

Liturgical Guidelines for Holy Week 2021

Diocese of Madison | Most Reverend Donald Hying, Bishop

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to spread through communities all over the world. While the spread of the virus seems to be slowing, we still must be vigilant. We are not aware of any “super spreader” events ignited by the prayer and worship of the Church, which gives testimony to the diligent safety precautions that parishes have been observing,

With that in mind, the Vatican’s Congregation for Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments declared that we should use many of the guidelines from 2020. The following guidelines are to be observed in 2021 in the Diocese of Madison. They are drawn from a recent Vatican document, *Note to Bishops and Episcopal Conferences on the Celebration of Holy Week 2021* (February 17, 2021). Access to pertinent Vatican Document is available from our Diocesan website: <https://www.madisondiocese.org/holy-week>

Palm Sunday

- Parishes should use the Third Form of the Entrance Rite (The Simple Entrance).
- In the Diocese of Madison parishes may opt to use a “hybrid” method using some of the elements of the Second Form but omitting a large procession. Most parishioners remain in their pews while a few may be in the procession. Social distancing should be followed.
- For the Distribution of Palms:
 - Ushers or Greeters place palms in each pew before Mass.
 - Avoid an area (like a table in the back of church) where all come closely together to select their own palm.

Chrism Mass

- Tuesday of Holy Week (March 30) at 7:00 p.m. (St. Maria Goretti Church in Madison).
- To maintain social distancing, the numbers will be limited. All clergy are invited with two other representatives permitted per parish. RSVP for clergy requested (via Flocknote or call 821-3080 and leave a message before March 15, 2021).
- The Mass will be livestreamed from <https://www.madisondiocese.org/live>

Holy Thursday

- The Washing of the Feet, already optional, is to be omitted.
- The Eucharistic Procession after Holy Communion is to be omitted and the consecrated hosts are placed in the usual tabernacle behind the altar. An altar of repose is not needed in 2021.
- The people may adore the Lord as usual, after the liturgy from but from the pews.

Good Friday

- There will be an additional intercession specifically to address the pandemic.
 - The Office of Worship will distribute an additional intercession addressing the pandemic prior to Holy Week.
- The Veneration of the Cross is to be limited to the celebrant. The people may adore from their pews in silence. See the description of this in the Good Friday pages of the Roman Missal, number 15.

The Easter Vigil & Easter Sunday

- In the Diocese of Madison, the Entrance Rites around the fire may be celebrated as usual. If parishioners gather outside around the new fire, please keep in mind social distancing. You may wish to invite a smaller number of participants as possible for these Rites. Pastors may choose to omit the opening rites (including the Easter fire).
- People may remain in the pews with their unlit tapers.
- Tapers are lit, and Mass proceeds with the Exultet.
- In the Baptismal Liturgy, water should be changed after each baptism or a similar method should be used to ensure safety.
- Instead, you may use aspersion (with aspergillum) filled with blessed water before Mass (omit blessing of baptismal water/font during rite), baptism with shell over head with blessed water from aspersion;
- Confirmation as normal.
- Renewal of baptismal promises and sprinkling rite as normal.
- No Qtip or cotton ball for Confirmation (any exception should be arranged with the pastor and Office of Worship, Office of Bishop, or Vicar General).
- White garments and baptismal candles for neophytes, etc... as normal.
- Part III begins following the homily with the Blessing of the Baptismal Water (Roman Missal, Easter Vigil, Numbers 37-40 and 54).
- The Litany of the Saints may be dramatically shortened if the font is in the Sanctuary. It is omitted if no one will be baptized.
- An aspersion filled with water may be used for baptisms. If there is extra font water after Mass it may be dispersed to the ground. Additional water may be blessed separately for people to take home, or taken from the font, if this can be done hygienically.
- Easter Sunday Mass may be celebrated as usual. You may wish to register parishioners as you did at Christmas. Livestreaming is encouraged.

Singing

Singing is still considered a “high risk” activity. All parishioners should be made aware of this. As of now, the CDC even suggests “double masking.” The following guidelines are only to be used from Palm Sunday-Easter Sunday (2021). On Easter Monday we revert back to the guidelines that we currently are using.

- Congregation members and all liturgical ministers are to wear masks and practice social distancing.
- From Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday, you may have music with multiple cantors or a small schola (up to 4 singers).
- Anyone singing must wear a mask and social distancing should be used. Consider having Plexiglas between singers and/or instruments.
- We still want to be careful not to spread the virus, so we encourage you to limit the vocal participation of the people and to encourage them to listen as a type of participation. Please ask them to wear a mask for the safety of others. (For example, all sing the acclamations and Mass parts while having an instrumental entrance, when appropriate, and procession out of church.)
- Wind instruments should be covered with a [bell mask](#). There are singers masks as well. They provide a little more room around the nose and mouth. See an example [here](#).

The Office of Worship is funded from your donations to the ACA.