

2020 Lent/Easter Liturgical Notes

Circular Letter

In 1988 the Congregation for Divine Worship issued a Circular Letter “Concerning the Preparation and Celebration of the Easter Feasts” that includes the periods of Lent, the Sacred Triduum, and Easter season: <https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/library/circular-letter-concerning-preparation-and-celebration-of-easter-feasts-2168>

The heart of the Paschal Mystery lies in the celebration of the Sacred Triduum. A parish that celebrates the Triduum well prepares itself to celebrate the Paschal Mystery better every Sunday throughout the year. Although your preparations are already under way, Parish Liturgy Committees are encouraged to read and discuss this letter for use in 2020 and beyond. Use these questions to direct your discussion:

- Based on the letter, name the three most important liturgical concepts for each of Lent, Holy Week (incl. Triduum), and Easter?
- Identify three ways your parish reflects these concepts and three ways in which it falls short
- Identify together elements that can be integrated into the parish observance for 2020
- Don't forget to meet at the end of Easter season to evaluate and set your goals for the celebration of the Easter Feasts in 2021!

Lenten Season

Music

- In Lent through to the Gloria of the Easter Vigil the playing of the organ or other musical instruments is only permitted to support the singing of the assembly (*General Instruction to the Roman Missal*, no. 313). For this reason, instrumental pieces are not permitted during these periods. The exceptions are Laetare Sunday and solemnities.

- **CCCB Liturgical music guidelines.** This document includes helpful information for music ministers with specific guidelines for Lent, the Easter Triduum, and Easter season: http://nlo.cccb.ca/images/stories/pdfs/guidelines_liturgical_music.pdf

Ash Wednesday | February 26, 2020

- When ashes are blessed, the format of the Mass is changed. Refer to the *Roman Missal* beforehand p. 192ff. When ashes are blessed outside Mass, it is proper to do this in a service based on today's liturgy. See the rubric at bottom of p. 195 of the *Roman Missal*.
- Water in the baptismal font – see Holy Thursday below
- Covering images and crosses – see below under the same heading
- Ash Wednesday (and Good Friday) is a universal day of fasting and abstinence from meat. While all Fridays are days of abstinence from meat, in Canada “Catholics may substitute special acts of charity or piety on this day.” (Ordo, note 29b and 29d).
 - CCCB pamphlet for parishioners with additional suggestions for observing penitential practices throughout the season: http://nlo.cccb.ca/images/stories/Living_Lent.pdf
 - Illustrated guide to fasting and abstinence: <https://catholic-link.org/why-do-we-practice-fasting-and-abstinence-illustrated-guide/>
- Suggested petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful:

Priest: Lent has begun. Marked with the sign of ashes, let us bring before the Lord our desire for conversion and renewal.

Reader: For Christians throughout the world, that in this sacred time they may be more abundantly nourished by every word that comes from the mouth of God, let us pray to the Lord:

For Christians living in fear of persecution, that their penitential practices will strengthen their faith and their witness convert the hearts of those who would oppress and injure them, let us pray to the Lord:

For public authorities, that they are emboldened to ensure lasting tranquility and peace in their communities, let us pray to the Lord:

For those who harm others, either in personal relationships or systemically, that they come to repentance and correct their faults, let us pray to the Lord:

For ourselves, that we not only seek God's mercy for ourselves but that through prayer and almsgiving we bring God's mercy to the poor, the marginalized, and to the sick and suffering, let us pray to the Lord:

Priest: Grant, we pray, O Lord,
that your people may turn to you with all their heart,
so that whatever they dare to ask in fitting prayer
they may receive by your mercy.
Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

National Lenten Resources

- The National Pastoral Initiative for Life and the Family (CCCB) provides weekly suggestions for homilies, Prayer of the Faithful and a prayer for Bulletins:
<https://www.cccb.ca/site/eng/church-in-canada-and-world/catholic-church-in-canada/life-and-family/3296-documents-and-activities-proposed-by-the-ccb>
- Share Lent is an initiative of the Bishops of Canada to help Christians turn toward God and to all God's children in preparation for Easter. In 2020 the focus is on the needs of the Global South. The liturgical resource includes intentions for the Prayer of the Faithful on page 5:
https://www.devp.org/sites/www.devp.org/files/documents/materials/devpeace_sharelent2020_campaign_guide_en.pdf. They also provide a Way of the Cross in both pamphlet and power point: <https://www.devp.org/en/lent/resources>

Rite of Election | March 1, 2020 at 3:30pm

The Rite of Election is only for catechumens: UNBAPTIZED adults and unbaptized children of catechetical age. All others are welcome to attend as GUESTS. The Rite of Calling to Lenten Renewal for already BAPTIZED individuals preparing for reception and/or full initiation **will not take place at the same time**. It may be celebrated in the parishes. Please be sure you or your RCIA coordinator review the liturgical instructions and register online: <https://www.catholicyc.ca/riteofelection.html>. Bring the Book of the Elect as the catechumens will sign the book as part of the liturgy. **Do not have the book signed at the parish**. Contact Simone in the Liturgy Office if you have questions.

RCIA

Following the Rite of Election on the First Sunday of Lent, the catechumens enter into the period of Purification and Enlightenment and the candidates for full communion enter into Lenten renewal. Additional rites may be part of the liturgies during this time. Please plan ahead.

- **Dismissal** to the Rite of Election for catechumens and **Call to Lenten Renewal** for the candidates
- **Scrutinies** are on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent with Year A readings

- **Presentations** of the Our Father and of the Creed can be made during the Sunday liturgies, see the “Blue Book”, Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Solemnities and Memorials in Lent

Please check the ordo for liturgical details on these days.

- Thursday March 19, Solemnity of **St. Joseph**
- Wednesday March 25, Solemnity of the **Annunciation of the Lord**
- Memorials of Saints: During Lent, Memorials of Saints are celebrated only as Optional Memorials. When an Optional Memorial falls during Lent, it is either omitted or the Collect of the Saint may be used instead of the Lenten Collect at Mass.

Covering Images and Crosses

- In the Dioceses of Canada, the practice of covering crosses and images throughout the church from the **Fifth Sunday of Lent** onward may be observed.
- Crosses remain covered until the end of the celebration of the Lord’s Passion on Good Friday. They are uncovered before beginning the Easter Vigil.

Flowers

During Lent it is not permitted to decorate the altar or the area around it except for *Laetare* Sunday (4th Sunday of Lent), Solemnities, and Feasts

Weddings

If a wedding is to be celebrated during the season of Lent, the couple should be reminded that their wedding plans must respect the special nature of the liturgical season, especially in terms of the use of flowers and decoration as well as musical selections.

Baptisms

The season of Lent is characterized as baptismal and penitential. Catechumens prepare during Lent to celebrate Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. According to Canon 867 of the Code of Canon Law, the **baptism of infants should not be delayed and can take place during Lent**. It is recommended that baptisms take place on Sundays when the Church commemorates the Lord’s resurrection.

Chrism Mass

Instructions concerning the return and distribution of oils.

UNUSED OIL

On the day of the Chrism Mass, return to the Cathedral the plastic vials you received last year and any unused oil. If you transferred the oils to other vessels, you can pour any remaining oil back into the vials and return them to the cathedral. The cathedral staff will properly dispose of the oil and clean the plastic vials.

If you will be cleaning your own vessels and disposing of the oils, please ensure that you follow the correct procedure:

- any unused oil should be burned or buried
- vessels should be washed with soap and water and the water poured into the sacrarium or into the ground

PICKING UP NEWLY BLESSED AND CONSECRATED OILS

Oils will be distributed following the liturgy in the same area where priests and deacons vest. The distribution process is very quick; please be sure to take the oils for your parish when you leave. Only send a lay person to pick up oils if no clergy from your parish are able to attend the Chrism Mass.

Triduum | Holy Thursday – Easter Vigil

Silence

All clergy are invited to model and encourage the spirit of silence in and around the church from the end of the Holy Thursday liturgy through to the Easter Vigil. The solemn paschal fast observed during this time can also include fasting from chatter and noise.

Music

Audio files for most of the Roman Missal chants including the prefaces, the intercessions for Good Friday, the Exsultet, and at the bottom of the page some additional chants for Holy Week and the Triduum are available here: <http://www.icelweb.org/musicfolder/openmusic.php>

Holy Thursday

Presentation of the Oils at the Mass of the Lord's Supper

The oils blessed and consecrated at the Chrism Mass can be presented at the beginning of the Mass on the evening of Holy Thursday. Text, music, and rubrics are available on pages 132 – 133 of this document: http://nlo.cccb.ca/images/stories/pdfs/guidelines_liturgical_music.pdf

Bells

Bells are rung during the Gloria at the Mass of the Lord's Supper and then remain silent until the Gloria at the Easter Vigil.

Washing of the Feet or Mandatum

On January 6, 2016 the CDWDS changed the rubric regarding those who are to have their feet washed from "The men who have been chosen" to "Those who are chosen from amongst the people of God". The short commentary that accompanied the decree traces the history of the ritual and its "double-significance" as both an imitation of Christ's actions in the Upper Room and the model act of self-gift signified by the actions. The emphasis of the ritual is on the meaning of what Jesus did for all people and the example he has given so that we might go and do the same. Therefore, "It is for pastors to choose a small group of persons who are representative of the entire people of God – lay, ordained ministers, married, single, religious, healthy, sick, children, young people and the elderly – and not just one category or condition." (Commentary Concerning the Decree *In Missa in Cena Domini*, http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/ccdds/documents/rc_con_ccdds_doc_20160106_commento-decreto-lavanda-piedi_en.html)

Removing Water from Holy Water Fonts

Removing water from holy water fonts during Lent is not permitted until after the Holy Thursday liturgy. It would be re-filled in preparation for the Easter Vigil (CDWDS Prot. N. 569/00/L, March 2000). Removing water from fonts during Lent is contrary to a balanced understanding of the season of Lent because Lent is marked by the themes of both penance and baptism (SC 109).

Good Friday

Outdoor Way of the Cross – Good Friday, 2020

- 8:00am, Morning Prayer in St. Mary's Cathedral
- 9am, Outdoor Way of the Cross

Adoration of the Cross

- Either a plain cross or a crucifix may be used
- Only a single cross or crucifix should be used and members of the worshipping assembly come forward individually for the Adoration of the Holy Cross unless large numbers make it impossible

- The Adoration of the Cross should not be moved to the end of the liturgy

Fasting

- See note for Ash Wednesday

Easter Vigil

Time: 9:30pm

It is recommended that Easter Vigils in the Diocese of Calgary in 2020 begin no earlier than 9:30 pm. The Easter Vigil Mass should begin after dark and be at a different time from the usual Saturday evening Mass. The entire celebration takes place at night and must be over before daybreak. The celebration of Mass alone without the Vigil Service is forbidden.

Lights

Have your lectors been struggling to proclaim the Word in the darkness? Struggle no more! The rubric in the *Roman Missal* states that after the paschal candle is processed into the church to the threefold acclamation “the Light of Christ” and placed into the candlestand, “lights are lit throughout the church, except for the altar candles”. See *Roman Missal* no. 17 on page 327.

Since the church is lit by the candles held by the assembly one could extend the candlelight through the Easter Proclamation (Exsultet). The people are to blow out their candles after the Exsultet (*Roman Missal* no. 22 on p. 345) so the lights would have to come on at this point at the latest. There is nothing in the rubrics to support leaving the lights off through the Old Testament readings until the *Gloria*. The altar candles are lit as the *Gloria* is begun (*Roman Missal* no. 31 on page 349).

Readings

The *Lectionary* provides seven readings from the Old Testament and two from the New (the Epistle and Gospel). The *Roman Missal* explains that ALL readings should be read whenever possible in order to preserve the character of the Vigil. See *Roman Missal* no. 20 on page 345.

Is it long? Yes! This Vigil is known as “the mother of all Vigils”. The point of a Vigil is to engage in prayer for an extended period of time. Only “where more serious pastoral circumstances demand it” may the number of Old Testament readings be reduced. At least three of the Old Testament readings should be read from both the Law and the Prophets and their respective Responsorial Psalms sung. The reading of chapter 14 of Exodus with its canticle must always be included. See *Roman Missal* no. 21 on p. 345.

Liturgy of the Hours during the Sacred Triduum

The communal celebration of the Office of the Readings and Morning Prayer on Good Friday and Holy Saturday is recommended as a way of meditating on the passion, death, and burial of the Lord until the celebration of his resurrection.

- The online ebreviary service has booklets with the text for these services available free of charge: <https://www.ebreviary.com/ebreviary/usa2/ebusatriduumprayer3.nsf!OpenDatabase>. The format is monastic-style, i.e. following the breviary.
- You can also easily prepare a sung celebration of Morning Prayer using the format outlined in your parish hymnal and appropriate Responsorial Psalms from your parish repertoire. This format is considered cathedral-style. You can contact the Office of Liturgy for assistance.

Easter Season

The proper Sequence is **obligatory** on Easter and Pentecost Sunday. It is to be sung following the second reading. The Gospel Acclamation follows the Sequence as usual. The sequence can be sung by the cantor, by the choir, or by the entire assembly. The CCCB encourages the participation of the assembly. The Easter sequence may be sung on every day of the Easter Octave including especially the Second Sunday of Easter.

Easter Sequence

Chant in Latin

- Modern notation: CBW III no. 690 | Breaking Bread 2020 p. 145
- Square notation: http://www.ccwatershed.org/media/pdfs/16/03/31/09-04-39_0.pdf
- Listen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sAo30la5fUE>

Chant in English

- CBW III no. 690 (matches English text in Canadian lectionary) Listen: https://drive.google.com/open?id=1ieTaR8v6pxZICfGSjwDLIdFaR8sMG_a4
- Breaking Bread 2020 p. 145

Alternate English Versions

- Breaking Bread 2020 nos. 166 and 184

Pentecost Sequence

Chant in Latin

- Modern notation: Breaking Bread 2020 p. 172
- Square notation: http://www.ccwatershed.org/media/pdfs/12/05/21/12-55-12_o.pdf
- Listen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z6hqAfsHURo>

Chant in English

- Breaking Bread 2020 p. 172
- Listen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GCX9FOX6668>

Alternate English Versions

- CBW III no. 692 (matches English text in Canadian lectionary) Listen: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1WKp7yLsNkw9miXDISGFnlfiNcaqJ2hrl>
- Breaking Bread 2020 nos. 192 and 193