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To: Priests, Deacons, and Liturgy Coordinators of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana
From: Jonathan F. Sullivan, Pastorate Consultant
Re: 2026 Holy Week and Paschal Triduum Overview
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 (Memorial of St. Paul of the Cross)

General Directives

1. Livestream Masses may occur with the following directives:
 - a. There shall be no livestreaming of still images, tabernacles, monstrances, etc. outside the time of streaming a live Mass.
 - i. This includes the Altar of Repose on Holy Thursday.
 - b. Although not a Mass, the Good Friday liturgy may be livestreamed.
 - c. Music for livestreaming Masses requires proper copyright licensing.
 - d. Only Masses in which the faithful participate may be streamed. Private Masses may not be streamed.
2. The USCCB's 2026 Calendar is available at www.usccb.org/resources/2026cal.pdf.
3. Additional details can be found in the Ordo of the Province of Indianapolis (available from Paulist Press at www.paulistpress.com/Products/202617/Ordo-17--Indianapolis-2026.aspx).

Notes for the Liturgies of Holy Week

1. The days of Holy Week (Monday through Thursday) take precedence over any other celebrations.
 - a. During this time baptisms and confirmations should not be celebrated, except in danger of death, since these sacraments have their natural place at the Easter Vigil.
2. The scheduling of additional times for confessions is encouraged this week.
3. **Sunday, March 29, 2026 – Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**
 - a. Saturday, March 28, 2026, evening Mass celebrated after 4p is a Mass of Anticipation for Palm Sunday.
 - b. The memorial of the entrance of the Lord into Jerusalem takes place at all Masses.
 - i. Three options are given:
 1. The first form (the Procession) should be celebrated at the principal Mass.
 - a. The Procession forms outside the church in a suitable location.
 - b. The priest wears a red chasuble or, optionally, a cope.
 - i. If the cope is worn it is set aside after the Procession and veneration of the altar, and the chasuble is put on.
 - c. The blessing of palm branches is celebrated.



DIOCESE
of
LAFAYETTE-IN-INDIANA

- d. The Gospel concerning the Lord's entrance into Jerusalem is proclaimed by a deacon or priest.
 - e. After the Procession the priest prays the Collect; Mass continues in the usual way.
 - 2. The second form (Solemn Entrance) may be used at the principal celebration if the Procession cannot take place.
 - a. The Solemn Entrance (but not the Procession) may be repeated at other Masses.
 - b. The blessing of palm branches is celebrated.
 - c. The Gospel concerning the Lord's entrance into Jerusalem is proclaimed by a deacon or priest.
 - 3. The third form (Simple Entrance) may be used at all other Masses.
- c. While, when Mass is celebrated with the congregation, an option is given to read only two of the three readings, or even the Passion alone, it is recommended that all the readings be proclaimed.
 - i. The Passion may be proclaimed, according to the needs of the community,
 - 1. by a deacon alone;
 - 2. by a priest alone (if no deacon is present); or
 - 3. in parts, with the priest taking the part of Jesus.
 - ii. The Passion is proclaimed without candles or incense.
 - iii. The proclamation of the Passion begins without the greeting ("The Lord be with you"), the signing of the book, or the acclamation of the people ("Glory to you, O Lord").
 - iv. The Passion ends in the usual way ("The Gospel of the Lord...").
- 4. Tuesday, March 31, 2026 – Chrism Mass**
 - a. Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception at 11a ET.
 - i. Each parish is encouraged to send a representative to receive the oils.
 - b. "The reception of the Holy Oils may take place in individual parishes either before the celebration of the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper or at another time that seems more appropriate." (*Roman Missal*, Chrism Mass, no. 15)
 - i. The *Roman Missal* does not indicate how such a reception takes place; therefor pastors have some latitude.
 - ii. A suggested Order for the Reception of the Holy Oils may be found at dol-in.org/LiturgicalNorms.



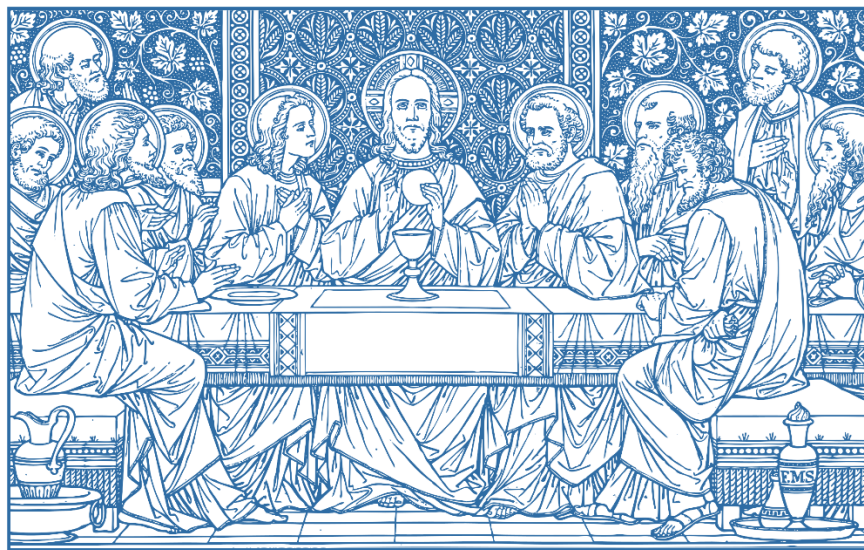
Notes for the Liturgies of the Paschal Triduum

1. “The Paschal Triduum of the Passion 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 (Evening Prayer) of the Sunday of the Resurrection.” (*Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the General Roman Calendar* [UNLYGRC], no. 19)
2. Because the Paschal Triduum “shines forth as the high point of the entire liturgical year” (UNLYGRC, no. 18) it should be celebrated with great solemnity.
 - a. It is strongly recommended that the prayers be chanted, according to the skill of the priest, deacon, or cantor (cf. *Musicam Sacram*, no. 44).
 - i. Those called upon to chant the prayers should be given ample time to practice before the Triduum.
 - ii. Recordings of the chants, useful for practice, may be found at
 1. npm.org/formation/chants-of-the-roman-missal/the-proper-of-time
 2. npm.org/formation/chants-of-the-roman-missal/the-order-of-mass
 3. npm.org/formation/chants-of-the-roman-missal/prefaces-in-the-order-of-mass
 4. npm.org/formation/chants-of-the-roman-missal/chants-for-the-eucharistic-prayer
 - b. Organs and other instruments should only be used to support singing; instrumental music is not permitted during the Paschal Triduum (cf. *Musicam Sacram*, nos. 65-66).
3. On all of Holy Thursday and during the Triduum funeral Masses may not be celebrated.
 - a. The Funeral Liturgy Outside Mass may be celebrated, closing with the rite of farewell.
 - i. The readings should reflect the solemn nature of the Paschal Triduum.
 - ii. Communion is not distributed.
4. **Thursday, April 2, 2026 – Mass of the Lord’s Supper**
 - a. By ancient custom, the only Masses celebrated on this day are the Chrism Mass and the Mass of the Lord’s Supper, and Masses without the participation of the people are forbidden.
 - b. The Mass of the Lord’s Supper begins in the evening.
 - i. The Mass is to be scheduled at a time which facilitates the participation of the faithful.
 - ii. A second celebration of the Mass of the Lord’s Supper may be held with permission; contact the Office of the Vicar General.
 - c. All priests may concelebrate at this Mass, even if they have celebrated another Mass earlier in the day.
 - d. Those who participate in the Mass of the Lord’s Supper do not celebrate Vespers (Evening Prayer).
 - e. Communion is distributed only in the context of the celebration of the Mass.
 - i. However, Communion may be brought at any hour to the sick who are unable to participate.
 - f. The altar may be decorated moderately with flowers.



DIOCESE
of
LAFAYETTE-IN-INDIANA

- g. The tabernacle should be entirely empty and the sanctuary lamp extinguished.
 - i. The Altar of Repose should be prepared before the Mass in a suitable place.
- h. The Reception of the Holy Oils may take place at this Mass.
 - i. A suggested Order for the Reception of the Holy Oils may be found at dol-in.org/LiturgicalNorms.
- i. The *Gloria* is sung.
 - i. Bells are rung during the *Gloria*.
 - ii. Following the *Gloria* the bells remain silent until the *Gloria* is sung at the Easter Vigil.
- j. If the Washing of the Feet (*Mandatum*) is celebrated, those chosen should represent a cross-section of the local community.
 - i. Per the 2016 decree *In Missa In Cena Domini*, both men and women may be chosen to have their feet washed.
 - ii. The traditional number is twelve, although there is no exact requirement.
 - iii. Antiphons or suitable hymns may be sung during the Washing of the Feet.
- k. The Creed is omitted.
- l. Sufficient bread should be consecrated at this Mass for the clergy and faithful to receive Communion on this and the following day.
- m. After Communion a ciborium with hosts for Communion on the next day is placed on the altar.
- n. Following the Prayer after Communion a procession is formed to take the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar of Repose.
- o. After Mass crosses in the church are removed or veiled.





5. Friday, April 3, 2026 – Celebration of the Lord's Passion

- a. Liturgies are to be scheduled at times which facilitate the participation of the faithful.
 - i. The traditional time of 3p is recommended unless, for pastoral reasons, it is scheduled later in the day.
 - ii. Additional celebrations may be held with permission; contact the Office of the Vicar General.
 - iii. The Stations of the Cross and other devotions or communal acts of piety should not be scheduled for Good Friday such that they overshadow or diminish the liturgical celebrations proper to the day (cf. *Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy*, no. 134).
- b. On this day no Sacraments are celebrated, except for Penance and the Anointing of the Sick.
- c. Communion is distributed only in the context of the celebration of the Lord's Passion.
 - i. However, Communion may be brought at any hour to the sick who are unable to participate.
- d. Those who participate in the celebration of the Lord's Passion do not celebrate Vespers (Evening Prayer).
- e. The altar is completely bare (no cross, candles, or cloth) and without any decoration (flowers, etc.).
- f. Organs and other musical instruments should only be used as necessary to support singing.
 - i. The liturgy begins in silence.
 - ii. No music should be played before or after the liturgy.
- g. The Liturgy of the Word concludes with the Solemn Intercessions.
 - i. The intercessions are chanted or said by a deacon or lay minister.
 1. Following each intercession the deacon or lay minister invites the faithful to kneel for a short time.
 - ii. Following the period of kneeling the priest chants or says a prayer.
 - iii. Recordings of the chants, useful for practice, may be found at
 1. npm.org/formation/chants-of-the-roman-missal/the-proper-of-time.
- h. Following the Solemn Intercessions the Adoration of the Holy Cross takes place.
 - i. Priests may use either form of the Showing of the Holy Cross in the *Roman Missal*.
 - ii. Only a single cross is to be adored.
 - iii. The sign of reverence to the cross indicated by the rite is a simple genuflection.
 1. Some other sign appropriate to the culture, such as a kiss, may also be used.
 - iv. During adoration the antiphon *Crucem tuam adoramus*, the Reproaches, the hymn *Crux fidelis*, or other suitable chants or hymns may be sung.
 - v. If, due to a large number of people, individual reverence is not possible, the priest (after the clergy have revered the cross) may stand in the



DIOCESE
of
LAFAYETTE-IN-INDIANA

middle before the altar and, elevating the cross for a short time, invite the people to reverence it from their place in the nave.

- i. Following the Adoration of the Holy Cross the cross is set near the altar.
 - i. A cloth is placed on the altar with a corporal, and candles set around the altar or the cross.
- j. The deacon (or the priest if no deacon is present) puts on the humeral veil and brings the Blessed Sacrament from the place of repose to the altar.
 - i. He is accompanied by two candle bearers who place their candles on or around the altar.
- k. Following the celebration of the Lord's Passion crosses may be returned and uncovered in the church.

6. Saturday, April 4, 2026 – Holy Saturday and the Easter Vigil

- a. On this day, before the celebration of the Vigil, Holy Communion may only be given as Viaticum. (*Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharistic Mystery outside Mass*, no. 16)
- b. The *Roman Missal, Third Edition* indicates that "The entire celebration of the Easter Vigil must take place during the night, so that it begins after nightfall and ends before daybreak on the Sunday." (no. 3)
 - i. A strict reading of the rubric would set the start of the Easter Vigil after dusk:
 1. Muncie: 8:36p ET
 2. Lafayette: 8:43p ET
 3. Rensselaer: 7:45p CT
- c. Those who participate in the Easter Vigil do not celebrate Compline (Night Prayer).
- d. Any images in the church that were covered during Lent are uncovered before the beginning of the Vigil.
- e. The Vigil begins with the faithful gathered outside and the lights of the church extinguished.
 - i. The following should be prepared ahead of time:
 1. The *Roman Missal, Third Edition*
 2. A fire pit or other place to light the Easter fire
 - a. The fire should be fully lit at the beginning of the Vigil
 - b. A member of the faithful should be assigned to tend the fire and ensure it is fully extinguished after the faithful enter the church
 - c. A fire extinguisher should be on hand.
 3. Paschal Candle
 4. Stylus
 5. Grains of incense to be set in the Paschal Candle
 6. Thurible and incense
 7. Taper candles for the faithful



DIOCESE
of
LAFAYETTE-IN-INDIANA

- ii. If, due to inclement weather or another impediment, gathering outside is impossible, the Vigil begins with the people gathered in the church and the rite adapted per no. 13 in the *Roman Missal, Third Edition*.
- f. After the procession into the church, as the Paschal Candle is set in place, the lights of the church are turned on.
 - i. The altar candles are not lit until the *Gloria*.
- g. The deacon or cantor proclaims the Exsultet.
 - i. A recording of the Exsultet, useful for practice, may be found at
 - 1. npm.org/formation/chants-of-the-roman-missal/the-proper-of-time.
- h. Nine readings are assigned (seven from the Old Testament and two from the New Testament) with their respective psalms and canticles.
 - i. It is most fitting for all readings to be proclaimed in order that the character of the Vigil be preserved.
 - ii. For serious pastoral reasons as few as three readings from the Old Testament may be proclaimed.
 - 1. At least one reading from both the Law and the Prophets should be chosen.
 - 2. The reading from Exodus 14 may never be omitted.
- i. After the last reading from the Old Testament the altar candles are lit and the *Gloria* is sung.
 - i. During the singing of the *Gloria*, bells are rung.
- j. At the reading of the Gospel candles are not carried, only incense.
- k. The homily may not be omitted.
- l. On this night the unbaptized celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation.
 - i. It is preferable that reception into full communion of baptized Christians not take place at the Easter Vigil lest there be any confusion of such baptized Christians with the unbaptized, possible misunderstanding of the sacrament of baptism celebrated in another Church or ecclesial community, or any perceived triumphalism in the liturgical welcome into the Catholic Eucharistic community.
 - 1. It is recommended that baptized candidates for full communion be received through the reception of Confirmation and the Eucharist on the following Sunday (April 12) or at the Vigil of Pentecost (evening of May 23).
 - ii. The rite is found in *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*, nos. 218-240.
 - iii. The unbaptized received into the Church receive all three Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist).
 - 1. This includes children of catechetical age (cf. *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*, no. 305).
- m. After the Vigil it is fitting for the parish to host a reception to welcome the newly baptized.



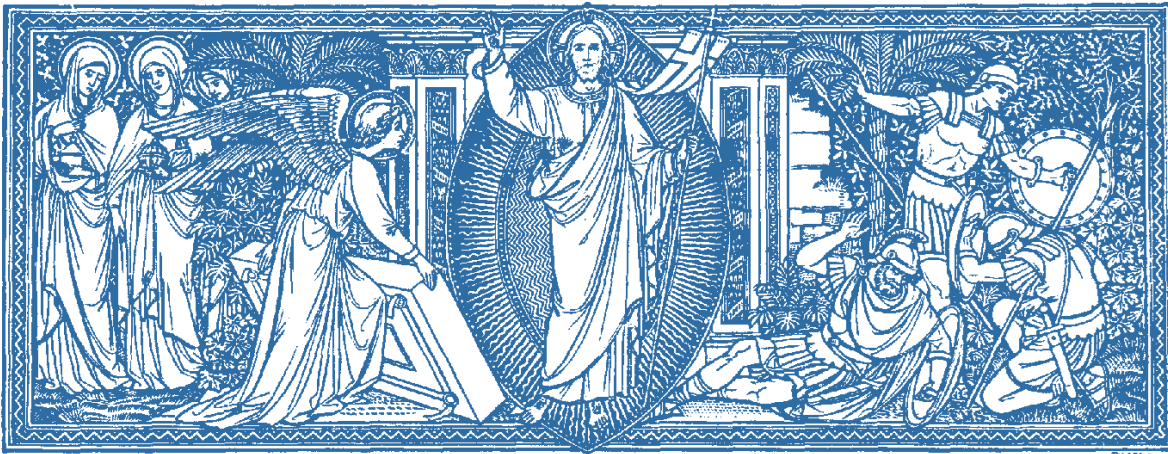
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7. Sunday, April 5, 2026 – Easter Mass during the Day

- a. The Easter Vigil takes the place of the Office of Readings.
 - i. Those who celebrate the Office of Readings today should read at least four of the readings from the Easter Vigil.
- b. Easter Mass during the Day includes the Sequence *Victimae paschali laudes* after the second reading.
 - i. The sequence is optional on the weekdays of the Octave of Easter.
- c. The Renewal of Baptismal Promises may take the place of the Creed.

8. Sunday, April 12, 2026 – Sunday of Divine Mercy

- a. On this day, or at the Vigil of Pentecost, it is preferable to bring baptized candidates into full communion with the Church.
 - i. The reception of baptized Christians into full communion is normally celebrated during a Mass.
 - ii. The rite is found in *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*, nos. 487-498.
- b. The priest who admits a person baptized in another ecclesial community into full communion has the right and duty to confirm the person (cf. *Code of Canon Law*, c. 883.3). Permission from the bishop is not required.
 - i. Permission is required to confirm someone who was baptized in the Catholic Church.





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Easter Candles in Multi-Parish Pastorates

The USCCB's Committee on Divine Worship, when asked about the situation when one Easter Vigil Mass is celebrated within a cluster of parishes, offered the following suggestion:

“The candles from the mission churches or other parish churches could be present at the Easter Vigil, having been prepared in advance, and blessed alongside the main candle (perhaps having deacons or other representatives holding them). In keeping with the rubrics, for the lighting and procession only one candle should be lit (the principal one, or the one which will remain in that particular church). As the other candles in the congregation are lit, the other paschal candles could be lit and held (but not high, in order to maintain the prominence of the one principal candle) by someone at their place in the assembly. Once all the candles are extinguished after the singing of the Exsultet, the other paschal candles are put aside. On Easter Sunday morning, those candles could be taken to each of the missions and carried, lit, in the entrance procession at the first Mass at each church and put in place in the sanctuary.”

Blessing of Baptismal Water in Churches in which the Easter Vigil was Not Celebrated

When the Easter Vigil is not celebrated in a church it is recommended that, on Easter Sunday (or the next Mass celebrated in the church) the priest use the Renewal of Baptismal Promises per the rubrics for Easter Mass During the Day. In this case the water would be blessed immediately before the renewal.