

MEMORANDUM



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
of Calgary

DATE January 25, 2022

TO Priests, Deacons, and Parish Office Staff

FROM The Office of the Bishop

SUBJECT 2022 Lent, Holy Week (Palm Sunday and the Chrism Mass), the Sacred Paschal Triduum, and the Easter Season

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord – Wednesday, February 2, 2022

- For the blessing of candles, the *Second Form: The Solemn Entrance* is recommended this year with the adaptation that people remain in their pews, holding their candles (par. 9-11, Roman Missal, page 799).
- Another adaptation:
 - Invite parishioners to place their candles on a table set in the narthex or at an appropriate place near the sanctuary.
 - Candles may be blessed at the beginning of the Mass using the rite in the *Roman Missal* but the faithful are asked to stay in the pews and not congregate in the area where the blessing takes place.
 - Blessed candles can be picked up after the Mass on their way out of the church while observing proper physical distancing.

The Optional Memorial of Saint Blaise – Thursday, February 3, 2022

- Throats may be blessed after Mass on the day of the memorial or at any time during the year. (Ordo notes, page 139)
- The crossed candles are not used for the blessing this year.
- The blessing after Mass should be given to the congregants all at once using the prescribed formula with the sign of the cross.
- Individual blessings outside of the Mass can also be given using the prescribed formula, but candles are not to be used this year to avoid any physical contact. Masks will be required of the priest/deacon and the faithful.

Ash Wednesday – March 2, 2022

Preparation and Planning

- Previous to the pandemic, Ash Wednesday Masses were well attended. Parishes should determine with the parish leadership team if additional Masses are required on Ash Wednesday this year.

- Any parish that may experience difficulty in securing ashes this year should inform the dean for assistance.
- The distribution of the ashes either on days before or after Ash Wednesday (March 4 on) is not allowed.
- The Diocese will provide communication materials ahead of Ash Wednesday on the distribution of ashes, please share this message to your parishioners through the bulletin and mail-out, parish website and social media, and announcements at Mass.

The Distribution of Ashes

- The formula for the distribution (Repent... / Remember...) is said once as a general pronouncement to the congregation and one general response (“Amen”) is to be made by all congregants.
- The ashes are to be distributed by sprinkling on the crown of the head and not by tracing on the forehead.
 - Holy water is sprinkled for the blessing of the ashes however care must be taken to avoid making a paste of the ashes as the manner of distribution is by sprinkling on the crown of the head and not by tracing on the forehead.
- Similar to the distribution of Holy Communion, all who intend to receive the ashes are required to wear a mask, even those who claim mask exemption due to health conditions. Face shields are not considered masks.

The Proper Setting for the Distribution

- As a pastoral provision, when the distribution takes place outside of the liturgical gathering, in one-on-one settings such as when visiting the sick or when parishioners come to the office on Ash Wednesday to request the ashes, the formula is said while properly distanced before approaching to sprinkle the ashes on the crown of the head. Masks remain mandatory for both the minister and the faithful.
- Parishes and schools can decide the ashes will be distributed to students and the location based on the restrictions and protocols of the time.
- If care centres request the distribution of ashes, parishes should comply with their protocols and should keep the distribution brief.
- The distribution of the ashes outdoors in the parking lot or in the streets are not allowed as these may be deemed as outdoor gatherings and these places do not lend themselves to a prayerful setting such as when done within the liturgical service.

Stations of the Cross – Fridays of Lent

The traditional devotion of the Stations of the Cross on Fridays of Lent is encouraged with the following measures to be observed.

- The maximum number of attendees allowed is what is currently permitted for Sunday Masses.
- The faithful must remain in their pews during the entire devotional prayer, observing proper physical distancing when not from the same household and must wear masks at all times.
- It is recommended that the priest/deacon/lay leader lead the prayers from the ambo.
- At a minimum, a cross bearer, wearing a mask, is the only person to walk from station to station. However, you may have candle bearers flank the cross bearer as long as they are properly physically distanced and wearing masks.

- No congregational singing allowed. The *Stabat Mater* is not sung but read.
- No social gatherings allowed, e.g. soup & bun meals.

Lenten Penitential Services

Lenten penitential services may be held in the churches with the following considerations.

- The maximum number of attendees allowed is what is currently permitted for Sunday Masses.
- When not in line for Confession, the faithful must remain in their pews observing proper physical distancing when not from the same household and must wear masks at all times.
- People lined up for Confession must observe the proper physical distancing required.
- The length of the penitential service should be kept at a minimum. Avoid introducing anything that prolongs the service.
- Guidelines in place for liturgical music for the celebration of Mass apply.
 - No congregational singing allowed.
 - Instrumental music may be made available.
- Opportunities for Confession should be made available to the faithful throughout Lent whether there be a penitential service or not.

Lenten Missions

If the parish would like to offer a Lenten parish mission, the following are for you to consider.

- Avoid inviting a presenter for an **in-person** parish mission from outside the country to prevent facing travel and border-related issues.
- Many presenters are open to providing talks online. Where they are from will not matter.
 - The usual requirements for approval from the Chancellor of presenters, however, remain in place.
- Consider online programs that may be effective for families to receive faith formation in Lent.
- In-person parish missions may be held in the parish with the following measures:
 - Clergy who have been granted faculties in our Diocese have the permission to be presenters.
 - Lay presenters and religious have to have the permission of the Chancellor.
 - The maximum number of attendees allowed is what is currently permitted for Sunday Masses.
 - The protocols for proper physical distancing and mandatory masking are to be observed.
 - The option for participation through a livestream should be made available.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

The following directives concern the **Rites Prior to Baptism**:

Rite of Election – First Sunday of Lent, March 6, 2022

- The Rite of Election for the year 2022 will take place in the parishes within the Mass after the homily on the First Sunday of Lent.
- It is only for catechumens, unbaptized adults, and unbaptized children of catechetical age.

- Baptized candidates are not included. Nos. 105-124 in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (CCCB) provide a theological understanding of this second step in Christian initiation which closes the period of catechumenate proper.
- Catechumens and godparents may stand from where they are seated or may be asked to stand at the front if there is adequate space for physical distancing. Follow the Rite as provided in the RCIA (CCCB) nos. 117-122.
- The Elect will remain with the community for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Follow nos. 123 option B.
- It is recommended that parishes reserve seating for catechumens and godparents for the Rite of Election.
- If your parish has a large number of catechumens, the Rite of Election can take place in a separate liturgy outside of Mass (RCIA no. 115).

Scrutinies & Presentations

Following the Rite of Election, the Elect enter into the period of Purification and Enlightenment.

- Candidates, baptized Christians preparing for Reception into Full Communion, do not go through this rite. Instead, Candidates are invited to a Lenten renewal.
- Scrutinies are celebrated on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent with Year A readings (RCIA no. 133).
- When, for pastoral reasons, these ritual Masses cannot be celebrated on their proper Sundays, they are celebrated on other Sundays of Lent or even convenient days during the week (RCIA no. 133).
- It is recommended that parishes reserve seating for the Elect at the Sunday Masses where the scrutinies are being celebrated.

First Scrutiny – Third Sunday of Lent, March 20, 2022

- *The gospel of the Samaritan woman.*

Presentation of the Creed

- Only the priest may be the minister for the Presentation of the Creed.
- If possible, the Creed should be presented on a weekday Mass following the First Scrutiny (RCIA no. 144). It may be presented in a Liturgy of the Word.
- The readings assigned for the weekday Mass are replaced by those prescribed in RCIA no. 145.

Second Scrutiny – Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 27, 2022

- *The gospel of the man born blind.*

Third Scrutiny – Fifth Sunday of Lent, April 3, 2022

- *The gospel of Lazarus.*
- The traditional practice of covering crosses and images throughout the church from this Sunday onward may be observed (Ordo page 177).

Presentation of the Our Father

- Only the priest may be the minister for the Presentation of the Lord's Prayer, and celebrated during the week following the Third Scrutiny.
- It is possible to defer the presentation of the Lord's Prayer to be included as part of the Preparation Rites on the day of the initiation (RCIA nos. 136, 165, 172.2).

Note:

- ✓ **Please observe the following health and safety measures.**
 - The church occupancy restrictions in place during the time of these liturgical celebrations must be followed.
 - The wearing of masks is mandatory especially during certain times in the liturgy when mandated by the Diocese.
 - Priests, deacons, and lectors must always wear the mask unless speaking and proclaiming.
 - Proper physical distancing is required with people outside their household.
 - Priests, deacons, altar servers, and lay ministers must observe proper physical distancing with each other at all times.
 - Guidelines in place for liturgical music for the celebration of Mass apply.
 - No congregational singing allowed.
 - Instrumental music may be made available.
 - Avoid selecting chants and hymns that are familiar to the people to prevent the congregation from singing along.
 - Review the diocesan health and safety procedures for liturgy, especially the required hand sanitizing stations in the sanctuary and by ministers of Holy Communion.

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord – April 10, 2022

- Use the “Third Form: The Simple Entrance” (Missal page 263).
- Parishes have the ability to decide if palms are going to be distributed on Palm Sunday this year. Therefore, the ordering of palms is not a requirement.
 - The palms can be distributed by hand when both the distributor and the congregant are wearing masks. The distributor must wear gloves.
 - You may lay-out the palms individually or in few bunches on a table for people to be able to pick them up without touching the rest of the palms. People may pick them up before or after the Mass.
 - The remaining palms can be placed in a container outside of the church for anyone who may drive by the church after all of the Masses have already been celebrated and the doors of the church are locked.
- The reading of the narrative of the Lord's Passion may be proclaimed by three individuals as commonly done before the pandemic. **Here are the other two options:**
 1. The narrative may be read by a priest or a deacon with no greeting or signing of the book (Missal par. 21, page 264).

2. The narrative may be read by two individuals: N & S parts by a deacon or lay lector at the ambo, J parts by the priest at the altar.
- ✓ Please maintain proper physical distancing between readers and provide individual microphones for each.
 - “After the narrative of the Passion, a brief homily should take place, if appropriate. A period of silence may also be observed” (Missal par. 22, page 264).

The Chrism Mass – Monday, April 11, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Mary’s Cathedral

- Provided that at least 1/3 of the Alberta Fire Code Occupancy is permitted to gather for Mass at the Cathedral, all priests are invited to concelebrate the Chrism Mass with the Bishop as “a manifestation of the Priests’ communion with their Bishop” (Missal par. 6, page 271).
- Deans will be seated in the sanctuary with the rest of the concelebrating priests seated in the chancel, the transepts, and the first few pews of the nave. All seated apart with the proper physical distancing.
- Priests will be asked to vest at their pews similar to the practise during the Study Days in Banff.
- Two (2) deacons will be assisting at the Mass properly distanced from each other and the Bishop.
- Fr. Nathan Siray will serve as the Master of Ceremonies with the seminarian on pastoral year, Ian Mahood, assisting. There will be no altar servers.
- An RSVP will be required of priests and those invited below in order to plan the seating with proper physical distancing.
 - Mass attendance will be by invitation only.
 - Deacons and their wives are invited
 - The Executive of the Association of Women Religious
 - The Elect and candidates of the Cathedral including those of the St. Francis Xavier Chaplaincy RCIA
 - The CWL President & spouse or 2 CWL Representatives
 - The Chapter President of the Knights of Columbus & spouse or 2 KofC representatives
 - The sacristans and the auxiliary liturgical team of the Cathedral.
- With the limited capacity, walk-ins will not be entertained.
- There will be two (2) lay lectors, 1 cantor, and an organist.
- There will also be camera operators present for the livestream.
- The Mass will be livestreamed through the diocesan website and Facebook.
- The holy oils are going to be distributed at the conclusion of Mass. Priests will be asked to remain in their seats for the distribution. For those priests in rural parishes who will not be able to attend, the holy oils are going to be given to the deans to take with them.

Permanent Deacons

- The Mass celebrated by the Bishop where permanent deacons renew their diaconal promises will take place at St. Mary's Cathedral on Sunday, May 29, 2022 at 12:00 noon.

Thursday of the Lord's Supper – April 14, 2022

NOTE:

- ✓ The Mass of the Lord's Supper can only be celebrated once in each church. However, for parishes that regularly offer Masses in other languages, a provision is made for the celebration of the other Masses in those languages.
- **PROCESSION OF HOLY OILS:**
 - If the procession of the Holy Oils is not a custom of the parish, have the oils already placed in the sanctuary before the Mass.
 - The parish has the option of having the reception and procession of the Holy Oils at the beginning of the liturgical procession.
- **WASHING OF FEET:**
 - The omission of the washing of the feet is an option.
 - This year, the washing of the feet may be with up to 12 individuals provided that the necessary proper physical distance is observed. The wearing of mask is mandatory for all involved in the foot washing, even those who claim exemption due to health reasons.
 - If the custom of kissing the foot was a practise, this is omitted this year.
 - This year, after washing hands with lemon & dish soap, and water, the hand sanitizer must also be used to sanitize the hands for all individuals involved.
 - Hand sanitizer stations need to be accessible.
- **ALTAR OF REPOSE:**
 - Shortly before the Prayer after Communion, encourage the parishioners to adore our Lord and for them to exit the church reverently and quietly when finished. Remind them to not visit socially in the church but to enter into a time of silence and reflection during these days of the triduum.
 - The altar of repose this year may be located to one side of the sanctuary or to another space such as the parish hall to provide ample space for those who will adore the Lord. The protocols on proper physical distancing and face masks are to be observed.
 - A suitable and non-congregational Eucharistic hymn may be chanted/sung by the cantor during the short procession.
 - Once the Blessed Sacrament has been placed in the tabernacle at the place of repose and has been incensed by the priest, the *Tantum ergo Sacramentum* will be recited by the priest while kneeling before the altar of repose.
 - As with the practise of previous years, parishes decide the suitable length of time for the adoration but adoration cannot go past midnight. The Blessed Sacrament cannot be left unattended.

- The altar is stripped reverently once the priest has entered the sacristy.
- A simple reposition is to take place at the conclusion of the adoration in a tabernacle in the sacristy.

In response to inquiries made about the Altar of Repose and practice of adoration after the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, the following are points of clarification in regards to this practice of our Faith which is to spend time with our Eucharistic Lord in commemoration of the evening He spent in the Garden of Gethsemane.

- 1) Please refer to Page 293 of the Roman Missal for the description of *The Transfer of the Most Blessed Sacrament* to the Altar of Repose.
- 2) At rubrics 38 and 39 of page 293 of the Roman Missal for the Mass of the Lord's Supper, it states that the ciborium filled with consecrated hosts, that will be received the following day during the Commemoration of the Passion of the Lord, is brought to the Altar of Repose to be placed inside the tabernacle.

Note that these rubrics do not mention or suggest that the transfer of the ciborium to the Altar of Repose can be replaced or supplemented by the placement of the Eucharist in the monstrance and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from the monstrance occur at the Altar of Repose.

- 3) The Eucharistic species that is adored at the Altar of Repose is to be the hosts contained in the ciborium and kept safe in the tabernacle at this location. The substitution or addition of having the Blessed Sacrament in the monstrance, alongside the ciborium, is not envisioned during this time of adoration nor should this be done.
- 4) For this reason, parishes in the Diocese of Calgary that may have been accustomed to having the Blessed Sacrament exposed in the monstrance at the Altar of Repose on Holy Thursday are asked to discontinue this practice.

Good Friday – April 15, 2022

NOTE:

- ✓ Two Good Friday services are recommended if necessary, 12:00 noon and 3:00 pm.
 - ✓ Devotions such as the Stations of the Cross are recommended for those who do not or cannot attend the Good Friday services.
 - ✓ The cross/crucifix covered by a violet veil may already be set up in an area of the sanctuary in preparation for the Adoration of the Holy Cross.
 - ✓ While mindful of the church's safety and security, the church is made accessible to parishioners for private prayer and reflection.
- The reading of the narrative of the Lord's Passion may be proclaimed by three individuals as commonly done before the pandemic. **Here are the other two options:**
 1. The narrative may be read by a priest or a deacon with no greeting or signing of the book.

2. The narrative may be read by two individuals: N & S parts by a deacon or lay lector at the ambo, J parts by the priest at the altar.
- ✓ Please maintain proper physical distancing between readers and provide individual microphones for each.
 - After the reading of the Lord's Passion, the priest gives a brief homily and, as its end, the faithful may be invited to spend a short time in prayer (Missal par. 10, page 296).
 - For the Solemn Intercessions, a deacon, if present, or a lay lector stands at the ambo and says the invitation. The faithful may remain kneeling or standing during the intercessions. The priest says the prayers.
 - 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.

- Use the First Form of the Showing of the Holy Cross (Missal par. 15, page 309).
 - The cross with the candles are already placed in the sanctuary. The priest, holding the cross, stands near the area in the sanctuary where the cross will stand, and he remains there while unveiling the cross in three parts. Instead of singing/chanting, he instead says these words, "*Behold the word of the Cross, on which hung the salvation of the world,*" to which the faithful will say, "*Come, let us adore.*"
 - The priest adores the holy cross by a simple genuflection.
- The parish has two options for the adoration of the Holy Cross:
 - Adoration of the Cross as a community while remaining in the pews
 - Follow the procedure as indicated under the First Form, after the unveiling the cross, "all kneel and for a brief moment adore in silence, while the priest stands and holds the cross raised" (Missal par. 15, page 309).
 - After the priest places the cross on the stand, he kneels and leads the congregation to a short meditation by reading the antiphon on page 311 of the Missal, "We adore your cross, O Lord..."
 - Individual adoration

- A procession similar to the Communion procession may take place for individual adoration but physical contact with the cross is to be avoided.
 - With the cross placed in the sanctuary, the personal expression of adoration is limited to genuflection or bowing. People are asked not to enter the sanctuary to touch or kiss the cross as physical contact is to be avoided.
- The preparation for Holy Communion begins after the adoration.

Easter Sunday

The Easter Vigil – Saturday, April 16, 2022

NOTE:

- ✓ The entire celebration does not start before nightfall, which in the Diocese of Calgary is not before 8:00 pm on April 16, 2022
- ✓ Principles for the management of initiation:
 - As much as possible, the Elect should be fully initiated at the Easter Vigil.
 - Candidates may be received and confirmed at any Sunday Masses throughout the Easter Season up until and including Pentecost.
 - When dealing with a manageable number and the church space is able to accommodate, both the Elect and the Candidates are all fully initiated this evening.
 - When dealing with a large number of the Elect and an insufficient church space, **here are two recommendations:**
 1. Fully initiate only the Elect at the Easter Vigil while the Candidates are received, Confirmed, and admitted to Holy Communion at the Easter Sunday Mass(es).
 2. Make attendance at the Easter Vigil by invitation only to accommodate the Elect and their sponsors and some members of their families.
 - Determine how many individuals can each of the Elect invite aside from the Sponsor.
 - Fully initiate the Elect at this Mass.
 - The Candidates may also be received, Confirmed, and admitted to Holy Communion at the Vigil if occupancy permits. Otherwise, at the Easter Sunday Mass(es).
 - Parishioners are invited to either join the Vigil via livestream if in place or to support the Elect spiritually through prayer if the limited church occupancy will not be able to accommodate them to attend in person.
- ✓ The congregation should not gather around the fire or the baptismal font to prevent crowding. They must remain in the pews. Careful planning and execution are necessary to ensure proper physical distancing at all times.
- The **Solemn Beginning of the Vigil or Lucernarium** is carried out simply by the priest and a deacon or a lay minister outside the church.
 - A small fire is blessed.
 - The preparation of the paschal candle takes place.
 - The paschal candle is lit and carried in procession by the priest or deacon.

- At the door of the church nave, the middle of the nave and before arriving at the altar, the priest or deacon stops and lifts the paschal candle and says, “The Light of Christ” to which the faithful say, “Thanks be to God.”
- At each of these stops, the paschal fire from the candle is shared with the congregation. The deacon and lay ministers with their candles assist in this.
- The paschal candle is placed at the usual spot near the ambo. The priest or deacon incenses the candle.
- The Easter Proclamation (Exsultet) is said or sung by the priest, deacon, or a cantor. Any part of the exultet that is responsorial must be said and not sung, i.e. when sung by the priest or deacon, the lines “The Lord be with you’, ‘Lift up your hearts’, ‘Let us give thanks to the Lord our God’” and all the congregation’s responses including the “amen” at the end are to be said and not sung.
- The **Liturgy of the Word** then takes place (Ordo notes 5 and 6 on page 200)
 - 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, “in which case the pause after ‘Let us pray’ is omitted” (par. 23, Roman Missal, page 345).
- The **Baptismal Liturgy** follows.
 - The litany is said and not sung as this requires the response of the congregation. The congregation remain in their pews throughout the baptismal liturgy.
 - The water in the font is blessed according to the rubrics but the pouring of the blessed water on the head of the Elect for the baptism must not be done over the font to prevent contamination, even when there is only one individual to be baptized. Instead, the pouring on the head of each of the Elect must be done over an empty bowl.
 - All previous guidelines for baptism and confirmation apply, such as avoiding physical contact, the wearing of masks, proper physical distancing, the use of cotton balls for the application of the holy oils, etc.
 - After the renewal of baptismal promises, the priest sprinkles the people with the blessed water.
- The **Liturgy of the Eucharist** follows as usual
 - The blessed water will be used to sprinkle the people at the following day’s Masses.
- After the final blessing, the dismissal with the double alleluia is said and not sung.

Easter Sunday – Sunday, April 17, 2022

Note:

- ✓ Bishop McGrattan grants permission for priests to celebrate as many as four (4) Masses per priest on Easter Sunday if needed.

- ✓ Please celebrate Easter Sunday for the intentions of the people in the same manner you have been celebrating other Sundays during the pandemic.
- ✓ Priests are encouraged to include after the renewal of baptismal promises the sprinkling of the people with the water blessed at the Easter Vigil.
- After the final blessing, the dismissal with the double alleluia is said and not sung.