

# Holy Week in the Diocese of Madison

March 19, 2020

Items marked with an asterisk (\*) are from a *Decree of the Congregation of Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments* issued on March 19, 2020. These marked items are mandated by the Holy Father for the year 2020 only.

1. **Concerning the Date of Easter\***
  - a. The date of Easter must never be moved.
  
2. **Palm Sunday**
  - a. The blessing of palms may take place as usual.
  - b. You may leave them for people to pick up after the shelter in place order is revoked.
  
3. **Chrism Mass**
  - a. The Chrism Mass will be celebrated privately by the bishop and livestreamed online.
  - b. In 2020, it will be celebrated on Holy Thursday morning at 10 a.m.
  - c. Information regarding distribution of the holy oils is forthcoming.
  
4. **The Paschal Triduum\***
  - a. Even though these liturgies will be celebrated without a congregation, the times of the liturgies should be announced so that the faithful may prayerfully unite themselves in their homes.
  - b. Live broadcasts streamed online are encouraged (perhaps with an online worship aid)
  - c. The Diocese is developing resources for family and personal prayer
  
5. **Holy Thursday\***
  - a. Because of the unusual circumstances this year (2020), priests are granted (in an exceptional manner) the faculty to celebrate the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper without the people.
  - b. The washing of the feet is to be omitted.
  - c. At the end of Mass of the Lord's Supper the procession with the Blessed Sacrament to the place of repose *is to be omitted* and the Blessed Sacrament is to be kept in the regular tabernacle.
  - d. Priests who are unable to celebrate Mass should pray Vespers of the Day.
  
6. **Good Friday\***
  - a. The Bishop/Pastor/Parochial Administrator will celebrate the Passion of the Lord.
  - b. In the Universal Prayer, the Bishop will see to it that there is a special intention for the sick, the dead, for those who feel lost or dismayed. This is forthcoming.

- c. The Diocese is developing a resource for prayer at home which will include the Scripture readings.

**7. Easter Vigil\***

- a. In the *Solemn Beginning of the Vigil or Lucernarium*
  - i. Preparation and Lighting of the fire is omitted.
  - ii. The Paschal Candle is lit but the procession is omitted.
  - iii. The Easter Proclamation (Exsultet) follows [following the incensing of the candle].
  - iv. The Liturgy of the Word takes place as usual.
  - v. Only the *Renewal of Baptismal Promises* is necessary (*if there are no baptisms*) in the Baptismal Liturgy,
  - vi. The Liturgy of the Eucharist takes place as usual.
  - vii. Presider Books will be prepared by the Office of Worship and sent to you as soon as possible.
  
- b. **Regarding those to be baptized (Diocese of Madison)**
  - i. If there are only one or two to be baptized, they may be invited (with their godparent) to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. Care needs to be taken not to exceed a total on 9 people if the state is still enforcing this current mandate.
  - ii. Alternatively, they may choose to be baptized at a later time when more family and friends attend. If this is the case it should be celebrated during a parish Sunday Mass. The Easter Sacraments are not to be celebrated privately.
  - iii. It is left to the pastor, in consultation with the soon-to-be-baptized, to determine whether or not they will be baptized at the Vigil.
  
- c. **Regarding those to be received into the fullness of the faith and uncatechized adults seeking confirmation (Diocese of Madison)**
  - i. The norms above are to be followed for determining the date and time for celebrating these rites. It is not required to be celebrated within the same Mass or on the same day at which you are baptizing.

**8. Expressions of Popular Piety and Processions\***

- a. According to the judgment of the Diocesan Bishop these may be transferred to other suitable days in the year.

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