**Funeral Masses and Holy Days**

Funeral Masses are not permitted on solemnities that are holy days of obligation, Holy Thursday, the Easter Triduum, and the Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Easter (cf. GIRM, 380). On these days the body of the deceased may be brought into the church for the Funeral Liturgy Outside of Mass (OCF, 77). Funeral Masses are permitted on Holy Days only when the precept to attend Mass is abrogated.

When a funeral Mass or a Funeral Outside of Mass is celebrated, all of the rites and only the rites of the funeral liturgy are permitted. (e.g. the Gloria is never sung at a funeral Liturgy.)

**Confirmation**

On days when Ritual Masses are permitted, the Ritual Mass for Confirmation (RM, Ritual Masses, I. Christian Initiation, 4. Confirmation), with its proper readings, is celebrated. Red vestments may be worn.

On days when the Ritual Mass is not permitted, one of the readings may be taken from those provided in the Lectionary for Mass for the Ritual Mass for confirmation.

The Solemn Blessing proper to the Ritual Mass may always be used.

**When confirmation is celebrated on any of the days listed below, the Mass of the Day with its proper readings is celebrated. Mass vestments are the color of the day.**

1. The Easter Triduum of the Lord’s passion and resurrection
2. Christmas, Epiphany, Ascension, and Pentecost. Sundays of Advent, Lent, and the Easter season. Ash Wednesday Weekdays of Holy Week from Monday to Thursday inclusive Days within the octave of Easter (This includes Saturday, April 27, 2019).
3. Solemnities of the Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and saints listed in the General Calendar. All Souls.
4. Proper solemnities, namely:
   a. solemnity of the principal patron of the place, that is, the city or state;
   b. solemnity of the dedication of a particular church and its anniversary;
   c. solemnity of the title of a particular church;
   d. solemnity of the title or of the founder or of the principal patron of a religious order or congregation (where applicable).
5. On Sundays of Ordinary Time, the Ritual Mass of Confirmation is permitted. Red vestments may be used.
6. If Confirmation occurs at a regularly scheduled Sunday Mass, the Mass of the day with the color should be celebrated.

**Weddings**

On days when Ritual Masses are permitted, one of the wedding Masses (RM, Ritual Masses, IV. Wedding Mass, 1. For the Celebration of Marriage) with its proper readings may be celebrated. The color is white.

When the Ritual Mass is not celebrated, one of the readings may be chosen from those provided in the Lectionary for Mass for the Ritual Mass for weddings. On the days listed in the Confirmation box (cf below), the Mass of the day with its readings is celebrated, with the nuptial blessing included and, as circumstances suggest, the proper solemn blessing. Mass vestments are the color of the day.

It should be noted that if the Mass in which the sacrament of marriage is celebrated is a regularly scheduled parish Mass, the Mass of the day is celebrated, even on the Sundays of the Christmas season and Ordinary Time.

The Ritual Mass for Marriage is not permitted on Solemnities and on Holy Days on which the precept to attend Mass is abrogated.

With the exception of the Easter Triduum, the Rite of Marriage Outside of Mass is always permitted (with its readings from the Lectionary), regardless of the feast or solemnity.

The Gloria is always sung during the Ritual Mass for Marriage, even when it is celebrated during Advent and Lent. (The Ritual Mass for Marriage is not permitted on the Sundays of Advent, Lent and Easter.)
**THE APOSTLES’ CREED DURING LENT AND EASTER**

The rubric found in the Roman Missal for the Order of Mass 19 stipulates that: **Instead of the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed, especially during Lent and Easter Time, the baptismal Symbol of the Roman Church, known as the Apostles’ Creed, may be used.**

This option is recommended particularly for Lent/Easter Time is because of its close relationship with baptism. The Apostles’ Creed is the basis for the baptismal promises made by the elect before they are baptized. It is also used for the renewal of baptismal promises at Easter and by parents and godparents when bringing a child for baptism.

**LENTEN COMMUNAL Penance Services**

Every effort should be made to schedule communal celebrations of the sacrament of Penance during the season of Lent (cf. Rite of Penance, 13). Additional opportunities for individual confessions may be scheduled in the parishes according to pastoral need. Lenten Communal Penance Services should not be scheduled during the days of the Triduum, nor on the Monday of Holy Week, April 15, 2019 to allow priests and people to participate in the Chrism Mass in the Cathedral Basilica.

A Lenten Communal Penance service will be available on the website www.rcan.org/worship under Liturgical Year/Lent.

**HOLY WATER FONTS DURING THE SEASON OF LENT**

It is not permitted to remove holy water from the baptismal and other fonts of the church during the season of Lent. Fonts are only emptied of holy water on Holy Thursday for the days of the Sacred Triduum in anticipation of the blessing of the water at the Easter Vigil.

**THE SAINTS DURING LENT**

Solemnities and feasts are celebrated as usual. Memorials of the saints are not celebrated during Lent, but they may be commemorated as follows:

**At Mass**
- The opening prayer of the saint may replace the opening prayer of the Lenten weekday.
- The Scripture readings are always those of the Lenten weekday.
- The prayer over the gifts and prayer after communion are always the prayers of the Lenten weekday.
- The Lenten Prefaces are always used and may even be used for Prefaces with the Eucharistic Prayers for Reconciliation.
- The color is always violet.

**IN THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS**

**At the Office of Readings**

After the second reading (with its responsory) from the Lenten weekday the readings of the saint (with its responsory) may be added with the concluding prayer of the saint.

**At Morning and Evening Prayer**

The ending of the concluding prayer may be omitted and the antiphon and the prayer of the saint may be added.

**INITIATION**

The Rites of Initiation where catechumens and candidates exist are not to be omitted. The Ritual Mass celebration of the Scrutinies may be used on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent. (cf. Roman Missal, Ritual Masses, 1,2)

**SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**

Penitential Rite of Candidates for Full Communion (RCIA, 459, ff)

**THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**

Celebration of the First Scrutiny (RCIA, 141, ff)

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

Celebration of the Second Scrutiny (RCIA, 164, ff)

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

Celebration of the Third Scrutiny (RCIA, 171, ff)

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**SUNDAY LENTEN GOSPELS**

The Gospel Readings for Lent are arranged as follows:

The first and second Sundays maintain the account of the Temptation and Transfiguration of the Lord, with readings from all three Synoptics.

On the next three Sundays, the Gospels of the Samaritan women, the man born blind, and the raising of Lazarus have been restored in Year A. Because these Gospels are of major importance in regard to Christian Initiation, they may also be proclaimed in Year B and Year C, especially in places where there are catechumens.

Other texts, however, are provided for Year B and Year C: for Year B, a text from John about Christ’s coming glorification through his cross and resurrection, and for Year C, a text from Luke about conversion.

On Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion the text for the procession are selections from the Synoptic Gospels concerning the Lord’s solemn entry into Jerusalem. For the Mass the reading is the account of the Lord’s Passion.

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**CHRISM MASS — MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2019**

The Chrism Mass will be celebrated at 8:00 PM in the Cathedral Basilica. The Holy Oils will be distributed after the Mass. More information will follow on the distribution of oils. Pastors should see to it that the old oils are properly disposed of and that they are replaced by the newly blessed oils. **Do not add new oils to the old.**

**Do not add oil to the oils from the Chrism Mass.**

Adding oil to the blessed/consecrated oil is not permitted. In some cases, e.g., Confirmation and Anointing of the Sick, the validity of the sacrament may be effected.

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**DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION TO THE SICK DURING THE EASTER TRIDUUM**

According to the Church’s ancient tradition, the sacraments are not celebrated on Good Friday or during the day on Holy Saturday. The rubrics of the *Missale Romanum* indicate that only the sacraments of the Anointing of the Sick and Penance are celebrated on Good Friday and Holy Saturday. (*Missale Romanum, “Rubrics for Good Friday,” 1)*. **Holy Communion may be brought at any hour of the day on Holy Thursday and Good Friday to the sick who cannot take part in the liturgical services.** On Holy Saturday, Holy Communion may be given only as viaticum.

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**THE EASTER TRIDUUM**

The Easter Triduum begins with the Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper and ends with Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday.

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**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is prohibited during the Easter Triduum, even in places where “perpetual adoration” is held. “Under no circumstances may perpetual exposition take place during the Easter Triduum.”

(*Thirty-One Questions on Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 26)* Therefore, the Eucharist is not to be exposed at any time from Holy Thursday through evening prayer of Easter Sunday.

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**FUNERALS ON HOLY THURSDAY AND DURING THE EASTER TRIDUUM**

Funeral Masses are **NOT** permitted on Holy Thursday morning or during the days of the Easter Triduum. On these days the body of the deceased may be brought to the church and the Funeral Liturgy Outside of Mass may be celebrated. (OCF, 177-203) A memorial Mass should be celebrated on a convenient date after the Octave of Easter.

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**HOLY THURSDAY**

According to the Church’s ancient tradition, all Masses without a congregation are prohibited on this day. The Mass of the Lord’s Supper is celebrated in the evening. (see, *Circular Letter Concerning the Preparation and Celebration of the Paschal Feasts, 47)* Additional Masses on Holy Thursday may be permitted by the Ordinary, only for those in no way able to participate in the evening Mass and not for the advantage of individuals or special small groups. This is to be strictly adhered to. (*Missale Romanum, “Rubrics for the Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper” (EM, 3)*)

*Bishops’ Committee on the Liturgy Newsletter, March/April 2003*

In the Archdiocese of Newark, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion should not be installed on Holy Thursday. **First Communion should not be celebrated on Holy Thursday.**
GOOD FRIDAY
The Celebration of the Lord’s Passion is to take place in the afternoon, at about three o’clock. For pastoral reasons, an appropriate time may be chosen in order to allow the people to assemble more easily, for example, shortly after midday or in the late evening, however, not later than nine o’clock. (Circular Letter Concerning the Preparation and Celebration of the Paschal Feasts, 63)

Other rites or devotional practices should not be added to the official liturgy.

Although Stations of the Cross are permitted, they are never to replace nor be given greater prominence than the Celebration of the Lord’s Passion.

Good Friday, and, if possible, on Holy Saturday until the Easter Vigil, the paschal fast is observed everywhere to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more deeply in his resurrection.

See additional information on the website rcan.org/sites/default/files/files/Good Friday.pdf

It is recommended that there be a communal celebration of the Office of Readings and Morning Prayer on Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

See rcan.org/sites/default/files/files/MornOfFr.pdf

HOLY THURSDAY RITE OF FOOT WASHING
“After the Homily, where a pastoral reason suggests it, the Washing of Feet follows. Those who have been chosen from among the people of God are led by the ministers to seats prepared in a suitable place. Then the priest (removing his chasuable if necessary) goes to each one, and, with the help of the ministers, pours water over each one’s feet and then dries them” (RM nos. 10-11).

A decree issued from the Vatican Jan. 21, 2016, states that pastors can choose “...a small group of the faithful to represent the variety and the unity of each part of the people of God. Such small groups can be made up of men and women, and it is appropriate that they consist of people young and old, healthy and sick, clerics, consecrated men and women and laity."

Note: The practice of washing hands in place of the washing of the feet is not permitted. The rite clearly calls for an imitation of Christ who washed the feet of his disciples at the Last Supper. No substitution for the washing of feet is permitted.

EASTER VIGIL
Sunset will take place at 7:41 pm on Saturday, April 20, 2019. This means that the Easter Vigil is not to begin before 8:30 pm at the earliest. No other Masses may be celebrated on Holy Saturday before the Easter Vigil is completed. Once the Vigil is completed, Masses for Easter may be celebrated even if it is still Saturday evening.

In the Archdiocese of Newark, the Cardinal Archbishop has directed that there is to be one and only one Easter Vigil in a given parish. The Archbishop has further directed that groups which may have become accustomed to celebrate separately (i.e. either privately or individually) be invited to join the one parish Easter Vigil celebration.

Nine readings are assigned to the Easter Vigil: seven from the Old Testament, and two from the New Testament. It should be noted that the Roman Missal requires that at least three Old Testament readings, always including Exodus 14, must be proclaimed at the Easter Vigil. Of course, all nine readings “must be read whenever it can be done, so that the character of a Vigil which takes place over some duration of time can be observed.” (EV, 20, Bishops Committee on the Liturgy Newsletter, January 2003)

BAPTISMAL GARMENT
The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults describes the optional clothing of the neophyte with the baptismal garment immediately following baptism.

The most appropriate vesture for neophytes would be a white garment, probably in the shape of an alb or choir robe. If a baptismal garment is not specially created, an alb or white choir robe could appropriately be used. (It is ordinarily worn by the neophytes for liturgical prayer during the Octave of Easter.) In no instance should those who are not ordained be vested in chasuble, stole or dalmatic.

EASTER SUNDAY
On Easter Sunday the rite of the renewal of baptismal promises takes place after the homily. It is found in the texts of the Easter Vigil. The Creed is omitted.

The Easter Triduum ends with the conclusion of Evening Prayer. The tradition of celebrating Vespers on Easter Sunday with the singing of psalms is an appropriate conclusion.
**Weddings During the Octave of Easter (April 26 and 27, 2019)**

Friday, April 26, and Saturday, April 27, 2019, are solemnities and are within the Octave of Easter. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal, 330, states: “Ritual Masses are prohibited on solemnities, on days within the octave of Easter...”.

However, paragraph 54 in the Order of Celebrating Matrimony Within Mass states that “If marriage is celebrated on a solemnity, the Mass of the day is used, retaining the Nuptial Blessing in the Mass and, if appropriate, the proper formula for the final blessing”.

When the wedding Mass may not be used, (which is the case on April 26 and 27) one of the readings in Nos. 69-116 (Order of Celebrating Matrimony) should be chosen. The readings can also be found in the proper section of the Lectionary.

If a wedding is to take place during the celebration of Mass on April 26 or 27, the proper Masses must be used for the Friday or Saturday within the Octave of Easter. The readings for the Friday or Saturday within the Octave of Easter must be used for this Mass (except for one reading which may be taken marriage ritual. The Rite of Marriage is then celebrated after the homily).

The Order of Celebrating Matrimony Without Mass is permitted during the Octave of Easter.

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**First Holy Communion**

“It is also appropriate that children receive their First Communion on one or other of the Sundays of Easter.” (Circular Letter Concerning the Preparation and Celebration of the Paschal Feasts, 103)

First Communion may be appropriately celebrated on a Sunday between the Second and Sixth Sunday of Easter, or the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, or the Sundays of Ordinary Time, since Sunday is rightly regarded as the day of the Eucharist. (cf. Redemptionis Sacramentum, 87)

It is appropriate to celebrate First Communion at a regularly scheduled Sunday Mass as a sign of initiation into the parish Sunday Eucharist.

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**Mass of Thanksgiving with the Neophytes Saturday, June 1, 2019**

Cardinal Tobin will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving with the newly initiated on Saturday, June 1, 2019 at 10 AM in the Cathedral Basilica, Newark. All those initiated in the parishes / institutions during the Easter Season are invited and encouraged to attend. Priests are welcome to concelebrate the Mass with the Cardinal.