



## **Holy Week 2020**

March 27, 2020

Dear Fathers and Deacons,

Several questions have arisen regarding Holy Week and its celebration.

1. Holy Oils – permission has been granted by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments for the continuing use of the Holy Oils consecrated and blessed last year. Again, with direction of the Holy See, we are planning to celebrate a Chrism Mass after Easter, when the coronavirus has abated.
2. The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has also advised that the distribution of palms should occur after Easter with its suggestion being Pentecost. With some ingenuity and good planning, I believe this is a viable option.
3. Holy Week

Unless otherwise notified, Holy Week may be celebrated in our Churches without a congregation and only with the necessary ministers present. It is suggested that each ceremony be live streamed or otherwise conveyed through technology. If a parish does not have live stream capacity, parishioners can be informed of services at other parishes that are being live streamed.

The Cathedral of St. Raymond will have the following schedule for Holy Week services which will be live streamed (at <http://www.youtube.com/DioceseofJolietLL>). Please notify your parishioners of this schedule. All are invited to join us.

### **Palm Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 a.m.

### **Holy Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>**

5:00 p.m.

### **Good Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>**

3:00 p.m.

## **Holy Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>**

8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil

## **Easter Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 a.m.

Masses on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week will be live-streamed from the Cathedral at 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

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## **Guidance for Holy Week Services**

Guidance for the celebration of Palm Sunday and the Sacred Triduum delineated by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments follows:

### **Palm Sunday**

- The Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem is to be celebrated within sacred buildings; in Cathedral churches the second form given in the Roman Missal is to be adopted; in parish churches and in other places the third form is to be used.
- The palms should be blessed in their bags and distributed to the parishioners on a Sunday when we can gather for Mass after the present virus crisis passes.
- After the Blessing of the Palms, the Mass continues as normal.

### **Holy Thursday**

- The faculty to celebrate Mass on this day, without the people, is granted in an exceptional manner to all priests.
- The Mass of the Lord's Supper is celebrated in the normal matter, with the Washing of the Feet being omitted.
- At the end of the Mass of the Lord's Supper, procession with the Blessed Sacrament to a place of repose is omitted.
- The Blessed Sacrament is kept in the tabernacle.

The Reception of the Holy Oils will take place at a Sunday Mass following the celebration of the Chrism Mass, which will take place sometime after the end of the virus crisis.

## **Good Friday**

- The faithful should be informed of the time of the celebration so that the community can prayerfully unite themselves from their homes.
- Liturgy of the Word is celebrated as normal.
- In the Universal Prayer, the following intention is to be added for the sick, the dead, and for those who feel lost or dismayed.

### *Extra Intercession*

Let us pray for all who are sick and for all who have died as a result of the Coronavirus, as well as for the safety of healthcare workers, the consolation of those who cannot leave their homes, and for the encouragement of all who feel anxiety, fear or doubt during this health crisis.

### *Prayer*

Almighty, ever-living God,  
who in Christ revealed your healing power on earth,  
watch over all who are suffering as a result of this global pandemic.  
Guide the decisions of all government leaders  
And keep safe those who care for the sick.  
Grant us all the grace to persevere in hope  
as we share in the Cross of Jesus your Son,  
that we may come to know the fullness of peace  
that flows from his Resurrection.  
Through Christ our Lord.

- For the Adoration of the Holy Cross, place a cross in front of the Altar and have a time of quiet adoration.
- The Priest will receive Holy Communion and the faithful will be given time to make a 'spiritual Communion'.
- Conclude with the Prayer after Communion and the Prayer Over the People.

## **Easter Vigil**

- Celebrated only in a Cathedral and parish churches.
- The faithful should be informed of the time of the celebration so that the community can prayerfully unite themselves from their homes.
- The Solemn Beginning of the Vigil, the preparation and lighting of the fire is omitted.
- The Paschal Candle is lit using the normal ritual, procession is omitted and the Easter Proclamation follows.
- Liturgy of the Word then takes place
  - At least three readings should be read: from the Old Testament, both from the Law and from the Prophets, with Chapter 14 of Exodus always read
  - Epistle
  - Gospel
  - Homily

### Easter Vigil (continued)

- Blessing of the Baptismal Water takes place (near the Altar would be a small bowl of water that would be blessed for use after the restrictions of the virus crisis).
- The Renewal of Baptismal Promises is celebrated.
- The Liturgy of the Eucharist follows as normal.

Seminaries, houses of clergy, monasteries and religious communities shall follow the indications of this decree (this comes from the March 25 restating of the original decree).

Those who were to be Initiated at this Easter Vigil will be Initiated at a Sunday Mass after the present virus crisis is cleared.

It is my expectation that the preceding will be the program of Holy Week to be followed in the Diocese of Joliet.

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In closing, I advise you that the ordination of Sam Conforti has been once again postponed and will be rescheduled at a later date.

I also call to mind that our employees continue to be in an active work status. Apart from those considered necessary, they are working from home. If some of them have the time, I suggest they be in contact with parishioners to determine their needs especially the elderly and organize assistance for them such as grocery shopping, etc.

Thank you once again for all that you are doing in these extraordinary circumstances to provide for the spiritual needs of those entrusted to our care. I recognize these adaptations are very difficult, even painful, as they concern the high point of the liturgical year and the foremost expression of the heart of our faith. In light of this, be assured of my continuing, prayerful support of all of you.

Please contact me if I can assist in any way.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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Most Reverend Richard E. Pates  
Apostolic Administrator  
Diocese of Joliet