

HOLY WEEK & TRIDUUM FAST FACTS...

✘ Lent Environment

During Lent the altar is not to be decorated with flowers. The Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday), solemnities and feasts are exceptions to this rule. On the Fourth Sunday of Lent rose colored vestments may be used (CB 252). The practice of covering statues, images and crosses during the season of Lent is no longer suppressed in the United States. "Images in the church may be covered from the conclusion of the Mass for Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent until the beginning of the Easter Vigil." (Ordo) The cross is covered on Good Friday (CL 26 and Ordo).

✘ St. Joseph, Husband of Mary, March 19

The Mass color is white and the propers of the day are used for Mass. The Gloria is sung at the appropriate time. The preface is that of St. Joseph.

Although this day falls on a Friday of Lent, the obligation of abstinence is not lifted. It falls to the Bishop alone to dispense from the obligation of abstaining from meat on this day.

✘ Annunciation, March 25

The Mass color is white and the propers of the day are used for Mass. The Gloria is sung at the appropriate time. All are asked to genuflect at "and became Man" in the Creed. The preface is that of the Annunciation.

✘ Holy Oils

- "Each year when the bishop blesses the oils and consecrates the chrism, the pastor should see that the oil oils are properly disposed of by burning and that they are replaced by the newly blessed oils." (Book of Blessings, 1127)
- . "The pastor is to obtain the sacred oils from his own bishop and keep them carefully in a fitting place." (Canon 847) Priests have a responsibility to see to the reverent use and safe custody of the holy oils. (Sacramentary, Appendix II, "Rite of the Blessing of Oils and Consecrating the Chrism", 28) "The oils used for the celebration of the sacraments of initiation, holy orders and anointing of the sick according to ancient tradition are reverently reserved in a special place in the church. This repository should be secured and protected by a lock." (Book of Blessings, 1125)
- The plastic bottles containing the oils given to the parishes after the Chrism Mass, are not for display purposes or liturgical use. The plastic containers are used to transport the oils or for non-public storage. If the oils are to be displayed they should be displayed in dignified vessels. When being used in the liturgy the oils should be in proper vessels, not in the plastic containers.

✘ Holy Thursday, April 1, 2010

- The Mass of Chrism with Bishop Doran will be celebrated at the Cathedral of St. Peter, Rockford, at 11:00am

Lent ends with the beginning of the Mass of the Lord's Supper, which is the principal liturgy of the day. The tabernacle is empty before the liturgy begins. Communion under both forms is

highly recommended. Enough bread should be consecrated at this Mass for the Liturgy of Good Friday as well.

- The washing of the feet (mandatum) should be celebrated in a way that allows for people to participate visually. Other rites or statements of commitment are not appropriate for Holy Thursday. The custom that those chosen for the washing be men is commendable and should be observed.
- It is appropriate that the oils blessed and consecrated at the Chrism Mass be carried in at the presentation of the gifts. The proper rubrics & prayers for the presentation of the oils are found on the Office of Divine Worship website.

✘ Good Friday, April 2, 2010

The celebration of the Lord's Passion, the principal celebration of this day, should take place between 12 noon and 3p.m. If pastoral need dictates, there may be another celebration later in the day, especially in another language for pastoral necessity. The parish priest is the appropriate celebrant for this solemn liturgy. The liturgy for Good Friday makes no provision for any form of concelebration.

- **The Holy Land Collection is to be taken up before the Veneration of the Cross. Please send the collection to the Chancery by April 16, 2010.**
- During the veneration of the cross, only one cross should be used. If the number of people is too great to permit individual veneration, other crosses may be used.

✘ The Easter Vigil, April 3, 2010

The Easter Vigil should begin at a time that allows for new fire to break the darkness of night. In the Diocese of Rockford the Easter Vigil may not be scheduled before 7:18 P.M .

- The Exsultet (Easter Proclamation) should be sung by one who can do so with grace and beauty. At least three of the seven Old Testament readings should be used, including reading number three from Exodus. The Glory to God should be sung. Communion under both kinds is to be encouraged.
- Adults (and children of catechetical age) being baptized or brought into Full Communion during the Vigil (RCIA 562-594) are to be confirmed by the presiding priest (RCIA 588).