



The Archdiocese of San Francisco  
OFFICE OF WORSHIP

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## MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 2, 2019  
TO: Parishes and Institutions  
FROM: Laura Bertone  
RE: Time of the Easter Vigil, Delegation for Confirmation, and Lenten Disciplines

As we approach Lent and planning for Holy Week, parishes and institutions in the Archdiocese should be aware of the following information and reminders:

**THE TIME OF THE EASTER VIGIL:** The Revised *Roman Missal* states: “The entire celebration of the Easter Vigil must take place during the night, so that it begins after nightfall and ends before daybreak on the Sunday.” Nightfall can be determined by various calculations, and it changes from year to year as the date of Easter changes. The rubric that the Vigil be held at night not only conforms to the ancient practice of vigilling throughout the night, but also reflects the imagery and references throughout the prayers and rituals of the Easter Vigil celebration. To light the fire and Paschal Candle and use lighted candles to process makes little sense if done in a church where everyone can see each other and the new lights make no impact to dispel the darkness. As the Exultet states:

Therefore, O Lord,  
we pray you that by this candle,  
hallowed to the honor of your name,  
may persevere undimmed,  
to overcome the darkness of this night.

**ON THE NIGHT OF SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2019 THE EASTER VIGIL MAY BEGIN AT 8:00PM OR ANYTIME THEREAFTER.** Please do not schedule your Vigils to begin earlier than 8:00pm.

**DELEGATION FOR CONFIRMATION OF CANDIDATES OR UNCONFIRMED ADULT CATHOLICS AT THE EASTER VIGIL:** All pastors have the authority by canon law to Confirm those catechumens whom they Baptize at the Easter Vigil and those candidates who are baptized Christians (from non-Catholic ecclesial communities) coming into full communion with the Church. Priests are not given the authority to Confirm uncatechized Catholic adults who have been prepared along with the catechumens and who will participate in the Easter Vigil rites. Archbishop Cordileone is disposed to delegating the faculty to Confirm to those pastors who request it. **For all pastors who wish to Confirm previously uncatechized Catholics at the Vigil, please request, in writing on parish letterhead, the delegation to Confirm on April 21, care of the Office of the Archbishop.** A sample letter is attached for your reference. The request should include the priest who will be Confirming, the parish, and the number of those uncatechized Catholics to be Confirmed. Your request will be given to the Archbishop for his approval. If you have any questions or need further information regarding delegation to Confirm, please contact the Chancellor, Monsignor Padazinski at 415-614-5619 or [padazinskim@sfarchdiocese.org](mailto:padazinskim@sfarchdiocese.org).

**LENTEN REGULATIONS:** As in the past, the following regulations are in place for Abstaining and Fasting during Lent:

- **ABSTINENCE:** Everyone fourteen years of age and older is bound to abstain from meat on ASH WEDNESDAY, the FRIDAYS of Lent and GOOD FRIDAY.
- **FAST:** Everyone eighteen years of age and older but under the age of sixty is also bound to fast on ASH WEDNESDAY and GOOD FRIDAY.

On these two days, the law of fast allows only one full meal a day, but does not prohibit taking some food during the day, so long as this does not constitute another full meal. Drinking liquids during the day is permitted.

When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige. In doubt concerning fast or abstinence, a priest assigned to pastoral ministry or confessor should be consulted. In the spirit of penance, the faithful should not lightly excuse themselves from this obligation.

# PARISH LETTERHEAD

The Most Reverend Salvatore Cordileone  
Archbishop of San Francisco  
1 Peter Yorke Way  
San Francisco, Ca 94109

[DATE]

RE: Delegation to Confirm at the Easter Vigil

Archbishop Cordileone:

As Pastor of [XX] Church, I am requesting your delegation to Confirm [number of persons] at our Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 21, 2019. I am requesting the delegation in order to foster the unity of the parish and include these uncatechized adult Catholics in our liturgy.

I look forward to a favorable response. Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

Your brother in Christ,

[signature]

[name]

Pastor

[church]