



**LITURGICAL DIRECTIVES
FOR PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD,
THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM
AND EASTER TIME 2022**

**OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP
ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA
TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2022**

The celebration of the Sacred Liturgy—the praise and worship of God by his people—is the greatest work of the Church carried out in all the parishes and institutions throughout the Archdiocese. With a genuine regard for the Mystery of Faith, it is also imperative that we continue to observe reasonable personal and corporate measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and its variants.

GENERAL POINTS

- **Everyone is reminded of the irreplaceable need to be in-person for the celebration of Sunday Mass.**
- Those who are sick, have a health risk, or are a primary caregiver, are excused from the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday. Those who are legitimately excused should observe the Lord’s Day by reading the Word of God and spending some time in prayer.
- It is no longer necessary to provide for the live streaming of all liturgical celebrations. *All live streaming information for Palm Sunday, the Chrism Mass and the Sacred Paschal Triduum at the Cathedral Basilica will be published on the Archdiocesan website. Live stream celebrations, Masses celebrated in real time, are always preferred over recordings.*
- The celebration of Holy Mass and all the Sacraments are to be carried out according to what is described in the liturgical books **without exception**. For Mass, however, in all circumstances:

- The distribution of the Body of Christ is distributed as usual, whether in the hand or on the tongue, without distinctions.
 - *If a face covering or mask is worn by the faithful, it is to be removed **before** the reception of Holy Communion.*
 - *The use of sanitizers **during** the distribution of Holy Communion are to be discontinued.*
 - *If a Communion Minister chooses to sanitize before the distribution of Holy Communion, this should take place in the pew prior to approaching the altar after the Invitation to Holy Communion. The priest or deacon may do so as well at the side (credence) table and not at the altar.*
 - *The purification of fingers after the distribution of Holy Communion should first take place with water at the side (credence) table before using a sanitizer.*
- The Invitation and the use of the Sign of Peace continue to be suspended until further notice. Alternate signs of peace should not be arbitrarily introduced. The distribution of the Precious Blood continues to be suspended until further notice.
- Priest concelebrants and assisting deacons receive the Blood of Christ typically by intinction until further notice.
 - *The suspension of the Sign of Peace and the distribution of the Precious Blood are the minimal “flu time” precautions for the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy. It is helpful for the common good, if there is the general observance of these suspensions by all at this point. They are currently in effect until the pandemic is officially concluded. When the exchange of the Sign of Peace and the distribution of the Precious Blood are reintroduced, a catechesis on both will be provided.*

THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE AND RECONCILIATION

Confessions may continue to take place during the celebration of Mass, especially on Sundays. Priests are to hear in the confessional as usual.

PALM SUNDAY, HOLY WEEK AND THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM

The celebrations for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and the Sacred Paschal Triduum are to be carried out as directed in the *Roman Missal*. The options provided in the *Roman Missal* that best suit the local pastoral circumstance are to be freely employed. **There are no ritual restrictions in place.**

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

- Palm is to be distributed as described in the *Roman Missal*.

CHRISM MASS

The Chrism Mass will be celebrated on Holy Thursday, April 14, 2022 at 10:00 AM in the Cathedral Basilica. The Holy Oils will be available following the Chrism Mass, approximately thirty minutes after the conclusion of the Mass, for use at the Easter Vigil. Separate directions have already been sent to the clergy. Everyone is welcome to participate in the Chrism Mass.

HOLY THURSDAY EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

- The washing of feet, which is always optional, may be carried out at the discretion of the pastor, parochial administrator or chaplain. Please see the catechesis that is attached.
 - *On Holy Thursday, Holy Communion may only be distributed to the faithful during Mass but it may be brought to the sick at any hour of the day.*

GOOD FRIDAY CELEBRATION OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

- The following may be added to the Solemn Intercessions with the permission of Archbishop Perez:

XI. For peace in Ukraine

Let us pray, dearly beloved, for the people in Ukraine, and in all war zones of the world, for those who have fled the dread of violence and have been deprived of their homes, for all men and women who stand up with their lives to ward off evil and to protect the weak and the persecuted.

Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:

Almighty and eternal God, you have compassion for the lowly and the poor, but you cast down oppressors. As you guided Israel out of slavery in Egypt, so in our days save all victims of war and violence. Change the hearts of evildoers and let peace be victorious. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

XII. For an end to the pandemic

Let us pray, dearly beloved, for the end to the coronavirus pandemic that continues to afflict our world, that our God and Father will heal the sick, strengthen those who care for them, and help us all to persevere in faith.

Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:

Almighty and merciful God, source of all life, health and healing, look with compassion on our world, brought low by disease; protect us in the midst of the grave challenges that assail us and in your fatherly providence grant recovery to the stricken, strength to those who care for them, and success to those working to eradicate the coronavirus and its variants. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

- *On Good Friday, Holy Communion is distributed apart from the Celebration of the Passion of the Lord only to the sick. On Holy Saturday, Holy Communion is only given as Viaticum.*

THE EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT

- As previously published, the Easter Vigil **should not begin before nightfall**. It may be helpful to know that sunset, according to a variety of models, occurs approximately at 7:40 PM on April 16, 2022. In general, given the variable date for Easter, it seems best to schedule the Easter Vigil each year for 8:00 PM or later.
- Only full Christian Initiation—Baptism, Confirmation and the Holy Eucharist—for adults and school age children takes place at the Easter Vigil. The Reception of Baptized Christians into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church with Confirmation and Communion and the Confirmation and Communion of Baptized Catholics takes place apart from the Easter Vigil
- For information on the blessing of two or more Paschal Candles at the Easter Vigil where this might be needed, please see <https://www.odwphiladelphia.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/April-Priest-Mailing-2022.pdf>.

SACRAMENTS OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN

- Please see <https://www.odwphiladelphia.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/April-Priest-Mailing-2022.pdf> in the April Monthly Mailing of the Office for Divine Worship.

Thank you so very much for your generous assistance in observing these directives. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at fr.dgill@archphila.org.

In Christ,
Father Dennis Gill
Director, Office for Divine Worship