



LITURGICAL GUIDELINES FOR HOLY WEEK DURING THE TIME OF SUSPENSION OF PUBLIC MASSES

Archdiocese of St. Louis + March 23, 2020

INTRODUCTION

All public liturgies for Holy Week are suspended. Below please find specific guidance on how best to proceed with celebrating the services during Holy Week. Please note that these guidelines are based on present recommendations issued by the local, state and federal agencies. However, modifications and changes will be made as necessary.

The liturgies of Holy Week are permitted to be celebrated with the priest and at least one other minister, totaling no more than 10. It is possible that an organist, keyboardist or other musician who sings, or a musician and a cantor can be present to provide music for these most sacred liturgies. The total number in attendance, including celebrant, should number 10 or less in accord with President Trump's recommendation and the current CDC guidelines.

HOLY WEEK/TRIDUUM LITURGIES

Palm Sunday, Chrism Mass and all Triduum Liturgies will be live-streamed with Archbishop Carlson from the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis.

I: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Private Mass Only. (Live-streamed from Cathedral Basilica at 8 am)

The *Third Form: The Simple Entrance* should be utilized. The blessed palm branches are then to be placed in a convenient location so that parishioners may come and receive them according to the arrangements of the pastor.

III: Chrism Mass

Mass celebrated privately by Archbishop Carlson, only on Tuesday, April 7, 2020.

(Live-streamed Holy Thursday from Cathedral Basilica at 10 am)

The public celebration of the Chrism Mass will not happen. The priests in attendance, representing the entire St. Louis presbyterate, will renew their priestly promises in front of Archbishop Carlson.

Priests will pick-up their blessed Holy Oils beginning Wednesday, April 8, 2020, at 9 am. You have been given a designated time to pick-up your oils based on your deanery. The schedule can be found on our website: [Holy Oils Pick-Up Schedule.pdf](#).

II: Mass of the Lord's Supper (Holy Thursday)

Private Mass Only. (Live-streamed from Cathedral Basilica at 7:30 pm)

In Cathedral and parish churches/chapels of religious communities, where and in the measure that there is a real possibility of doing so, established by the one responsible, the priest(s) of the parish can celebrate the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper. The faculty to celebrate Mass on this day in a suitable place, without the people, is granted in an exceptional manner to all priests. The *Washing of the Feet*, which is already optional, is to be omitted. At the end of the 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 tabernacle.

Archbishop Carlson is asking all priests to spend an extended period of time in prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament praying especially for the unity of the whole Church and for the safety and health of all people. Arrangements should be made that all churches remain open for a part of the evening. Priests who are unable to celebrate Mass should instead pray Vespers of the day.

III: Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)

Private Liturgy Only. (Live-streamed from Cathedral Basilica at 3 pm)

In Cathedral and parish churches/chapels of religious communities, where and in the measure that there is a real possibility of doing so, established by the one responsible, the Bishop/Parish Priest will celebrate the Passion of the Lord. In the Universal Prayer, the Bishop/Parish Priest will see to it that there is a special intention for the sick, the dead, and for those who feel lost or dismayed (c.f. *Missale Romanum*, pag. 314 n. 13).

During the time appointed for *The Adoration of the Holy Cross*, Archbishop Carlson is asking all priests to spend an extended period of time in prayer praying especially for the unity of the whole Church and for the safety and health of all people.

IV: The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night (Easter Vigil)

Private Liturgy Only. (Live-streamed from Cathedral Basilica at 8 pm)

Is to be celebrated only in Cathedral and parish churches/chapels of religious communities, where and in the measure that there is a real possibility of doing so, established by the one responsible. At *The Solemn Beginning of the Vigil or Lucernarium* the preparation and lighting of the fire is omitted, the Paschal Candle is lit, the procession is omitted and the Easter Proclamation (Exsultet) follows. The *Liturgy of the Word* then takes place. For the *Baptismal Liturgy* the *Renewal of Baptismal Promises* alone is necessary (cf. *Missale Romanum*, pag. 371, n. 55). The *Liturgy of the Eucharist* then follows. Baptisms and receptions are postponed to the Vigil of Pentecost, how it was done in the early church, on May 30 or another Sunday in Easter.

Those who have absolutely no possibility of uniting themselves to the Paschal Vigil celebrated in a church should pray the Office of Reading for Easter Sunday.

IV: Easter of the Resurrection (Easter Sunday)

Private Mass Only. (Live-streamed from Cathedral Basilica at 8 am)

In place of the Penitential Act, the priest blesses the water, using the *Rite for the Blessing and Sprinkling of Water* (Appendix II). Pastors may find it pastorally beneficial to utilize the *Renewal of Baptismal Promises* at all Masses celebrated on the weekend following Easter.

UPDATES AND REMINDERS FROM PREVIOUS CORRESPONDENCE

MASS INTENTIONS (Mass *without the people* and *pro populo*)

A point of clarification regarding Mass intentions and *Mass without the people*. All priests are encouraged to celebrate a *Mass without the people* on a daily basis. If there is an intention assigned to a Mass which you will celebrate *without the people*, then that intention is to be celebrated. If for some reason you are unable to celebrate a *Mass without the people* on a given day, then the intention assigned to that day/Mass will need to be moved to the next available date. Every pastor is required to celebrate a *pro populo Mass without the people* on Sunday during the time public Masses are suspended.

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS, WEDDINGS, & BAPTISMS

Weddings and funerals should now be limited to 10 or fewer in attendance including the priest.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

There should be ample opportunities for It is recommended that the Sacrament of Penance be celebrated using a screen (anonymously) to ensure the health department's social distancing guidelines. Per the recommended guidelines confession should take place six feet from the confessor. If a penitent prefers to offer a confession face-to-face, the chair of the penitent should be placed approximately six feet from the confessor. This may require holding confessions in a different location than usual. Please post times of Reconciliation on your parish websites and social media pages.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

May still be administered by priests to those seriously ill or in danger of death. However, priests administering this sacrament need to be in good health. Those administering the sacrament need to follow proper protocols from the [CDC](#). Here are two additional links to assist with proper procedures to follow: 1. [Personal Protective Equipment Guidelines](#) and 2. [Anointing of the Sick: Guidelines for Priests/Clergy](#).

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

For a handout on Spiritual Communion or other Liturgical Resources please visit our website: <https://www.archstl.org/sacred-worship/spiritual-resources>.

The Archdiocese of St. Louis and the Office of Sacred Worship will continue to support you, and we ask for your continued prayers and support in return. Please contact amybuehrle@archstl.org with any questions. Through the intercession of Mary, Health of the Sick and our Mother, may the Lord of all love and compassion fill us with His peace.