

DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER
2023 GUIDELINES FOR LENT
FROM THE OFFICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP

The annual observance of Lent recalls the twofold theme of **baptism** and **repentance**.

1. Catechumens are led to the sacraments of initiation by means of the rites of election, the scrutinies, and catechesis;
2. Validly baptized non-Catholics are received into the Church by renewal of the baptismal promises, the professions of acceptance of the Catholic Faith and reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist;
3. The Faithful, listening more intently to the word of God and devoting themselves to prayer, are prepared through a spirit of repentance to renew their baptismal promises.

CHURCH ENVIRONMENT DURING LENT

- On the Altar at least one cloth, white in color. In the U.S. other cloths are used in addition, provided that the mensa itself is covered in a white altar cloth.
 - The Altar is not to be decorated with flowers, though solemnities, feasts and the Fourth Sunday of Lent are exceptions.
 - Rose colored vestments may be worn on the Fourth Sunday of Lent.
 - **From the Saturday eve of the Fifth Sunday of Lent until the beginning of the Easter Vigil images** in the church may be **covered**.
- ✓ **Images are not covered at the beginning of Lent.** Universal custom for centuries directed that from the week before Palm Sunday and throughout Holy Week the images were to be covered. In recent years the covering of statues is universally restored as previously from the Saturday eve of the Fifth Sunday of Lent. Please be sure that your parish liturgical environment ministry is made aware of this. All other Lenten decoration may be in place on the eve of Ash Wednesday, but covering of images must follow universal norm.

THE COMMEMORATION OF THE SAINTS DURING LENT

- Solemnities and feasts are celebrated as usual.
- All memorials of Saints occurring during Lent are observed as *optional*.
- Saints are commemorated as follows:
 - ✘ At Mass: (*only the Opening Prayer may reflect the saint's commemoration*).
 - ✓ The color of vestments is always violet.
 - ✓ Opening prayer of the saint may replace that of the Lenten weekday.
 - ✓ Liturgy of the Word remains that of the Lenten weekday.
 - ✓ Prayer over the Gifts remain that of the Lenten weekday.
 - ✓ Preface of Lent remains (*except with Eucharistic Prayers having their own Preface*).
 - ✓ Prayer after Communion remains that of the Lenten weekday.

Commemoration of the Saints during Lent cont'd

- ✘ In the Liturgy of the Hours
 - ✓ At the Office of Readings:
After the Lenten weekday second reading and responsory, the reading of the saint and its responsory may be read.
The concluding Prayer of the Saint's commemoration may be offered.
 - ✓ At Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer:
The Antiphon for the Saint and the concluding Prayer of the Saint may replace those of the weekday.

ASH WEDNESDAY *February 22, 2023*

- Is a day of universal **Fast**
(observed by all who are 18 to 58 years of age inclusive/ one full meal and two much lighter meals/ nothing to eat in between meals/ liquids such as water, milk and juices are allowed).
- and **Abstinence**
(observed by all who are 14 years of age and older/ no meat is allowed unless required for reasons of health).

Fasting, almsgiving and prayer are the three traditional disciplines of Lent that should be **taken seriously** in a spirit of penance and of preparation for baptism and renewal of baptism by Easter.

- **Blessing and Distribution of Ashes**
 - ✓ On Ash Wednesday, the blessing and distribution of ashes normally takes place during Mass, after the homily. However, when circumstances require, the blessing and distribution may take place apart from Mass during a celebration of the word of God. (See Book of Blessings #1656-1678).
 - ✓ These ashes are of branches of the olive tree, or, according to custom, of the palm tree or other trees, which have been blessed the previous year.
 - ✓ The ordinary minister for the blessing of ashes is a priest or deacon. Others (e.g. extraordinary ministers of holy communion) may assist with the imposition of ashes where there is genuine need, especially for the sick and shut-ins. One of the following formulas is used when imposing ashes on the forehead: "Repent, and believe in the Gospel." Or "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

FRIDAYS OF LENT **FULL ABSTINENCE FROM MEAT**

- All Fridays of Lent are days of full abstinence from meat for all who are 14 years of age and older (unless prohibited for reasons of health).

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT *February 26, 2023*

- Rite of Election – for true Catechumens only: the un-Baptized only.
Rite of Election **at the Cathedral.**
If the Rite of Election or Enrollment of Names of the un-Baptized Catechumens is celebrated **in the parish** church, it is done at one of the Sunday Masses.
- **AT ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL**
2:00 P.M. **The Rite of Election for un-Baptized only.**
(Please note that there is only **ONE** ceremony).

SAINT JOSEPH’S DAY *Transferred to Monday -March 20, 2023*

- Liturgically, this is the Patronal feast of the Diocese of Manchester and a Solemnity
- White vestments
- Propers of St. Joseph, March 19, 2023
- Gloria is sung or said

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT *March 26, 2023*

- **Images in the church may be covered** from the conclusion of the Mass for **Saturday (morning) of the Fourth Week of Lent until the beginning of the Easter Vigil.**

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord *March 25, 2023*
 - ✓ All are asked to genuflect at “and by the Holy Spirit” in the Creed.
- Fourth Sunday of Easter *April 30, 2023*
 - ✓ World Day of Prayer for Vocations is celebrated this day. Prayers for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life should be inserted into the General Intercessions at Mass.
- Ascension Thursday *May 18, 2023*
- Transitional Deacon Ordination *May 27, 2023.*
- Pentecost Sunday *May 28, 2023*
- There will be no Priesthood Ordination *this year.*
- The Most Holy Trinity *June 4, 2023*
- The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) *June 11, 2023*
- Most Sacred Heart of Jesus *Friday, June 16, 2023*
 - ✓ World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests *June 16, 2023*

Notes on Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter will follow in a later notice.

❖ *LITURGICAL QUESTIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE OFFICE OF WORSHIP, 663-0153*