



# GUIDELINES FOR LENT AND HOLY WEEK 2021

## OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OF ST. BLAISE, WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 3

- All liturgical celebrations must follow established protocols, e.g., capacity for which the parish is certified, registrations, masks, etc.
- For the blessing of throats, the general form for blessing should be used for all participants at the same time.
- There should be no individual blessing of throats.
- All other guidelines remain in effect.

## ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

- All liturgical celebrations must follow established protocols, e.g., capacity for which the parish is certified, registrations, masks, etc.
- Distribution of ashes may take place in one of two ways (**but not both**):

### Preferred Option

- Sprinkling ashes on the top of the head as is frequently done in Europe, instead of signing with ashes on the forehead (see earlier distributed Guidelines for Lent and Holy Week).

### Second Option

- A non-plastic Q-Tip or a cotton ball may be used to administer the ashes on the person's forehead.
- However, a fresh non-plastic Q-Tip or cotton ball must be used for each person.
- The Q-Tips and cotton balls need to be properly disposed of afterward, either by burning or burying (thus the call for non-plastics).
- Note: Whichever means is used, catechesis and preparation of the faithful prior to Ash Wednesday will be necessary.
- Ushers will need to maintain physical distancing during the procession for ashes.
- All other guidelines for the Mass or Liturgy of the Word remain in effect.
- For Schools:
  - Cohorts attend one of the various parish Masses or Liturgies of the Word that are normally scheduled on Ash Wednesday;
  - OR Students may virtually participate in the Mass or Liturgy of Word,
  - the Pastor and mandated Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion then distribute ashes in the classrooms according to the methods described above.
    - All distributing ashes wear mask and shield.
    - All in classrooms must maintain physical distance, wear masks, etc.

## CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION FOR BAPTIZED CANDIDATES

- All liturgical celebrations must follow established protocols, e.g., capacity for which the parish is certified, registrations, masks, etc.
- This celebration is to be done by the pastor at the parish.
- If the candidates are signed with the cross, this is only to be done on the forehead; i.e., the signing of the senses is not to take place this year.
- The presider will make the sign of the cross **in front of** the candidate's forehead, **not on** the forehead. There is to be no physical touch.
- The sponsor **does not** sign the candidate's forehead, and is to remain in the pew when the candidates are called forward. The sponsor may stand when the candidate's name is called.
- All other guidelines for the Mass remain in effect, e.g., physical distancing at all times, etc.

## SCRUTINIES AND PENITENTIAL RITE, MARCH 1, 7, 14 AND 21

- All liturgical celebrations must follow established protocols, e.g., capacity for which the parish is certified, registrations, masks, etc.
- These Rites normally involve the priest laying on hands on the heads of the catechumens or candidates during the minor exorcism / prayer over the candidates.
  - The priest is to be in mask and face shield.
  - This year, the priest is to extend his hands over the catechumens or the candidates only.
  - Hands are not to be laid on the heads.
  - Godparents and sponsors are to remain in the pew; they may stand when the catechumen or candidate is called forward.
- All other guidelines remain in effect; physical distancing, etc.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

- All devotional celebrations must follow established protocols, e.g., capacity for which the parish is certified, registrations, masks, etc.
- In some parishes there is the practice of all participants moving from station to station.
  - This year there is to be no movement of the congregation.
  - The leader **only** may move from station to station. Any servers or other ministers stay in their places.
- All other guidelines remain in effect.

## LIVING WAY OF THE CROSS / LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS / ACTED OUT STATIONS / PASSION PLAYS / ETC.

- These are not to take place this year.
- This applies to both parishes and schools, as well as any community sponsored events.

## COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICES

- Due to the pandemic, new variants of the Coronavirus and the current increase in infections, Communal Reconciliation services with individual confessions are not recommended this year because of the logistical difficulty in maintaining privacy, physical distancing, cleaning and other safety and health requirements.
- If a parish wishes to celebrate a communal Penance Service without individual confession, they must follow the established guidelines for church capacity, physical distancing and face coverings/masks.
  - Individual reconciliation would then be according to the parish's schedules and capacities.
  - Parishes may also consider scheduling an evening(s) during Lent so that more parishes may avail themselves of the sacrament.

## PARISH MISSIONS

- All Missions must follow established protocols, e.g., capacity for which the parish is certified, registrations, masks, etc.
- There should be no social or fellowship following presentations of the Mission.
- Parishes are encouraged to have a virtual Mission this year.

## LENTEN FISH FRIES / LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS / ETC.

- These are not to be held this year.
- Consider virtual Lenten evenings of reflection this year.

## PALM SUNDAY (MARCH 28)

- All liturgical celebrations must follow established protocols, e.g., capacity for which the parish is certified, registrations, masks, etc.
- The Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem is to be celebrated according to the third form as given in the Roman Missal.
- The blessing and distribution of palms may be done in one of the following manners:
  - Specified ushers, wearing gloves, may distribute palms to the faithful as they enter.OR
  - Palms may be laid on a table in a convenient place and the faithful pick up palms on their way into the church;
  - Usher should monitor the tables so that the faithful, maintaining physical distance, may take palms, one at a time.
  - The palms may be sprinkled with holy water.

## HOLY THURSDAY

- All liturgical celebrations must follow established protocols, e.g., capacity for which the parish is certified, registrations, masks, etc.
- The washing of feet is omitted.
- At the end of the Mass of the Lord's Supper the Blessed Sacrament may be processed to a tabernacle, other than the main one, which is prepared at a place in the church, e.g., at a side altar.
- The presiding priest only, led by incense, cross and candles (all in single file, physically distance, etc.) process to the tabernacle.
- No one else is to process.
- Adoration follows:
  - All current guidelines established for adoration apply (see [archchicago.org/coronavirus/reopening](https://www.archchicago.org/coronavirus/reopening)).
  - Monitoring must take place – to ensure masks, sanitizing seats when an adorer leaves and before another person is allowed in, etc.
- Parish sponsored pilgrimages (commonly known as “Seven Church Pilgrimages”) are prohibited.

## GOOD FRIDAY

- All liturgical celebrations must follow established protocols, e.g., capacity for which the parish is certified, registrations, masks, etc.
- For the Adoration of the Holy Cross, no physical contact with the cross is to take place.

- Adoration of the Holy Cross may take place in one of two ways:

**Preferred method**

- The Roman Missal allows for a “general adoration” in which the priest holds the cross in the front of the sanctuary and the faithful may kneel or sit for a brief time.

**Second Option**

- The faithful may process to the front of the church but are to be instructed to venerate the cross with a bow or a genuflection only.
- The procession to the cross is to take place maintaining physical distance.

**HOLY SATURDAY**

- The Service of Light is to be omitted.
  - The Paschal Candle is to be prepared beforehand.
  - The Paschal Candle is lit, the procession is omitted and the Easter Proclamation (Exsultet) follows.
    - To achieve this, the Paschal Candle can be lit in the sacristy and the ministers enter the sanctuary, with the lit candle, from the sacristy.
- The Liturgy of the Word takes place.
- For the “Baptismal Liturgy” Baptisms and Reception into Full Communion are to take place according to the established guidelines of the Archdiocese of Chicago (see [archchicago.org/coronavirus/reopening](http://archchicago.org/coronavirus/reopening)).
- Holy Water fonts are still to remain empty.
- The people can be sprinkled with fresh holy water for the renewal of baptismal promises.
  - Because of the need to lower masks all at the same time, and then blow to extinguish them, individual candles for the faithful are not to be used.
- The Liturgy of the Eucharist follows.

**UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR MUSICIANS / SINGERS:**

- No choirs are permitted.
- For now, because of the new variant of the Coronavirus, and the rise in infections, the previous directive of a maximum of two singers / cantors is to be observed.
  - they must remain 10–12 feet apart in all directions.
  - if the situation with the virus changes by Holy Week, this will be reassessed.
- No brass or wood wind instruments may be used.
- String and percussion instruments (e.g. guitar, violin, tympani) may be used.