



**DIOCESE OF WORCESTER
LITURGICAL NOTES ON
HOLY WEEK AND EASTER
2019**

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FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT THE OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP
AT OFWORSHIP@CHARTER.NET

CHRISM MASS

TIME

The **Chrism Mass** will be celebrated on **Thursday morning, April 11, at 10:30 A.M.** in Saint Paul's Cathedral this year. Please note this is the **Thursday BEFORE** Holy Week.

BLESSING AND CONSECRATION OF HOLY OILS

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 blesses the Oil of the Sick and of the Oil of Catechumens and consecrates the Holy Chrism which will be used in sacramental rites throughout the coming year.¹

RENEWAL OF PRIESTLY PROMISES

Also during the Chrism Mass, the priests of the Diocese Renew their Priestly Promises. Those priests who are celebrating their 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 50th, 60th, 65th and 70th anniversaries of priestly ordination and service to the Church in Worcester are also recognized.

CONCELEBRATING PRIESTS AND PARTICIPATING DEACONS

All priests are expected to participate. Unless otherwise designated, all priests who intend to concelebrate are asked to bring their own alb and Diocesan Chasuble and stole. All deacons who intend to participate are asked to bring their own alb and Dalmatic and stole. Vesting for Mass will be in the **Cenacle** located on the lower level of the cathedral.

PARISH REPRESENTATIVES

Two (2) parish representatives will be responsible for receiving the Holy Oils in the name of the parish. If no parish representative is able to attend, the priest is then responsible for receiving the oils.

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.

¹ The new translation of the *Order of Blessing the Oil of Catechumens and of the Sick and of Consecrating the Chrism* will be implemented on Ash Wednesday, March 6, 2019, and will be used at the Chrism Mass this year.

REQUESTING LARGER QUANTITIES OF HOLY OILS

Parishes wishing to request larger quantities of Holy Oils are asked to use the FAX FORM found on page nine of this document.

OPTIONAL RITE FOR RECEPTION OF HOLY OILS

The Roman Missal provides for the optional reception of Holy Oils in a parish: “The reception of the Holy Oils may take place in individual parishes either before the celebration of the Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper or at another time that seems more appropriate.”² While the rubric does not specify how a “reception of the Holy Oils” would take place, the attached *Order for the Reception of the Holy Oils*, was approved by the Holy See for optional use in the dioceses of the United States in 1989 as part of the *Book of Blessings*. The Order is found on page ten of this document.

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

*On this day the Church recalls the entrance of Christ the Lord into Jerusalem to accomplish his Paschal Mystery.*³

BLESSING OF PALMS AND MEMORIAL OF THE LORD’S ENTRANCE

At the principal Mass the blessing of Palms and the memorial of his entrance is commemorated either by the FIRST FORM (the Procession)⁴ or the SECOND FORM (the Solemn Entrance). The third form (the Simple Entrance) or the second form (the Solemn Entrance) may be used at the other Masses.⁵

READING OF THE PASSION NARRATIVE

“The narrative of the Lord’s Passion... is read by a Deacon or, if there is no Deacon, by a Priest. It may also be read by readers, with the part of Christ, if possible, reserved to a Priest.”⁶

² *Roman Missal*, The Chrism Mass, no. 15.

³ *Roman Missal*, Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, no. 1.

⁴ The FIRST FORM (the Procession) may only be used at the principal Mass.

⁵ Cf. *Roman Missal*, Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, no. 1.

⁶ *Roman Missal*, Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, no. 21.

THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM

In the Sacred Triduum, the Church solemnly celebrates the greatest mysteries of our redemption, keeping by means of special celebrations the memorial of her Lord, crucified, buried, and risen.⁷

THURSDAY OF THE LORD’S SUPPER: THE EVENING MASS

TIME

“The Mass of the Lord’s Supper is celebrated in the evening [after 4:00pm], at a convenient time, with the full participation of the whole local community and with all the Priests and ministers exercising their office.”⁸

OTHER MASSES

When pastoral reasons require it, and in accord with the rubrics of the *Roman Missal*,⁹ Bishop McManus has permitted “another Mass to be celebrated in churches and oratories in the evening and, in case of genuine necessity, even in the morning, but only for the faithful who are in no way able to participate in the evening Mass. Care should, nevertheless, be taken that celebrations of this sort do not take place for the advantage of private persons or special small groups, and do not prejudice the evening Mass.”¹⁰

THE PLACE OF REPOSITION

“The Blessed Sacrament should be reserved in a closed tabernacle or pyx. Under no circumstances may it be exposed in a monstrance. The place where the tabernacle or pyx is situated must not be made to resemble a tomb, and the expression “tomb” is to be avoided.

ADORATION BY THE FAITHFUL

“The faithful are invited to continue adoration before the Blessed Sacrament for a suitable length of time during the night, according to local circumstances, but after midnight the adoration should take place without solemnity.”¹¹

⁷ *Roman Missal*, Sacred Paschal Triduum, no. 1.

⁸ *Roman Missal*, Thursday of the Lord’s Supper, no. 1.

⁹ *Roman Missal*, Thursday of the Lord’s Supper, no. 3.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ *Roman Missal*, Thursday of the Lord’s Supper, no. 43.

FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (GOOD FRIDAY)

TIME

“On the afternoon of this day, about three o’clock (unless a later hour is chosen for a pastoral reason), there takes place the celebration of the Lord’s Passion consisting of three parts, namely, the Liturgy of the Word, the Adoration of the Cross, and Holy Communion.”¹²

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

A collection for the support of the shrines in the Holy Land is taken up at the Good Friday celebration of the Lord’s Passion in all churches. The proceeds should be forwarded to the Chancery Building by, **May 1, 2019.**



¹² *Roman Missal*, Friday of the Passion of the Lord, no. 4.

THE EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT

*By most ancient tradition, this is the night of keeping vigil for the Lord (Ex 12: 42), in which, following the Gospel admonition (Lk 12: 35-37), the faithful, carrying lighted lamps in their hands, should be like those looking for the Lord when he returns, so that at his coming he may find them awake and have them sit at his table.*¹³

TIME

“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.”¹⁴ The Vigil may not begin before sunset (7:31pm), while it may be noted that the USCCB Secretariat for Divine Worship recommends calculating nightfall by adding another hour to the time of sunset (8:31pm).

ONLY ONE VIGIL

“Of this night’s Vigil, which is the greatest and most noble of all solemnities, there is to be only one celebration in each church.”¹⁵

BAPTISM OF THE ELECT

“The usual time for the celebration of the sacraments of initiation is the Easter Vigil...”¹⁶ The rites for the reception of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist to the Elect is found in nos. 206-243 of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*.

RECEPTION INTO FULL COMMUNION

If the Rite of Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church is to be included in the Easter Vigil, nos. 566-594 of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (Appendix I: “Additional [combined] Rites”) are to be followed.

CONFIRMATION OF THOSE PREVIOUSLY BAPTIZED

A pastor intending to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to a previously baptized Catholic completing his or her initiation at the Easter Vigil, must apply to the Bishop for the faculty to confirm well in advance of the Easter Vigil.

¹³ *Roman Missal*, Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord, no. 1.

¹⁴ *Roman Missal*, Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord, no. 3.

¹⁵ *Roman Missal*, Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord, no. 2.

¹⁶ *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* [RCIA], no. 207.

EASTER SUNDAY: MASS DURING THE DAY

CREED OR RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

At the Masses of Easter Sunday, either the Creed may be said **or** the *Rite of Renewal of Baptismal Promises* may take place after the homily. If the *Rite of Renewal of Baptismal Promises* is used, the text used at the Easter Vigil is employed, in which case the Creed is omitted.¹⁷

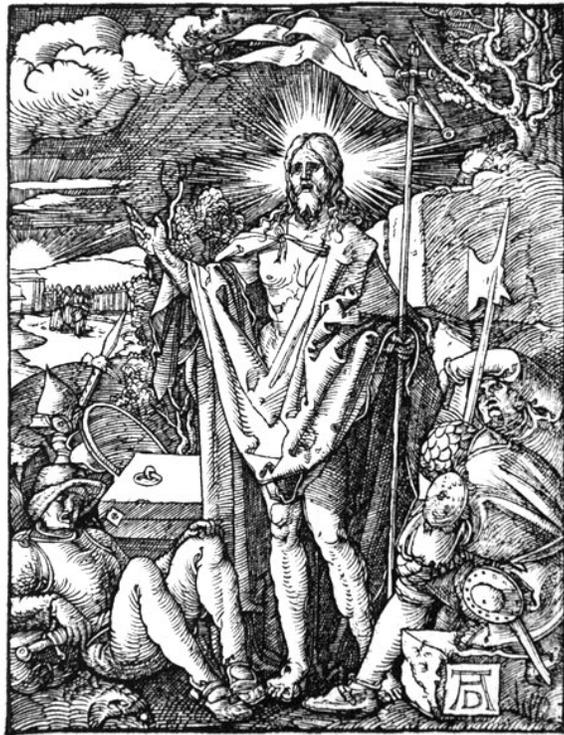
EASTER SEASON

“ONE GREAT SUNDAY”

“The fifty days from the Sunday of the Resurrection to Pentecost Sunday are celebrated in joy and exultation as one feast day, indeed as one “great Sunday.” These are the days above all others in which the *Alleluia* is sung.”¹⁸

THE FORTY DAYS

“On the fortieth day after Easter the Ascension of the Lord is celebrated, except where, not being observed as a Holy day of Obligation, it has been assigned to the Seventh Sunday of Easter (cf. no. 7).”¹⁹ In the Metropolitan Province of Boston, the Ascension of the Lord is celebrated on Thursday, May 30, 2019.



¹⁷ Cf. *Roman Missal*, Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord, no. 72.

¹⁸ *Roman Missal*, Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and Calendar,” no. 22.

¹⁹ *Roman Missal*, Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and Calendar,” no. 25.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

FUNERALS DURING THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Funeral Masses are not permitted during the Sacred Paschal Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday or Holy Saturday). However, the rites for a “Funeral Liturgy Outside of Mass” from the *Order of Christian Funerals*²⁰ may be celebrated with music appropriate to the spirit of these days. The term “Libera Service” is no longer used.

COMMUNION TO THE SICK DURING THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Although Holy Communion may be given to the faithful only in the context of the liturgical ceremonies during the Sacred Paschal Triduum, Holy 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.

RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS

While the Sacred Paschal Triduum may be celebrated in religious communities and other institutions, religious men and women who live in or serve a parish community are encouraged to join that community for the rites of Holy Week.

GAMES OF CHANCE DURING HOLY WEEK

In the Diocese of Worcester all games of chance, including Bingo and Beano, are prohibited during Holy Week.



²⁰ Chapter 4, nos. 177-203.

FACSIMILE



PLEASE FAX TO
The Office for Divine Worship
at
508-798-0418

2019 Order Form for LARGER BOTTLES OF HOLY OIL

This form needs to be returned **ONLY** if you are requesting a larger than usual quantities of Holy Oil

Parish _____

City/Town _____

Pastor's signature _____

This form must be returned by **FAX to the Office for Divine Worship** no later than **March 23rd**. At that time, the containers will be filled and no further pouring of oil can take place until after Easter.

ORDER FOR THE RECEPTION OF THE HOLY OILS²¹

INTRODUCTION

1. 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.
2. The presentation of the holy Oils may take place at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday or, if the Oils are not blessed on Holy Thursday, on another day.
3. The oils should be reserved in a suitable repository in the presbyterium or near the baptismal font.

RECEPTION OF THE HOLY OILS

4. The Oils, in suitable vessels, are carried in the Entrance Procession by ministers or other persons. The vessels of oil are placed on a table which has been prepared for them in the sanctuary. The Priest may incense the Oils after he has incensed the altar.
5. After the Greeting of the Mass the Priest may briefly explain the significance of the blessing of the Oils and their use. The Oils are then placed in the repository where they are to be reserved and the Mass continues in the usual manner.
6. The following, or other words, may be used to explain the significance of the Oils:

OIL OF THE SICK

**This Oil of the Sick has been blessed by our Bishop for the healing of body, mind, and soul.
May the sick, who are anointed with it,
experience the compassion of Christ and his saving love.**

OIL OF CATECHUMENS

**This Oil of Catechumens has been blessed by our Bishop for the anointing of those preparing for Baptism.
Through this anointing they are strengthened by Christ to resist the power of Satan and reject evil in all its forms,
as they prepare for the saving waters of Baptism.**

HOLY CHRISM

**This holy Chrism, a mixture of olive oil and perfume,
has been consecrated by our Bishop and the Priests of our Diocese.
It will be used to anoint infants after Baptism,
those who are to be confirmed,
Bishops and Priests at their Ordination,
and altars and churches at the time of their dedication.**

²¹ *Book of Blessings.*