

LITURGICAL NOTES FOR 2014

MASS OF HOLY CHRISM

RITE OF HOLY WEEK

EASTER SEASON

CHRISM MASS

The **Mass of Holy Chrism** will be celebrated on **Tuesday morning, April 15, at 10:30 A.M.** in Saint Paul's Cathedral.

The Chrism Mass gathers the diocesan family to celebrate the unity of all persons who have been anointed with Holy Chrism at Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders. Bishop McManus will bless the Holy Oils to be used in our parishes and diocesan liturgies in the coming year.

During this Mass, the priests of the diocese will renew their commitment to service in the Church. In a special way, we will honor those priests who are celebrating their 25th, 30, 40th, 50th, and 60th anniversaries of priestly ordination and service to the Church of Worcester.

All priests are expected to participate and bring with them (2) parish representatives who will be responsible for receiving the Holy Oils in the name of the parish. If no parish representative is able to attend, the parish priest is then responsible for receiving the oils.

All other priests planning to concelebrate and all deacons who will be attending are asked to bring **their own alb and Diocesan Chasuble or Dalmatic and stole**. Vesting for Mass will be in the **Cenacle** located on the lower level of the cathedral.

PROCEDURE FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF OILS

At the Mass of Holy Chrism, the holy oils that have been poured into stocks provided by the Office for Divine Worship will be given to the parish representatives designated by the pastor. These oils will be received in the Cathedral sanctuary by the parish representative or by the parish priest. Please pour the oils into your own oil stocks and then dispose of those provided by the Office for Worship.

Many parishes use an increasing amount of oil and desire to display the holy oils in an appropriate ambry. Parishes may request larger containers of oil for these purposes. **Please note that a FAX form for requesting a larger amount of holy oil to meet your parish needs is on page 5 of these liturgical notes.**

OPTIONAL RITE OF RECEPTION OF HOLY OILS

Upon receiving the oils, parishes may celebrate the optional Rite of Reception of Holy Oils at any Mass or prayer service including the Mass of the Lord's Supper. This rite was approved by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in 1988 and will be published in the revised *Sacramentary* at some future date. The rite is on **page 4** of this document.

PALM SUNDAY

Palms should be blessed using one of the three forms provided in the *Roman Missal*. The Solemn Blessing and Procession (Form I) **may not be omitted** and should take place at one of the Masses on this weekend.

FUNERALS ON HOLY THURSDAY, GOOD FRIDAY, HOLY SATURDAY

Funeral Masses are not permitted on these days. Instead, the special entrance rites, liturgy of the word and final commendation are conducted. These rites are found in the revised Order of Christian Funerals, chapter 4, paragraphs 177 through 203 under the heading "*Funeral Liturgy Outside Mass*." Music appropriate to the spirit of these days may be used.

The term "*Libera Service*" is no longer used to denote the funeral liturgy outside Mass. "*Libera*" was the title of the introductory chant for the absolution over the dead conducted after the funeral Mass. It was abrogated in 1969 when the funeral rites were revised. In order to balance liturgical accuracy with understandable language the term "*Liturgy of the Word*" may be used to denote celebrations of funerals outside Mass when preparing obituaries, bulletin announcements, etc.

HOLY THURSDAY

The Mass of the Lord's Supper is to be celebrated in the evening at a convenient hour after 4:00 p.m.

For the convenience of those who cannot attend an evening Mass, it is permitted to celebrate one other Mass in the morning or afternoon in parish churches and public or semi-public oratories. Even though a priest may have celebrated Mass earlier in the day, the spirit of this day encourages concelebration at the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper.

"According to the ancient tradition of the Church all Masses without the participation of the people are on this day forbidden." (#47 *Circular Letter Concerning the Preparation and Celebration of the Easter Feasts*. 1988)

Parishioners are encouraged to spend some time in prayerful adoration before the Blessed Sacrament after the Mass of the Lord's Supper. This period of adoration should conclude at midnight.

The Blessed Sacrament should be reserved in a **CLOSED** tabernacle. **Under no circumstances may it be exposed in a monstrance.**

The place where the Tabernacle is situated **must not** be made to resemble a tomb, and the expression 'tomb' is to be avoided: for the chapel of repose is not prepared so as to represent the 'Lord's burial' but for the custody of the Eucharist that will be distributed in Communion on Good Friday.

GOOD FRIDAY

The Liturgy of the Lord's Passion should take place in the afternoon at 3:00 p.m. or later if pastoral reasons suggest a later time. The entire Liturgy of the Lord's Passion may be repeated if such repetition serves the convenience of the people.

HOLY SATURDAY

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EASTER VIGIL **MAY NOT** BEGIN BEFORE SUNSET WHICH THIS YEAR IS **7:10 P.M.**

The USCCB Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy asks parishes to schedule the vigil service after nightfall so that the entire rite may be celebrated in darkness. **The Bishops' Committee suggests adding another hour to the time of sunset to determine the approximate time of nightfall.**

"The entire celebration of the Easter Vigil takes place at night. It should not begin before nightfall; it should end before daybreak on Sunday. This rule is to be taken according to its strictest sense." (#78 *Circular Letter Concerning the Preparation and Celebration of the Easter Feasts.*)

It is not permitted to celebrate the entire Easter Vigil more than once in a given church or to anticipate the Mass of Easter before the Vigil has been celebrated. Preferably, only the Easter Vigil should be celebrated on Holy Saturday.

However, for pastoral reasons, a Mass may be celebrated **after** the Easter Vigil. Such a Mass may incorporate readings from the Easter Vigil and **must** include the Renewal of Baptismal Promises after the homily.

Celebrating the Rites of Initiation are a major component of the Easter Vigil. These rites can be found in paragraphs 206 through 243 in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. However, if the Rite of Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church is to be included during the Easter Vigil, the Rites of Initiation as outlined in paragraphs 566 through 594 are to be celebrated.

It is necessary for pastors to apply for faculties from the bishop if they intend to confirm previously baptized Catholics completing their initiation at the Easter Vigil.

Participation in the Easter Vigil satisfies the Sunday obligation.

EASTER SUNDAY

On Easter Sunday, at all parish Masses, the **Rite of Renewal of Baptismal Promises** may place after the homily according to the text used at the Easter Vigil. The creed is omitted.

EASTER SEASON

The Easter Season consisting of fifty days lasts until Pentecost Sunday. The spirit of Easter is to be maintained throughout the season in homily, liturgical music and liturgical environment. The Paschal Candle remains in a place of honor for the fifty day season. After Pentecost Sunday, it is returned to its place in the baptistry.

"The Sundays of this season are regarded as Sundays of Easter, and so termed, and they have precedence over all Feasts of the Lord and over all Solemnities. Solemnities that fall on one of these Sundays are anticipated on the Saturday. Celebrations in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary or the Saints, which fall during the week may **NOT** be transferred to one of these Sundays." (#101 *Circular Letter Concerning the Preparation and Celebration of the Easter Feasts.*)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Communion to the Sick: Although Holy Communion may be given to the faithful only in the context of the liturgical ceremonies during the Sacred Triduum, Communion may be brought to the sick at any hour of the day on Holy Thursday and Good Friday. On Holy Saturday, Communion may be given **only as Viaticum**.

Reading of the Passion: Three lectors (men or women), cantors or even capable servers may read or chant the Gospel of the Passion when priests or deacons are not present at the celebration.

Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday Liturgies in Religious Communities and Institutions: These liturgies may be celebrated in religious communities and other institutions. However, religious men and women who live in a parish or serve at a parish are encouraged to participate in Holy Week services with the rest of the parish community.

Good Friday Collection: The collection for the support of the shrines in the Holy Land should be taken up in all the churches at the Good Friday Liturgy or at other devotions on that day. The proceeds should be sent to the Chancery Building by, **May 1, 2014**.

Bingo: All are reminded of the moratorium on bingo, beano and other games of chance during Holy Week.

RITE OF RECEPTION OF HOLY OILS

It is appropriate that the oil of the sick, the oil of catechumens, and the holy chrism, which are blessed by the bishop during the Chrism Mass, be presented to and received by the local parish community.

1. The reception of the holy oils may take place at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday or on another day after the celebration of the Chrism Mass
2. The oils should be reserved in a suitable repository in the sanctuary or near the baptismal font.
3. The oils, in suitable vessels, are carried in the procession of the gifts, before the bread and wine, by members of the assembly.
4. The oils are received by the priest and are then placed on a suitably prepared table in the sanctuary or in the repository where they will be reserved.
5. As each of the oils is presented, the following or other words may be used to explain the significance of the particular oil.

(The people's response may be sung).

Presenter of the Oil of the Sick:
Priest:

The oil of the sick.
May the sick who are anointed with this oil
experience the compassion of Christ and his
saving love, in body and soul.

The people may respond:

Blessed be God forever.

Presenter of the Oil of Catechumens:
Priest:

The oil of catechumens.
Through anointing with this oil may our
catechumens who are preparing to receive the
savings waters of baptism be strengthened by
Christ to resist the power of Satan and reject evil
in all its forms.

The people may respond:

Blessed be God forever.

Presenter of the Holy Chrism:
Priest:

The holy Chrism.
Through anointing with this perfumed Chrism
may children and adults, who are baptized
and confirmed, and presbyters, who are
ordained, experience the gracious gift of the
Holy Spirit.

The people may respond:

Blessed be God forever.

(The bread and wine for the eucharist are then received and the Mass continues in the usual way.)
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FAX FORM

To: Office for Divine Worship
(508) 798-0418 FAX

2014 Order Form for LARGE BOTTLES OF
HOLY OIL

This form needs to be returned **ONLY** if you are
requesting a larger holy oil container supply.

Parish: _____

City/Town: _____

Pastor's signature: _____

This form must be returned by **FAX to the Office for**
Worship no later than **April 1st**. At that time, the
containers will be filled and no further pouring of oil can
take place until after Easter.