Thursday. It is to be celebrated in the evening according to the *Roman Missal*. Priests wishing to participate in the Eucharist should concelebrate. The Washing of Feet is to be omitted this year. At the end of the Mass, the lengthy procession is omitted and the Blessed Sacrament is placed in the tabernacle.

Good Friday – The Celebration of the Passion of the Lord

The Adoration of the Holy Cross should be handled with great care. The “First Form” for “The Showing of the Holy Cross” (see *Roman Missal*) should be considered for use since the cross does not enter from the door of the church, eliminating a procession in the midst of the assembly. If the assembly is to come forward, they should not kiss or make contact with the Cross at all. They should show reverence for the Cross with a genuflection, bow, etc.

“If, because of the large number of people it is not possible for all to approach individually, the Priest, after some of the clergy and faithful have adored, takes the Cross and, standing in the middle before the altar, invites the people in a few words to adore the Holy Cross and afterwards holds the Cross elevated higher for a brief time, for the faithful to adore in silence.” (*Roman Missal*, Good Friday, no. 19).

A sample text inviting the people to adore the Holy Cross is attached.

The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

On Holy Saturday, no Masses are permitted prior to the Easter Vigil. There is to be only one celebration of the Easter Vigil which should not begin before 8:15pm. Following the Easter Vigil, Easter Masses may be celebrated, even on Saturday Evening; however, those rites unique to the Easter Vigil may not be repeated at other Masses.

The Solemn Beginning of the Vigil or Lucernarium should take place outdoors according to the *Roman Missal* (The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night, no. 8ff).

The baptismal font should be filled with water and blessed at the Easter Vigil. If there are catechumens, separate pitchers of water should be included in the blessing and used for each catechumen. Baptism should take place by infusion, that is, the pouring of water, not by immersion.

Anointing with holy oils should be practiced with a cotton ball or other instrument or by purifying the minister’s thumb before each anointing.

Live-Streaming

The liturgies of Holy Week, indeed all liturgies, must be celebrated at their proper times and on their proper days. Live-streaming is permitted and to be encouraged. It is forbidden to prerecord any of the liturgies, especially those of Holy Week, to air on another day. They are to be streamed or recorded only from the parish’s live celebration of the liturgies. They may be posted online after they have taken place for later viewing.

Confirmation

In 2022, priests are **not** automatically given delegation to confirm baptized children and adults. Pastors, administrators and chaplains need to contact a Bishop according to the usual process to arrange for the confirmation of children. Note:

- The celebrant at the Easter Vigil **must** baptize **and** confirm all catechumens (unbaptized persons age seven or older, see RCIA no. 218ff). All of the sacraments of initiation must be celebrated for each of the catechumens. Splitting the sacraments is forbidden. No delegation is required.

- Any priest may preside at the Reception of Baptized Christians into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church (RCIA no. 473ff) and **must** confirm. No delegation is required.
- Any baptized Catholic adult (18+) may be confirmed by a **pastor, administrator** or **chaplain** on the Sundays of Easter (Easter Sunday through Pentecost Sunday, inclusive). Delegation **must** be obtained from the regional Bishop for the sacrament to be valid. Delegation will **not** be given to confirm baptized Catholic adults (18+) at the Easter Vigil.

Masks and Social Distancing

Currently it is not required to enforce social distancing during the liturgy. Churches are still welcome to block off pews as local circumstances suggest.

Masks are not required, but are recommended for the unvaccinated, people at high risk and anyone who feels it necessary. Parishes should comply with local requirements regarding masks.

Clergy and ministers in close contact with the faithful (baptizing, anointing, distributing Holy Communion, imposing ashes, etc.) should consider wearing a mask.

Sample Invitation for Adoration of the Holy Cross

For use when a large number of people prevents individual adoration
(In accordance with *Roman Missal*, Good Friday, no. 19).

During this time of pandemic,
we are not able to venerate the cross
in the usual way.

Let us take some moments
to adore within the silence of our hearts,
this instrument of our salvation
on which Jesus Christ has shown his love for us
by the pouring out of his blood,
bringing joy to the whole world.

Please kneel.