

NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC PILGRIMAGE MAY 30—JUNE 3, 2024
PASSES THROUGH THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA
WALK WITH HIM/PRAY WITH HIM

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE FOR THE NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION

The ritual book, *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist outside Mass*, gives the basic directives for a procession with the Most Blessed Sacrament (see Chapter III, section 2). However, the unique nature of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage suggests this additional guidance.

THE PROCESSION OUTSIDE

The Eucharistic Procession moves according to the following order:

- cross bearer,
- flanked by two candle bearers,
 - all servers should be properly vested for this procession,
- then the clergy in the usual order, deacons followed by priests,
 - all clergy are vested for this procession with a cassock and surplice or alb,
- two censor bearers/two boats,
- the priest carrying the Most Blessed Sacrament,
 - the priest wears a white cope and carries the monstrance with a white humeral veil covering his hands as he holds the monstrance,
 - the Most Blessed Sacrament is typically carried under a canopy,
 - four to six torches escort the Most Blessed Sacrament,
 - *if a Bishop carries the Most Blessed Sacrament, then his crosier is carried before the two censor bearers; his deacon chaplains are behind him; the servers with his miter and the ritual book follow the deacon chaplains,*
- Knights of Columbus, Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulcher and of Malta in full uniform,
- the liturgical music ministers and/or the choir,
- the lay faithful with music programs for song during the procession,
 - all may carry candles during the procession,
 - bells may be rung during the procession,
 - any images of Mary and the saints as well as other banners follow behind the Most Blessed Sacrament or are carried among the lay faithful.

If there are outside stations for Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament:

- an altar is prepared in advance, covered with a white cloth, a corporal and four to six candles,
- flowers may also be to the side of the altar but not on it,
- Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament is carried out in the usual way as found in the ritual book, *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist outside Mass* (see Chapter III, section 1).

INSIDE THE CHURCH WITH HOLY MASS

- The altar is prepared with four to six lit candles.

- If the procession arrives to the church and Holy Mass is to follow, then the monstrance is placed on the altar, a prayer from the ritual book, *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist outside Mass* (see Chapter III, section 1) is sung or said. After this the consecrated host is reposed in the tabernacle, the altar is cleared, and Holy Mass begins as usual.
- If the procession follows Holy Mass, the following is observed:
 - In every case a host for the monstrance is consecrated during the Mass prior to the Eucharistic procession.
 - Following the distribution of Holy Communion, the monstrance with the newly consecrated host is placed on the corporal on the altar.
 - The priest celebrant sings or says the Prayer after Communion at the priest celebrant's chair.
 - After the Prayer after Communion, the priest celebrant changes into a white cope for the Eucharistic Procession.
 - Then at the foot of the altar, the priest celebrant, after preparing the censor, kneels and incenses the Most Blessed Sacrament with three single swings of the censor.
 - During the incensing of the Most Blessed Sacrament, a suitable Eucharistic hymn is sung.
 - After this, the priest celebrant receives the white humeral veil, goes to the altar, genuflects, and takes the monstrance for the procession.
 - The canopy is not used inside the church. An ombrelino, if available, may be used in the church until the Most Blessed Sacrament moves under the canopy for the outside procession.

INSIDE THE CHURCH WITH THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

- The altar is prepared with four to six lit candles.

The celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours should take place with the priest celebrant presiding in a white cope, a deacon, if present, assisting in a white dalmatic. Properly vested servers should be in place to assist, especially with the incense and bells during the rite of Benediction.

The priest celebrant presides at the priest celebrant's chair. Someone should be assigned to lead the singing, especially if the psalms are chanted, to proclaim the short reading other than the deacon.

For Evening Prayer, the priest celebrant can lead the intercessions. After the Lord's Prayer, the priest celebrant moves to the foot of the altar for the usual rite of Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. The Prayer before the Most Blessed Sacrament is the Concluding Prayer of Evening Prayer.

When Daytime Prayer is prayed before the Most Blessed Sacrament, it should come to a complete close and be followed by a period of silence. After this, Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament is carried out in the usual way as found in the ritual book, *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist outside Mass* (Chapter III, section 1).