

Lent in time of COVID

HELPING FAMILIES AT HOME AND IN THE CHURCH TO FULL, CONSCIOUS, AND
ACTIVE WORSHIP

Catholic Diocese of Cleveland Office for Worship January 26, 2021

Opening Prayer

PSALM 103: THE LORD IS KIND AND MERCIFUL

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Lord Jesus, you are the true light that enlightens the world.

Through your Spirit of truth, free those who are enslaved by the father of lies.

Stir up the desire for good in us, whom you have chosen as adopted daughters and sons.

Let us rejoice in your light, that we may see, and let us prove to be staunch and fearless witnesses to the faith, for you are Lord for ever and ever.

Amen.



Follow Pandemic Common Sense

- ▶ **WEAR MASKS!**

- ▶ [Mask Design 101: A Bootcamp for Masks during Covid-19](#)

- ▶ **Physical distancing 6' or more!**

- ▶ **Strongly discourage congregational singing!**

- ▶ There is [strong scientific evidence from multiple sources](#) that coronavirus is an airborne transmitted virus
 - ▶ [FAQs from leading researchers on aerosol transmission](#) (see slide 3)
 - ▶ Follow [professional guidelines](#) on music when discerning what to sing/not sing during Mass at your parish (see slide 4)

Aerosols and COVID – from the experts

FAQ 3.5 How can I protect myself from aerosol transmission indoors?

We can never be perfectly safe, only safer. Hence, we need to take as many steps as possible to reduce the risk of our activities. You should try to avoid or reduce as much as possible situations that facilitate inhaling the “smoke” (exhaled air) from others. To reduce risk avoid:

- ▶ Crowded spaces
- ▶ Close proximity to others
- ▶ Low ventilation environments
- ▶ Long durations
- ▶ Places where people are not wearing masks
- ▶ Talking, and especially loud talking / shouting / singing
- ▶ High breathing rates (e.g., indoor aerobic exercise)

Each one of these features potentially increases the aerosol concentration you might inhale indoors. So if you must enter one of the above situations, complete your tasks as quickly as possible to reduce your exposure duration and risk.

Music and COVID – from the experts

- ▶ **Masks** – Masks should be worn ..., and masks/bell covers should be on instruments.
- ▶ **Distance** – The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) distancing guidelines of 6 feet by 6 feet should be followed, with additional space (9 feet by 6 feet) for trombone players. The distancing guidelines apply for outdoors as well as indoors.
- ▶ **Time** – Rehearsals should be limited to 30 minutes. Indoors, the room should be cleared, and leaders should wait until at least one HVAC air change has occurred before the next rehearsal.
- ▶ **Air Flow** – Outdoor activity remains the best place for air flow. Indoors, HEPA filters are strongly recommended to increase the amount of clean air and the number of air changes per hour (ACH).
- ▶ **Hygiene** – The strong emphasis continues on hygiene, including frequent handwashing, and cleaning of spit valves and storage areas.

Before Lent...

- ▶ Reach out to your people!
 - ▶ Many individuals and families who have not returned to worship feel isolated, disconnected, and forgotten by their church communities. Parishes should be pro-active in contacting folks.
 - ▶ Consider phone call trees to check on everyone
 - ▶ Send out Lenten worship-at-home packets
 - ▶ Include rituals from the *Book of Blessings*
 - ▶ Include ashes for Ash Wednesday
 - ▶ Include Stations of the Cross booklets
 - ▶ Include a palm cross for Palm Sunday

Ash Wednesday

- ▶ Vatican's instructions for ash distribution (*Prot. 47/2021*)
 - ▶ "Repent, and believe in the Gospel" or "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" over all before the distribution
 - ▶ Put on a mask and sanitize your hands!
 - ▶ Distribute via sprinkling ashes over the crown of the head
 - ▶ *Please note, this is not optional or suggested! For 2021, 'This is the way!'*
 - ▶ (Demonstrate)
 - ▶ Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lkjTPBeZHZI&feature=emb_logo (0:50)
 - ▶ Consider sending home small packets of ashes along with the *Book of Blessings* ritual for families to celebrate together at home

Rite of Election

- ▶ Delegated to diocesan priests and deacons for 2021 (*RCIA, no. 121*)
- ▶ First Sunday of Lent is normative (*RCIA no. 126*)
 - ▶ If your folks are concerned about attending your Sunday parish Mass, another time within the first week of Lent with smaller attendance is OK
 - ▶ Within Mass with a Dismissal is normative, but within a Liturgy of the Word (with no Dismissal) is also OK (*RCIA no. 128*)
- ▶ If you are doing the Rite of Election, **do NOT do the Rite of Sending!**
- ▶ [Rite of Election Ritual Guide on the Office for Worship website](#)

Scrutinies

- ▶ “In accord with RCIA no. 34, 3, at least one scrutiny must be celebrated.
- ▶ Out of pastoral concern for the faithful during the continuing coronavirus pandemic, and under the norms of canon 87 §1 and RCIA no. 34, 3, Bishop Malesic has chosen to dispense the elect entrusted to his care from the obligation to participate in more than one scrutiny before celebrating the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil, or at some other opportune time during this calendar year 2021.
- ▶ However, the remaining scrutinies may be celebrated if they may be done safely in the prudential judgment of the pastor.” (*Malesic, Prot. 47/2021*)
- ▶ Which Scrutiny to celebrate is up to the pastor – one of the three at least

Reconciliation/Confession

- ▶ Diocesan-wide Lenten Evening of Confession has been canceled
- ▶ Reconciliation services (*Rite of Penance*, Form II) – IF you choose them...
 - ▶ All diocesan pandemic liturgy guidelines are operative
 - ▶ Must address both pandemic and confidentiality issues
 - ▶ Consider your own architecture/environment to decide your parish's plans
 - ▶ *Worship & Catechetical Office joint webinar from June 17, 2020*
 - ▶ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WZDmoOeEWWWhO-Dg5yQ5DYJGSXzddplvM/view?usp=sharing>

Stations of the Cross

All diocesan pandemic liturgy guidelines are operative

Consider your own architecture/environment to decide your parish's plans



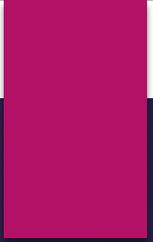
Palm Sunday

- ▶ “The blessing of palms takes place in the usual way as instructed in the Roman Missal. The distribution of palms should take place at the end of Mass. Blessed palms can be handed out by ushers who are properly protected with face masks or palms may be placed on tables or in containers, instructing the faithful to maintain social distancing and being certain to take the palms they have touched.” (*Malesic, Prot. 47/2021*)

Holy Week

The Vatican is likely to issue guidelines for Holy Week liturgies, as they did for 2020. Once these are issued, parishes and pastors will receive further information





Q&A Opportunity

Closing Prayer – Shelter Me

by J. Michael Joncas, performed by Spiritu

▶ <https://youtu.be/F3KifN7Jfpc>