

Office of Divine Worship



The Catholic  
Archdiocese  
of Edmonton

March 30, 2020

**Holy Week Observances – The Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton**

Dear Father,

The celebration of Mass, without the physical participation of the people, will affect the Liturgies of Holy Week and the Sacred Paschal Triduum. Priests are strongly encouraged to celebrate Mass privately; following the requirements set out by the Chief Medical Officer for Alberta and the directives of Archbishop Smith. Concelebration with another priest is permitted. Again, no congregation is to be present. When concelebration occurs, please help prevent the potential spread of disease by the following measures:

- Requisite social distancing;
- Avoidance of any physical contact;
- Provision of a distinct chalice for the presider and for each concelebrant, so that each consumes the Precious Blood from a separate chalice.

Please note that symptoms of COVID-19 may not manifest immediately once contracted. It is therefore possible that a priest is asymptomatic while carrying the virus. Therefore, as a precautionary measure, mass celebrated privately is the better option at this time.

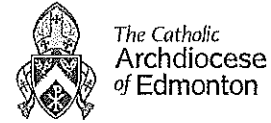
The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments (CDWDS) have recently issued two Decrees, *In the Time of COVID-19 (I)* and *(II)*, dated March 19<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> respectively. These Decrees will assist in our preparation and celebration of the Holy Week liturgies. Please consult the Roman Missal, and the Ordo as well. Those celebrating Mass in other languages please consult the Roman Missal and Ordo you normally use for Mass.

**Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord: Ordo (pp.187-189); Roman Missal (pp. 254-263)**

The Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem is to be celebrated within sacred buildings; in Cathedral churches, the second form given in the Roman Missal is to be adopted; in parish churches, the third form is used.

**Palms may be blessed and then stored for distribution at a later date, when prevailing medical directives relative to the pandemic indicate it would be safe to do so.** Parishes have already started to receive their palm orders. We cannot expect the palm supplier to absorb the cost of the palms. We ask that your parish honour the palm order.

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**Thursday of Holy Week (Holy Thursday): Ordo (pp.192-196); Roman Missal (pp. 281-293)**

The Chrism Mass: *Future Date and Time to be determined.*

Mass of the Lord's Supper:

Omit the washing of feet. Omit the procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar of Repose. The Blessed Sacrament should be reserved in the Tabernacle.

**Good Friday: Ordo (pp. 197-198); Roman Missal (pp. 295-319)**

Please celebrate the Celebration of the Passion of the Lord, again without a congregation and consulting the Ordo and Roman Missal.

In the Universal Prayer, Bishops will arrange to have a special intention prepared for those who find themselves in distress, the sick, the dead, (cf. *Missale Romanum*). The Office of Divine Worship will send an intercession to the priests. The adoration of the Cross by kissing it shall be limited solely to the presider.

**Holy Saturday: Ordo (pp. 199-203); Roman Missal (pp. 323-365)**

Please note the article numbers on page 200 of the Ordo.

The blessing of the fire does not take place. Light the Easter Candle. There is no Procession. Chant or proclaim the Exsultet.

The renewal of Baptismal Promises alone is necessary.

The Sacraments of Initiation are postponed until medical directives relative to the pandemic indicate it would be safe to do so.

**Easter Sunday: Ordo (pp. 204-205); Roman Missal (pp. 366-ff)**

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Paul Kavanagh  
Director