

A LITURGY PREPARATION AID
FOR THE SEASONS OF LENT &
EASTER IN THE MIDST OF A
PANDEMIC



ARCHDIOCESE
OF SAN ANTONIO

2021

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Liturgical Dates 2020-2021

Sunday Cycle Year B - Weekday Cycle Year I: begins on Sunday, November 29, 2020 with the 1st Sunday of Advent.

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| Sunday, November 29, 2020 | 1st Sunday of Advent |
| Tuesday, December 8, 2020 | The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, <i>[Solemnity, Holy Day of Obligation]</i> |
| Saturday, December 12, 2020 | Our Lady of Guadalupe, <i>[Feast for the USA] Solemnity only for Mexico</i> |
| Thursday, December 24, 2020 | Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord, <i>[Solemnity]</i> |
| Friday, December 25, 2020 | The Nativity of the Lord, <i>[Solemnity, Holy Day of Obligation]</i> |
| Friday, January 1, 2021 | Mary, the Holy Mother of God, <i>[Solemnity, Holy Day of Obligation]</i> |
| Sunday, January 3, 2021 | The Epiphany of the Lord, <i>[Solemnity]</i> |
| Sunday, January 10, 2021 | The Baptism of the Lord, <i>[Feast]</i> |
| Tuesday, February 2, 2021 | The Presentation of the Lord, <i>[Feast]</i> |
| Wednesday, February 3, 2021 | St. Blaise, <i>[optional memorial]</i> <i>Following instructions from the USCCB, the individual blessing of the throat by touching the throat of each person with crossed candles is to be omitted. The priest or deacon may give the blessing to all assembled by extending hands, without the crossed candles, over the people while saying the prayer of blessing.</i> |
| Wednesday, February 17, 2021 | Ash Wednesday, beginning of Lent |
| Friday, March 19, 2021 | St. Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, <i>[Solemnity]</i> |
| Thursday, March 25, 2021 | The Annunciation of the Lord, <i>[Solemnity]</i> |
| Sunday, March 28, 2021 | Palm Sunday |
| Tuesday, March 30, 2021 | Chrism Mass |

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| Triduum | <i>The Paschal Triduum of the passion, death and Resurrection of the Lord begins with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, has its center in the Easter Vigil, and closes with Vespers on the Sunday of the Resurrection.</i> |
| Thursday, April 1, 2021 | Holy Thursday of the Lord's Supper |
| Friday, April 2, 2021 | Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday) |
| Saturday, April 3, 2021 | The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night <i>As Masses should begin no earlier than 30 minutes after sunset, Easter Vigil Mass should begin no earlier than 8:15 pm.</i> |
| Sunday, April 4, 2021 | Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord |
| Sunday, April 11, 2021 | Second Sunday of Easter [<i>Divine Mercy Sunday</i>] |
| Saturday, May 15, 2021 | Presbyteral Ordination Time: 10:00am Where: St. Francis of Assisi |
| Sunday, May 16, 2021 | The Ascension of the Lord <i>This solemnity has been moved permanently to the 7th Sunday of Easter for the Archdiocese of San Antonio.</i> |
| Saturday, May 22, 2021 | Archdiocesan Pentecost Vigil Mass Time: 6:00pm Where: TBD Coordinator: Yessica Marval Email: yessica.marval@archsa.org Phone: 210-734-1653 |
| Sunday, May 30, 2021 | The Most Holy Trinity |
| Saturday, June 5, 2021 | Permanent Diaconate Ordination Time: 10:00am Where: St. Mark the Evangelist |
| Sunday, June 6, 2021 | The Most Holy Body and Blood of Jesus Christ [<i>Solemnity</i>] <i>The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Jesus Christ is the Sunday after the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity.</i> |
| Friday, June 11, 2021 | The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus [<i>Solemnity</i>] |
| Thursday, June 24, 2021 | The Nativity of St. John the Baptist [<i>Solemnity</i>] |

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| Tuesday, June 29, 2021 | Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles [<i>Solemnity</i>] |
| Sunday, August 15, 2021 | The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary [<i>Solemnity</i>] |
| Saturday, September 11, 2021 | Transitional Diaconate Ordination Time: 10:00am Where: TBD |
| Monday, November 1, 2021 | All Saints [<i>not a Holy Day of Obligation</i>] |
| Tuesday, November 2, 2021 | The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Soul's Day) |
| Sunday, November 21, 2021 | Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, [<i>Solemnity</i>] |

End of Cycle Year B - Weekday Cycle Year I

Sunday Cycle Year C - Weekday Cycle Year II: begins on Sunday, November 28, 2021 with the 1st Sunday of Advent.

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|------------------------------------|---|
| Sunday, November 28, 2021 | First Sunday of Advent |
| Wednesday, December 8, 2021 | The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary [<i>Solemnity, Holy Day of Obligation</i>] |
| Saturday, December 25, 2021 | The Nativity of the Lord, [<i>Solemnity, Holy Day of Obligation</i>] |
| Sunday, December 26, 2021 | The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, [<i>Feast</i>] |
| Saturday, January 1, 2022 | Mary, the Holy Mother of God [<i>Solemnity, Holy Day of Obligation</i>] |

INSTRUCTIONS FOR RE-OPENING OF CHURCH'S FOR MASS

Please note that these instructions have been in effect as of May 23, 2020, with the exception of those italicized.

Archbishop Gustavo's dispensation of all Catholics from the obligation to participate in the Mass on Sundays and other holy days of obligation within the territory of the Archdiocese of San Antonio granted on March 13, 2020 remains in effect until repealed. In the event of another health emergency public Mass may be suspended again.

Archbishop Gustavo strongly encourages the **elderly and at-risk populations** to stay home and participate in Mass by means of Catholic Television or parish live streaming.

GENERAL NORMS - MASS

Regarding the number of attendees allowed at Mass, all Masses held in the Archdiocese of San Antonio will comply with the directives of state and local authorities in effect at the time of the Mass.

1. Mass attendees will maintain a six-foot distance from others as they enter the church. Masks will be required for all persons except those too young to wear a mask throughout the Mass and anyone unable to remove a mask without assistance.
2. The number of persons allowed to enter the church will be limited to that number which can maintain the physical distancing guidelines of a minimum of six feet between persons. When capacity is reached, parishioners may be directed to an overflow space if one is available.
3. Each parish should design a seating pattern to maintain proper physical distancing. All Mass attendees will be seated according to the parish seating plan. Separate sections may be designated to respond to people's particular needs.
4. All loose printed materials should be removed from the church. Bulletins and notices should be kept at exit areas. All songbooks, missals, normally available paper materials, etc. are to be removed until further notice.
5. Holy water fonts are to remain empty at this time.
6. Hand sanitizer must be available at the entrance of the church, in the sacristy, and near the altar area.
7. Entrance and exit doors must be adequately designated with signs, and monitored. Those entering must be counted for compliance with capacity limits.
8. Pastors and parish staffs are reminded that until further notice, archdiocesan guidelines remain in place for the celebrations of Masses during the time of COVID: in implementing these guidelines special attention needs to be given to those in parishes with special needs. Masks should be used by all present. Those who have had COVID and recovered are still required to use masks for the safety of those around them. Those who have received a vaccination (one of two doses) are still required to use masks. Physical distancing remains in force. Communion may be given in the hand only. Those who have underlying conditions or fear being in crowds should remain at home and follow the Mass on line or via livestreaming if possible. The suspension of the obligation to attend Mass remains in effect.

DURING MASS

1. The presiding priest need not wear a mask, except during distribution of Holy Communion. Only the presiding priest should venerate the altar with a kiss at the beginning and the end of the Mass. Concelebrants should be separated by the required six-foot distance.
2. If a deacon serves at the Mass, he must maintain a six-foot radial distance from the presider and other ministers.
3. If an altar server is necessary, choose mature altar servers who can maintain social distance requirements.
4. At the Sign of Peace, the faithful are encouraged to greet each other with a simple head bow, or some other gesture of greeting while maintaining the required six-foot radial distance.
5. Collection basket(s) should not be passed among parishioners. (Long handled collection baskets may be used if the usher can maintain required social distance.) Collection baskets placed near the church exit will allow people to make contributions when exiting. Ushers should monitor the collection baskets.
6. Offertory processions of bread and wine will be omitted for this time. Altar breads that have been presorted into the ciboria (use the lid) will be placed on the credence table prior to the beginning of Mass. During the preparation of the gifts, covered ciboria will be placed on a separate corporal at the end of the altar until the time for distribution.
7. *Communion by the chalice is reserved to the presiding priest until further notice. Intinction is only permitted for concelebrating priests when the parish does not have enough chalices for each priest to have their own. (This is an update from the original guideline)*
8. The Priests, Deacons, and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist should wear a mask and sanitize their hands immediately prior to administering Holy Communion and again after distribution to all.
9. Multiple communion stations may be used as long as one-way traffic patterns are observed.
10. Ushers will guide the faithful to receive Communion. (Each parish will establish procedures for distribution of the Eucharist respecting these guidelines)
11. The use of personal hand sanitizer by parishioners before leaving the pew is encouraged. Persons should come forward in a single communion line in the aisle designated at sixfoot intervals. All aisles should be one-way traffic only. Masks should be worn in the communion line and then lowered while in line before approaching the Communion Minister. After communion the mask should be raised immediately. Communion will be received in the hand only.
12. After the final blessing ushers assist in the dismissal of parishioners according to the parish plan for and in a manner that allows for physical distancing.
13. Bulletins and other material for distribution should be placed at the exits for all to receive as they leave.
14. Priests and deacons should not make physical contact with parishioners as they exit.

GUIDELINES FOR CLERGY

1. Priests and Deacons must maintain a six-foot distance from each other and from parishioners. Priests and deacons are not to stand at the entry area before or after Mass.
2. Priests and deacons are responsible for monitoring physical distancing in the sacristy.
3. The ciboria should be pre-filled in the sacristy and placed on the credence table, ready to be brought to the altar at the preparation of the gifts. The number of ciboria should match the number of ordinary and extraordinary ministers. The altar remains clear until the time of the preparation of the gifts. The lid of the ciboria should remain on until the time for distribution.
4. For the sign of peace, a simple head bow, or some other gesture of greeting while maintaining the required six-foot radial distance.
5. When the Mass is concelebrated, each priest should use and purify his own chalice.
6. At the preparation of the gifts, the ciboria should be placed on a separate corporal at the end of the altar and will remain there until the time for distribution.
7. The priest alone will elevate both the chalice and paten (ciborium) during the doxology within the Eucharistic Prayer.
8. When a priest or deacon plans to distribute Communion, he is to sanitize his hands immediately prior to the distribution and again after distribution to all. Priests and deacons will wear a mask during the distribution of the Eucharist.

GUIDELINES FOR SPECIFIC ROLES

Please note that these instructions have been in effect as of May 23, 2020, with the exception of those italicized.

ALTAR SERVERS

If altar servers are necessary at your parish, mature altar servers who can maintain physical distancing should be chosen.

CHOIR *(This is an update from the original guideline)*

Music ministry should be a prominent element of all liturgies. However, due to the nature of the virus, limit the number of instruments and cantors singing during liturgies. Instrumentalists and choir members should maintain physical distancing and wear masks. Large choral groups are not recommended to lead music at this time.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist (EMHC) must wear masks during the distribution of Communion. They must sanitize their hands immediately prior to and after administering Holy Communion.

LECTORS

Lectors should wear a mask and try not to touch the ambo or microphone, if possible.

SACRISTANS

One Sacristan at a time is allowed in the sacristy unless space permits a six-foot distance between two sacristans. Ideally the sacristan will arrive before the priest and deacon enter the sacristy to prepare the vessels for the Mass.

The ciboria should be pre-filled and with the lid on, placed on the credence table to be brought to the altar at the time of the preparation of the gifts. The filled and covered ciboria will be placed on a separate corporal at the end of the altar until time for distribution. The number of ciboria should match the number of ordinary and extraordinary ministers.

At the conclusion of Mass, sacristans should wash the sacred vessels with water and soap and dry them before the next Mass begins.

USHERS / HOSPITALITY

1. Some ushers, because of age or high risk, should reconsider serving at this time.
2. Ushers will be trained in the proper application of these guidelines, the seating plan for the church, and the plan for parishioners entering and leaving the church.
3. Ushers must wear masks and disposable gloves throughout the celebration of the Mass.
4. Ushers should count those entering the church; once the seating capacity has been reached, ushers will direct people to an overflow area, if available.
5. Ushers are to ensure that individuals are seated six feet apart from each other, unless they belong to a family unit, or are part of the same household. Individuals must maintain the six-foot distance from others not part of their family unit/household.
6. Ushers will guide the faithful to receive Communion.
7. Ushers assist in controlling the dismissal of parishioners in a manner that allows for physical distancing.
8. Ushers will monitor collection baskets as people exit and deposit their donation.

THE FAITHFUL *(Revised as of 02/03/2021)*

1. *While keeping in mind the safety of our brothers and sisters, congregational singing should be kept to a minimum.*
2. *When receiving Communion be mindful to keep your mask on while standing before the minister of Holy Communion. However, the Blessed Sacrament must be consumed before returning to your seat.*

GENERAL LENT & EASTER GUIDELINES

Lent is a favourable season for opening the doors to all those in need and recognizing in them the face of Christ."-- Pope Francis

PARTS OF THE MASS

The Gloria in Excelsis

The Gloria in excelsis (Glory to God in the highest) is omitted during Lent, except on Solemnities and Feasts, and at particular celebrations of a more solemn character. (*GIRM @2011, #53*)

The Acclamation before the Gospel

- The Alleluia is omitted during Lent
- Instead the Verse before the Gospel as given in the Lectionary is sung.
- It is also possible to sing another Psalm or Tract, as found in the Graduale.
- The Verse before the Gospel, if not sung, may be omitted.
- The Sequence which, except on Easter Sunday and on Pentecost Day, is optional, is sung before the Alleluia. (*GIRM @2011, #62-64*)

LITURGICAL ENVIRONMENT

The Altar, on which is effected the Sacrifice of the Cross made present under sacramental signs, is also the table of the Lord to which the People of God is convoked to participate in the Mass, and it is also the center of the thanksgiving that is accomplished through the Eucharist.

- During Lent it is forbidden for the altar to be decorated with flowers.
- Exceptions, however, are Laetare Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent), Solemnities, and Feasts
 - February 22, 2021 Chair of St. Peter, The Apostle, Feast
 - March 19, 2021 St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Solemnity
- Floral decoration should always show moderation. Any floral decorations should be arranged around the sanctuary rather than on the altar table or in front of the altar.

MUSIC

In Lent the playing of the organ and musical instruments is allowed only in order to support the singing. Exceptions, however, are Laetare Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent), Solemnities, and Feasts.

SACRED VESTMENTS

- Lent - vestments should be violet or purple
- Offices and Masses during Easter Time - white
- Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion and on Friday of Holy Week (Good Friday) - Red
- Offices and Masses for the Dead - White, Violet, Purple or Black may be used

MASSES FOR THE DEAD

The Church offers the Eucharistic Sacrifice of Christ's Pasch for the dead so that, since all the members of Christ's Body are in communion with one another, what implores spiritual help for some, may bring comforting hope to others.

May be celebrated on any day except:

- Solemnities that are Holydays of Obligation
- Thursday of Holy Week
- Paschal Triduum
- Sundays of Lent, and Easter

GUIDELINES FOR LENT

ASH WEDNESDAY (FEBRUARY 17, 2021)

Following a decision from the Vatican about the distribution of Ashes on Ash Wednesday, Archbishop Gustavo directs that all parishes in the archdiocese will follow these new directives for this year. Below is the text of the Vatican statement.

Distribution of Ashes

- After blessing the ashes and sprinkling them with holy water in silence, the priest addresses those present, reciting once the formula found in the Roman Missal: “Repent, and believe in the Gospel” or “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return”.
- Then the priest cleanses his hands, puts on a face mask and turns to those who come to him or, if appropriate, he goes to those who are standing in their places.
- He then sprinkles the ashes on each person’s head without saying anything.
- Should additional ministers be needed they should also cleanse their hands and wear their masks
- It is recommended that parishes have multiple services in order to avoid overcrowding

Taking Ashes to the Homebound

- Ashes may be taken to the homebound using the sprinkling of ashes found in [Appendix A](#).
- A small amount of ashes in a container (ex. small ziplock bag, small container)
- Make clear that Ashes not used must be placed in the ground, reverently.

Walking with your parishioners

Parishes may want to offer those attending Ash Wednesday services Lenten booklets that could include the following information:

- Lenten booklets
- One page of reflections
- Invitations to Online or Live Stations of the Cross
- Schedule of Lenten events
- Lists of ministries that are active and ready to minister to them

RITE OF ELECTION

Please note that the Rite of Election is an Archdiocesan celebration and is not to be celebrated by individual parishes. Catechumens must be registered with the Department for Pastoral Ministries prior to the Rite.

Presentation of the Catechumens

- RCIA Directors will line up at a designated spot to name their parish and names of their catechumens
- Masks must be kept on at all times
- Catechumens and their sponsors will stand when the Catechumens name is announced
- The RCIA Director will take the Book of the Elect to the bishop to be signed
- Only the RCIA Director will go to the sanctuary and at the appropriate time they will hold their Book of the Elect's up

Presentation of the Candidates

- RCIA Directors will line up at a designated spot to name their parish and names of their Candidates
- Masks must be kept on at all times
- Candidates and their sponsors will stand when the Candidates name is announced

SCRUTINIES (CATECHUMENS) & PENITENTIAL RITE (CANDIDATES)

- The scrutinies (RCIA 144-146) are celebrated for the catechumens (a.k.a. the elect) on the third, fourth, and fifth Sundays of Lent (RICA 150-156; 165-170; 171-177) – and conclude with their dismissal from the Mass before the Liturgy of the Eucharist begins. (RCIA 155, 169, 176).
- Candidates do not participate in the scrutinies for the elect (RCIA 463). Nevertheless, a Penitential Rite may be celebrated for them on the Second Sunday of Lent or on a Lenten weekday for candidates being received into full communion or are completing their Christian Initiation (RCIA 459-472).
- This Penitential Rite may also help to prepare the candidates to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which they are to receive before completing their Christian Initiation (RCIA 459, 461.)
- Proper masking and physical distancing are to be observed during the Scrutinies and the Penitential

Presentations: The Creed and the Our Father (Catechumens & possibly some Candidates)

- The presentation of the Creed is celebrated with catechumens during the third week of Lent (RCIA 157-163). They will recite the Creed publicly from memory on Holy Saturday prior to their Baptism (RCIA 148). The Presentation of the Lord's Prayer is (RCIA 178-184) is celebrated during the fifth week of Lent although it may be included with the Preparation Rites on Holy Saturday.
- Some candidates for full communion may also participate in the Presentations of the Creed and the Lord's Prayer (RCIA 407). Those who have had little Christian formation or experience may be included in the celebrations of these Rites along with the elect (see NS 31). As always, care must be taken that candidates and elect are clearly distinct for one another and that any wording appropriate for those preparing for Baptism is not used for those who are already baptized.
- On the other hand, the National Statutes for the Catechumenate make it clear that these presentations would NOT be appropriate for those candidates who have lived strong Christian lives (NS 31). Pastoral Judgement is necessary to determine whether a particular candidate can appropriately participate in one or both of these Rites.
- Appropriate masking and physical distancing are to be observed during the Presentations. The Creed and the Our Father should be presented in some type of sealed envelope or container (preferably transparent). They could be picked up at the conclusion of the Mass by the recipients.
- Candidates and their sponsors will return to their seats and remain standing

GUIDELINES FOR HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY (MARCH 28, 2021)

- Any palms to be used for the liturgy are to be blessed beforehand and distributed to any faithful present by ushers while respecting physical distancing guidelines and wearing gloves.
- The Opening Procession is to be omitted and the Simple Entrance is to be used.
- When the celebrant arrives at the Presidential Chair, the Collect is prayed.
- The Gospel of the Passion of the Lord is to be read in either the long or short form, and read by one person or if read by multiple readers they should follow physical distancing, wear masks and have their own microphones.
- Blessed palms can be left in the church, or in the parish office so parishioners can pick them up at their convenience, while following physical distancing guidelines.
- Passion Dramatization are discouraged at this time. If a Passion Dramatization is done during Palm Sunday, all participating must maintain safe distance and masks must be worn at all times
- Parishioners should be made aware of how and when they can pick up palms via multiple outlets (i.e. bulletin announcements, social media and the parish website, etc.)

Walking with your parishioners

Palm Sunday is a wonderful opportunity for evangelization. Many people are homebound and others are not able to return to in-person Mass since the pandemic started.

- Parishes can organize a mail out to parishioners (all or a selected group) sending them a letter with a message of hope, invitation to come back and a piece of palm can be included.
- This can be sent to faith formation families that didn't return this year, ministry members that have not gathered, the homebound, the families that had a funeral in the past year, seniors, etc.)

CHRISM MASS (MARCH 30, 2021)

- Each priest is welcome to concelebrate and invite two parishioners to celebrate the Mass in person.
- Oil order forms will be sent from the Clergy Office in February.
- This year the individual bottles of oils for parishes will be filled before Mass.
- Priests in attendance at Chrism Mass can pick up their oil order after Mass.
- Oils can also be picked up on Wednesday, between 9:00 a.m. and 12 Noon and 1:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. at the Pastoral Center.

The Chrism Mass will be broadcast live on CTSA and the Archdiocesan social media channels.

[Catholic Television of San Antonio](#)

TRIDUUM

The summit of the Liturgical Year is the Easter Triduum—from the evening of Holy Thursday to the evening of Easter Sunday. Though chronologically three days, they are liturgically one day unfolding for us the unity of Christ's Paschal Mystery.

The single celebration of the Triduum marks the end of the Lenten season, and leads to the Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord at the Easter Vigil.

Every pastor is to celebrate the **Triduum** with his parochial vicar and deacon (where applicable) in their respective parishes, with the participation of the faithful and keeping with physical distancing guidelines.

HOLY THURSDAY

- The Gloria in excelsis is sung.
- **Washing of feet**, already optional, may be omitted.
- However, if included care must be taken to follow physical distancing guidelines, all must wear masks and hands need to be washed between each person. Each person should have their own basin. It is also recommended that the number of people participating be limited.
- At the end of the Mass of the Lord's Supper, if the **procession with the Blessed Sacrament for Adoration** is to take place, Pastors should ensure that the area for the faithful allows for proper physical distancing and masks must be worn by all.
- If the procession with the Blessed Sacrament for Adoration is omitted then Mass concludes with a simple procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the sacristy or other designated place for repose.
- Holy Communion may only be distributed to the faithful during Mass; but it may be brought to the homebound at any hour of the day.
- The tabernacle should be entirely empty; but a sufficient amount of bread should be consecrated in this Mass for the Communion of the clergy and the people on this and the following day (Good Friday).

GOOD FRIDAY

- The Gospel of The Passion of Lord is to be read as on Palm Sunday.
- **Veneration of the Cross**, the celebrant is to elevate the cross facing the assembly.
- The congregation present, may venerate the cross together with a genuflection while remaining in their pew.
- There is to be no physical contact with the cross by the congregation.
- In the Universal Prayers, there is to be included a special intention for the sick during the pandemic, those who have died, and for those who feel lost or dismayed during this health emergency. Solemn Intercessions and readings can be found in [Appendix B](#).

EASTER VIGIL

EASTER FIRE

- At the Solemn beginning of the Vigil, the **preparation and lighting of the fire** may be included so long as physical distancing and masks are used.
- If there is no fire then the Paschal Candle is to be lit (perhaps by a taper), prior to entering the Church.

VIGIL MASS

- The Easter Proclamation (Exsultet) follows when the celebrant reaches the presider's chair.
- The Liturgy of the Word then takes place.
- When using the Combined Rites (for both catechumens and candidates) for this Easter Vigil, pastors should ensure that physical distancing guidelines are respected and that all present wear masks.
- If the numbers of Catechumens and Candidates would exceed a parish's seating capacity with physical distancing then additional catechumens as well as the candidates for full communion may be received into the Church during any of the Masses of the Easter Octave.
- If Easter Vigil is to be celebrated without catechumens: within the Baptismal Liturgy, the Renewal of Baptismal Promises alone is necessary.
- The Liturgy of the Eucharist then follows.

LENTEN PRACTICES

Please note that masks are required for all of the following.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

- Parishes may have stations of the cross so long as they follow physical distancing requirements and sanitation guidelines.
- Priest and participants should wear a mask.
- Lenten Stations of the Cross can be found on the [USCCB website](#).

RECONCILIATION

In the Archdiocese of San Antonio, General Absolution is not approved.

- Parishes are to continue to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, following physical distancing requirements and sanitation guidelines.
- Priest and penitent should wear a mask.
- Parishes should consider additional times for Reconciliation in order to accommodate the faithful.
- Lenten Reconciliation services, if planned, physical distancing and masks are required for all attending.
- The USCCB offers resources to help promote participation in the Sacrament of Reconciliation at www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/sacraments-and-sacramentals/penance/sacrament-of-penance-diocesan-resources

ADORATION

- Churches, chapels, shrines, and places of devotion are to remain open to the extent possible for personal veneration by the faithful, especially where Christ is adored in the Blessed Sacrament.
- Each pastor or administrator should determine the hours during which the location may be kept open, ensuring security and sanitation.

SACRAMENTS & RITES

INFANT BAPTISM / FIRST COMMUNION / WEDDINGS / QUINCEÑERAS

Should continue to take place while respecting Church capacity, physical distancing and all must wear

FUNERALS

Should continue to take place while respecting Church capacity, physical distancing and all must wear

The Church offers the Eucharistic Sacrifice of Christ's Pasch for the dead so that, since all the members of Christ's Body are in communion with one another, what implores spiritual help for some, may bring comforting hope to others.

May be celebrated on any day except:

- Solemnities that are Holydays of Obligation
- Thursday of Holy Week
- Paschal Triduum
- Sundays of Lent, and Easter

CONFIRMATION

Confirmations have been scheduled through the Archbishop's Office.

- In order to ensure the safety of all, it is recommended that parishes limit the number of guests each Confirmandi is allowed.
- If necessary, the pastors should request additional dates based on the number of Confirmandi they have.
- Archbishop's Office will give additional directions on Confirmations as needed.

Questions may be sent to the Office for Liturgies & Pastoral Care at
liturgyforms@archsa.org or by calling (210) 734-1637

**ORDER FOR THE BLESSING AND
DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES OUTSIDE OF
MASS
[ASH WEDNESDAY]**

OUTLINE OF THE RITE

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Hymn

Greeting

Opening Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Responsorial Psalm

Second Reading

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel

Homily or Reflection on the Readings

[Prayer of Blessing]

Distribution of the Ashes

Responsory

Prayer of the Faithful

Our Father

CONCLUDING RITE

Blessing

Dismissal Hymn

INTRODUCTION

1656 The season of Lent begins with the ancient practice of marking the baptized with ashes as a public and communal sign of penance. The blessing and distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday normally takes place during the celebration of Mass. However, when circumstances require, the blessing and distribution of ashes may take place apart from Mass, during a celebration of the word of God.

1657 This order may also be used when ashes are brought to the sick. According to circumstances, the rite may be abbreviated by the minister. Nevertheless, at least one Scripture reading should be included in the service.

1658 If already blessed ashes are brought to the sick, the blessing is omitted and the distribution takes place immediately after the homily. The homily should conclude by inviting the sick person to prepare himself or herself for the reception of the ashes.

1659 The rite may be celebrated by a priest or deacon who may be assisted by lay ministers in the distribution of the ashes. The blessing of the ashes however, is reserved to a priest or deacon.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

1660 When the community has gathered, a suitable song may be sung. After the singing, the minister says:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All make the sign of the cross and reply:

Amen.

1661 The minister greets those present in the following or other suitable words, taken mainly from sacred Scripture.

The grace, the mercy, and the peace of God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior be with you.

All respond:

And with your spirit.

1662 A Lay minister greets those present in the following words.

Praised be the God of grace, mercy, and peace. Blessed be God for ever.

All respond:

Blessed be God for ever.

1663 In the following words, the minister prepares those present for the blessing and distribution of the ashes.

My brothers and sisters, the hour of God's favor draws near, the day of his mercy and of our salvation approaches, when death was destroyed and eternal life began. As we begin this season of Lent, we gather today to acknowledge that we are sinners. As we express our sorrow, may God be merciful to us and restore us to his friendship.

OPENING PRAYER

1664 *The minister then says the opening prayer.*

Let us pray.

After a brief period of silence, the minister continues:

**Father in heaven,
the light of your truth bestows sight
to the darkness of sinful eyes.
May this season of repentance
bring us the blessing of your forgiveness
and the gift of your light.**

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

1665 *A reader, another person present, or the minister reads a text from sacred Scripture.*

FIRST READING

Joel 2: 12-18 / Lectionary I & Lectionary Number 219

A reading from the prophet Joel

Even now, says the LORD, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping, and mourning; Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the LORD, your God.

For gracious and merciful is he, slow to anger, rich in kindness, and relenting in punishment.

Perhaps he will again relent and leave behind him a blessing, Offerings and libations for the LORD, your God.

Blow the trumpet in Zion! proclaim a fast, call an assembly; Gather the people, notify the congregation;

Assemble the elders, gather the children and the infants at the breast; Let the bridegroom quit his room and the bride her chamber.

Between the porch and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep,

And say, “Spare, O LORD, your people, and make not your heritage a reproach, with the nations ruling over them!

Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’”

Then the LORD was stirred to concern for his land and took pity on his people.

The Word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

1667 As circumstances suggest, the following responsorial psalm may be sung, or some other suitable song.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 51: 3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17 / Lectionary I & Lectionary Number 219

R/ Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness;
in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense.
Thoroughly wash me from my guilt
and of my sin cleanse me. ***R/***

For I acknowledge my offense,
and my sin is before me always:
“Against you only have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight.” ***R/***

A clean heart create for me, O God,
and a steadfast spirit renew within me.
Cast me not out from your presence,
and your Holy Spirit take not from me. ***R/***

Give me back the joy of your salvation,
and a willing spirit sustain in me.
O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise. ***R/***

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5: 20--6: 2 / Lectionary I & Lectionary Number 219

A reading from the prophet Joel

Brothers and sisters: We are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him. Working together, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says:

*In an acceptable time I heard you,
and on the day of salvation I helped you.*

Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

The Word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 95: 8 / Lectionary I & Lectionary Number 219

Gospel Verse: **If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

GOSPEL

Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18 / Lectionary I & Lectionary Number 219

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: “Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father. When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what

your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you. “When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners

so that others may see them. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward.

But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

“When you fast,

do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearance, so that they may appear to others to be fasting. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not appear to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden. And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

R/ Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY OR REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

1668 *As circumstances suggest, the minister may give those present a brief explanation of the biblical text, so that they may understand through faith the meaning of the celebration.*

PRAYER OF BLESSING

After the homily, the minister, if a priest or deacon, joins his hands and says:

**Dear brethren (brothers and sisters),
let us humbly ask God our Father
that he be pleased to bless with the abundance of his grace
these ashes, which we will put on our heads in penitence.**

After a brief prayer in silence, and, with hands extended, he continues:

**O God, who are moved by acts of humility
and respond with forgiveness to works of penance,
lend your merciful ear to our prayers
and in your kindness pour out the grace of your ✠ blessing
on your servants who are marked with these ashes,
that, as they follow the Lenten observances,
they may be worthy to come with minds made pure
to celebrate the Pascal Mystery of your Son.
Through Christ our Lord.**

R/. Amen.

OR:

**O God, who desire not the death of sinners,
but their conversion,
mercifully hear our prayers
and in your kindness be blessed to bless ✠ these ashes,
which we intend to receive upon our heads,
that we, who acknowledge we are but ashes
and shall return to dust,
may, through a steadfast observance of Lent,
gain pardon for sins and newness of life
after the likeness of your Risen Son.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.**

R/. Amen.

He sprinkles the ashes with holy water, without saying anything.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ASHES

The minister then places the ashes on those who come forward, saying to each:

Repent, and believe in the Gospel.

OR:

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Meanwhile, the following are sung or another appropriate chant may be sung.

Antiphon 1

**Let us change our garments to sackcloth and ashes,
let us fast and weep before the Lord,
that our God, rich in mercy, might forgive us our sins.**

Antiphon 2

**Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord,
stand between the porch and the altar and weep and cry out:
Spare, O Lord, spare your people;
do not close the mouths of those who sing your praise, O Lord.**

Antiphon 3

Blot out my transgressions, O Lord.

This may be repeated after each verse of Psalm 51 (50) (Have mercy on me, O God.)

Have mercy on me, God, in accord with your merciful love;
in your abundant compassion blot out my transgressions.

Thoroughly wash away my guilt;
and from my sin cleanse me.

For I know my transgressions;
my sin is always before me.

Against you, you alone have I sinned;
I have done what is evil in your eyes
So that you are just in your word,
and without reproach in your judgment.

Behold, I was born in guilt,
in sin my mother conceived me.

Behold, you desire true sincerity;
and secretly you teach me wisdom.

Cleanse me with hyssop, that I may be pure;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

You will let me hear gladness and joy;
the bones you have crushed will rejoice.

You will let me hear gladness and joy;
blot out all my iniquities.

A clean heart create for me, God;
renew within me a steadfast spirit.

Do not drive me from before your face,
nor take from me your holy spirit.

Restore to me the gladness of your salvation;
uphold me with a willing spirit.

I will teach the wicked your ways,
that sinners may return to you.

Rescue me from violent bloodshed, God, my saving God,
and my tongue will sing joyfully of your justice.

Lord, you will open my lips;
and my mouth will proclaim your praise.

For you do not desire sacrifice or I would give it;
a burnt offering you would not accept.

My sacrifice, O God, is a contrite spirit;
a contrite, humbled heart, O God, you will not scorn.

Treat Zion kindly according to your good will;
build up the walls of Jerusalem.

Then you will desire the sacrifices of the just,
burnt offering and whole offerings;
then they will offer up young bulls on your altar.

RESPONSORY

R/. Let us correct our faults which we have committed in ignorance, let us not be taken unawares by the day of our death, looking in vain for leisure to repent.

**Hear us, O Lord, and show us your mercy, for we have sinned against you.*

Help us, O God our Savior; for the sake of your name, O Lord, set us free.

**Hear us, O Lord, and show us your mercy, for we have sinned against you.*

1673 *After the giving of ashes the minister's hands are washed; the rite concludes with the general intercessions and the final blessing.*

INTERCESSIONS

1674 *The intercessions are then said. The minister introduces them and an assisting minister or one of those present announces the intentions. From the following those best suited to the occasion may be used or adapted, or other intentions that apply to the particular circumstances may be composed.*

The minister says:

Trusting in the Lord's mercy, let us bring before him our prayers and petitions for ourselves and for the world.

The petitions are then proclaimed by an assisting minister:

1) For the Church throughout the world, may the Lord lead us into a deeper conversion of heart through the practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, let us pray to the Lord.

2) For those who govern, may the Spirit guide them in their decision-making for the common good, let us pray to the Lord.

3) For children throughout the world, especially those who are in need of food, shelter, and care, may the Lord protect and guard them, let us pray to the Lord.

4) For an increase in vocations to the Church, may we all listen to God's voice with an open heart, and may those called to the priesthood or consecrated life answer generously, let us pray to the Lord.

5) For all members of this faith community, may the Lord help us persevere in our Lenten commitments in the face of distractions and temptations, let us pray to the Lord.

6) For all the faithful departed, in particular those who have died from the coronavirus, may the Lord's perpetual light shine upon them and bring them everlasting joy, let us pray to the Lord.

The petitions are concluded by an assisting minister:

Hear these prayers we bring before you, O Lord, and answer them in accordance with your merciful and divine will. We ask through Christ our Lord.

OUR FATHER

1675 After the intercessions the minister, in the following or similar words, invites all present to sing or say the Lord's Prayer.

Now, in obedience to Christ himself, let us join in prayer to the Father, asking him to forgive us as we forgive others.

All:

Our Father...

The minister adds:

**Father, our source of life,
you know our weakness.
May we reach out with joy to grasp your hand
and to walk more readily in your ways.**

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.

CONCLUDING RITE

1676 *The minister concludes the rite by saying:*

**May the Father bless us,
for he has adopted us as his children.**

R/. Amen.

**May the Son come to help us,
for he has received us as brothers and sisters.**

R/. Amen.

**May the Spirit be with us,
for he has made us his dwelling place.**

R/. Amen.

1677 *A priest or deacon then blesses all present:*

**May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son ✠ and the Holy Spirit.**

R/. Amen

1678 *It is preferable to end the celebration with a suitable song.*

**TEXT FOR MASS,
READINGS AND
SOLEMN INTERCESSIONS
DURING THE CELEBRATION OF THE
PASSION OF THE LORD**

TEXT FOR MASS

This Mass can be celebrated, according to the rubrics given for Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions, on any day except Solemnities, the Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Easter, days within the Octave of Easter, the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day), Ash Wednesday and the days of Holy Week.

Entrance Antiphon

Isaiah 53: 4

Truly the Lord has borne our infirmities, and he has carried our sorrows.

Collect

Almighty and eternal God, our refuge in every danger, to whom we turn in our distress; in faith we pray look with compassion on the afflicted, grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners, healing to the sick, peace to the dying, strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders and the courage to reach out to all in love, so that together we may give glory to your holy name.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Prayer over the Offerings

Accept, O Lord, the gifts we offer in this time of peril. May they become for us, by your power, a source of healing and peace. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Come to me, all who labour and are burdened, and I will refresh you, says the Lord.

Prayer after Communion

O God, from whose hand we have received the medicine of eternal life, grant that through this sacrament we may glory in the fullness of heavenly healing. Through Christ our Lord.

Prayer over the People

O God, protector of all who hope in you, bless your people, keep them safe, defend them, prepare them, that, free from sin and safe from the enemy, they may persevere always in your love. Through Christ our Lord.

READINGS FOR MASS

Any readings from the Mass “In Any Need” (Lectionary for Mass, vol. IV, nos. 938-942) may be used, or:

First Option

FIRST READING

Lamentations 3: 17-26

A reading from the Book of Lamentations

My soul is deprived of peace, I have forgotten what happiness is; I tell myself my future is lost, all that I hoped for from the LORD. The thought of my homeless poverty is wormwood and gall; Remembering it over and over leaves my soul downcast within me. But I will call this to mind, as my reason to have hope: The favors of the LORD are not exhausted, his mercies are not spent; They are renewed each morning, so great is his faithfulness. My portion is the LORD, says my soul; therefore will I hope in him. Good is the LORD to one who waits for him, to the soul that seeks him; It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 80: 2ac and 3b, 5-7

R/. Let us see your face, Lord, and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hearken.

From your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth.

Rouse your power . *R/.*

**O LORD of hosts, how long will you burn with anger
while your people pray?**

**You have fed them with the bread of tears
and given them tears to drink in ample measure.**

**You have left us to be fought over by our neighbors,
and our enemies mock u .” *R/.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

2 Corinthians 1: 3b-4a

Gospel Verse: Blessed be the Father of compassion and God of all encouragement, who encourages us in our every affliction.

GOSPEL

Mark 4: 35-41

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

One day, as evening drew on, Jesus said to his disciples: “Let us cross to the other side.” Leaving the crowd, they took Jesus with them in the boat just as he was. And other boats were with him. A violent squall came up and waves were breaking over the boat, so that it was already filling up. Jesus was in the stern, asleep on a cushion. They woke Jesus and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” He woke up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Quiet! Be still!” The wind ceased and there was great calm. Then he asked them, “Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?” They were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?”

The Gospel of the Lord.

R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters: If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? Christ Jesus it is who died—or, rather, was raised—who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? As it is written: For your sake we are being slain all the day; we are looked upon as sheep to be slaughtered. No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 123: 1-2ab, 2cdef

R/. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.

Or:

R/. Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for his mercy.

To you I lift up my eyes who are enthroned in heaven.

Behold, as the eyes of servants are on the hands of their masters. *R/.*

As the eyes of a maid are on the hands of her mistress,

So are our eyes on the LORD, our God, till he have pity on us. *R/.*

Gospel Verse: **Blessed be the Father of compassion and God of all encouragement, who encourages us in our every affliction.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

One day, as evening drew on, Jesus said to his disciples: “Let us cross to the other side.” Leaving the crowd, they took Jesus with them in the boat just as he was. And other boats were with him. A violent squall came up and waves were breaking over the boat, so that it was already filling up. Jesus was in the stern, asleep on a cushion. They woke Jesus and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” He woke up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Quiet! Be still!” The wind ceased and there was great calm. Then he asked them, “Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?” They were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?”

The Gospel of the Lord.

R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SOLEMN INTERCESSIONS

IX b. For the afflicted in time of pandemic

Let us pray also for all those who suffer the consequences of the current pandemic, that God the Father may grant health to the sick, strength to those who care for them, comfort to families and salvation to all the victims who have died.

Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:

Almighty ever-living God,
only support of our human weakness,
look with compassion upon the sorrowful condition of your children
who suffer because of this pandemic;
relieve the pain of the sick,
give strength to those who care for them,
welcome into your peace those who have died
and, throughout this time of tribulation,
grant that we may all find comfort in your merciful love.
Through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.