



PALM SUNDAY and TRIDUUM LITURGIES
in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and without “public” Masses

For the purpose of slowing the spread of the deadly COVID-19 coronavirus, with consideration given to the recommendations for social distancing offered by Governor Noem and those public health officials advising her, and in accord with the Decree of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Disciple of the Sacraments (March 19), I am promulgating the following regarding the liturgies of Palm Sunday and Holy Week to be prayed throughout the Diocese of Sioux Falls in 2020:

PALM SUNDAY

There is to be no public gathering inside or outside churches.

The Mass for Palm Sunday will be celebrated by the Bishop in the Cathedral without a congregation, with palms blessed, and broadcast via KELO-LAND TV at 10:00 am Central Daylight Savings Time. It will also be live-streamed on the Diocesan website beginning on Sunday, April 5, 2020.

In parishes, the Mass for Palm Sunday will be celebrated without a congregation (only one deacon; one person to operate the live streaming equipment if the liturgy is being live streamed; one lector; one cantor and one musician in addition to resident clergy) by the pastor.

HOLY THURSDAY

There will be no public gathering inside or outside churches. Televised or live-stream broadcasts should be live if possible.

The Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper will be celebrated by the Bishop in the Cathedral without a congregation and broadcast via the internet on the Diocesan website at 7 pm on Thursday, April 9, 2020.

In parishes, the Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper will be celebrated without a congregation (only one deacon, one person to operate the live-streaming equipment if the liturgy is being live streamed; one lector; one cantor and one musician in addition to resident clergy) by the pastor. If live-streaming, pastors should notify the parishioners of the time for the live-stream.

GOOD FRIDAY

There will be no public gathering inside or outside churches.

The Commemoration of the Lord’s Passion will be celebrated by the Bishop in the Cathedral without a congregation and broadcast via the internet on the Diocesan website at 3 pm on Friday, April 10, 2020.

In parishes, the Commemoration/Celebration of the Lord’s Passion will be celebrated without a congregation (only one deacon; one person to operate the live streaming equipment if the liturgy is being live streamed; one lector; one cantor and one musician in addition to resident clergy) by the pastor. Pastors should notify the parishioners of the time for the live-stream.



HOLY SATURDAY

There will be no public gathering inside or outside churches.

The Easter Vigil will be celebrated by the Bishop in the Cathedral without a congregation and broadcast via internet on the Diocesan website at 8 pm on Saturday, April 11, 2020.

In parishes, the Easter Vigil will be celebrated without a congregation (only one deacon; one person to operate the live streaming equipment if the liturgy is being live streamed; one lector; one cantor and one musician in addition to resident clergy) by the pastor. Pastors should notify the parishioners of the time for the live-stream.

EASTER SUNDAY

There will be no public gathering inside or outside the church

Mass for Easter Sunday will be celebrated by the Bishop in the Cathedral without a congregation and broadcast via the internet on the Diocesan website at 10:00 am on Sunday, April 12, 2020, on KELO-LAND TV.

In parishes, Mass for Easter Sunday will be celebrated without a congregation (only one deacon; one person to operate the live streaming equipment if the liturgy is being live streamed; one lector; one cantor and one musician in addition to resident clergy) by the pastor. Pastors should notify the parishioners of the time for the live-stream.

Other Clarifications

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

There is no obligation to provide regular times for confession during this pandemic. If pastors choose to do so, they must impose social distancing guidelines. Confessionals may not be appropriate for use at this time due to the proximity of the priest to the penitent. In which case, another suitable space where the priest and penitent can be separated within a safe distance should be used. Anonymity can be provided by turning the priest's chair away from that of the penitent. If confessions are being held, pastors must inform parishioners when lining up awaiting confession to keep a space six feet apart from each other. Reminders about social distancing should be posted.

The faithful are reminded that they can complete their Easter Duty anytime up to and including Trinity Sunday.



INDULGENCES (CCC 1471-1473)

The Apostolic Penitentiary, with the approval of the Holy Father, has granted additional opportunities for one to gain a plenary indulgence during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic once per day. This plenary indulgence is to “all the faithful affected by the COVID-19 disease, as well as to health care workers, family members and all those who, for whatever reason, even with prayer, take care of them.” The following requirements are in effect for obtaining the indulgence:

1. Be detached from all sin, even venial, otherwise the indulgence is only partial.
2. Undertake at least one of the following spiritual good works:
 - a. Spiritually unite through the media to the celebration of the Holy Mass;
 - b. Recitation of the Holy Rosary;
 - c. The pious practice of the Way of the Cross or other forms of devotion, or
 - d. Recite the Creed, the Our Father and a pious invocation to the Blessed Virgin;
 - e. Make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament;
 - f. Undertake Eucharistic Adoration, or
 - g. The reading of the Holy Scriptures for at least half an hour;
 - h. Recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.
3. When undertaking any of the good works mentioned above, “implore from Almighty God the cessation of the epidemic, relief for those who are afflicted and eternal salvation of those who have died.”
4. Have the intention to fulfill as soon as it is possible the usual obligations of sacramental confession, Eucharistic Communion, and prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father.

May God be with you as you do and bless you during these holiest of liturgical seasons.

Sincerely, in Christ,

Most Reverend Donald E. DeGrood
Bishop of Sioux Falls