



Lent opened on February 26 marked with the imposition of ashes upon the foreheads of Lenten penitents, hence the name Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, and Ash Wednesday is always 46 days before Easter Sunday, which is Sunday, April 12 this year. The observance of Lent spans 40 days, ending on the Saturday before Easter. You may be wondering how Lent can be 40 days if Ash Wednesday is 46 days before Easter? That is because the Lenten penance does not include Sundays, which are considered feast days, a celebration of the Lord's resurrection. The six Sundays before Easter are omitted from the 40-day observance of Lenten penance.

The last week of Lent is called Holy Week and opens on Palm Sunday the Passion of the Lord. Holy Week's closing days are known as the Triduum, a Latin expression meaning Three Days: Holy Thursday also known as Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. The term Maundy comes from an old English word for our word, mandate. It originates within the text of the Gospel of the Mass of the Lord's Supper which is the account of the Last Supper from the Gospel of John. In this Gospel passage, Jesus upon having washed the feet of his Apostles states; " I give you a new commandment [mandate]: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." Lent is a penitential time preparing one for the renewal of or the proclamation of one's baptismal declaration of faith as one reflects on Jesus' Passion, Death and Resurrection. At Lent's close comes Easter Sunday, the most joyous celebration of Our Savior's resurrection. The Joy of Easter extends through 50 days culminating of the Feast of Pentecost. By Jesus' death and resurrection, we are offered a new and eternal life in glory with Christ in the Kingdom of God forever.

**PALM SUNDAY/HOLY WEEK /THE CHRISM MASS / TRIDUUM/THE EASTER VIGIL/
EASTER MASSES UNDER DIOCESAN COVID-19 PROTOCOLS FOR THE PARISHES OF
THE DIOCESE OF DAVENPORT (SMO/SMP)**

Palm Sunday/ The Chrism Mass /Triduum

The CDC called for significant social distancing through 31 March and the Presidential Commission on COVID-19 has recently called for the same until 30 April. As there has not been a public celebration of Weekday or Sunday Masses since 16 March neither is there any expectation that there will be a public celebration of Mass on Palm Sunday, April 5. On Monday of Holy Week, there is to be no public celebration of the Diocesan Chrism Mass which the Bishop will celebrate from the chapel St. Vincent Center nor will there be any public celebration of the Triduum: The parish services of Holy Thursday Mass of The Lord's Supper and Good Friday Services.

Bishop Thomas is presiding over these liturgies which may be viewed online.

Online viewing of the Monday, April 6, 10:00 a.m. Chrism Mass can be found at:

www.youtube.com/user/dioceseofdavenport

Online viewing of April 9, 6:30 p.m. Holy Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper

Online viewing of the April 10, 3:00 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy: Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

Online viewing of the April 11, 8:30 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass

can be found at: www.facebook.com/stpauldisciples/.

These Triduum liturgies are being live streamed from St. Paul the Apostle Church, Davenport.

THE EASTER VIGIL AND EASTER SUNDAY MASSES

AT THIS TIME (NOON TUESDAY 31 MARCH) NO FINAL DIOCESAN DIRECTIVE HAS BEEN GIVEN AS TO THE PRESENT EXPECTATION OF NO PUBLIC TRIDUUM SERVICES NOR AS TO THE PARISH CELEBRATIONS OF THE EASTER VIGIL AND EASTER SUNDAY MASSES. AS THIS FIRST ADVISOR DATE OF 31 MARCH PASSES AND WITH THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION'S ADDITIONAL NOTICE OF THE DATE OF 30 APRIL MORE INFORMATION AND DIRECTION IS AWAITED FROM OUR DIOCESAN OFFICE.

The "more information and direction from the diocesan office" has now been provided:

At the direction of Bishop Thomas R. Zinkula all parish churches within the diocese **are closed to the public**. The Bishop holds that the safest place for persons is within their homes and churches open to the public are an encouragement for people to leave their homes which he believes at this time to be ill advised. Below is the statement provided to all the parishes of the Diocese of Davenport.

Given that the number of persons with COVID-19 continue to rapidly rise in the state, given that individuals should be leaving their homes for only the most essential of reasons, given that precautions are not universally being followed, and given that individual pastors may be reluctant to do so, Bishop Zinkula has decided that all church buildings are to be closed to public access. Parishes must make this change as soon as possible, and no later than by 8am Monday morning.

Formerly this was the state of the presentation of the Sacrament of Penance at SMO/SMP

CONFESSIONS

The individual celebration of Reconciliation is permitted, as long as COVID-19 protocols are followed. Priests may choose to make themselves available at certain hours and penitents may schedule a particular time to present for the sacrament. Most commonly a screen format or anonymous presentation will not be able to be provided.

The norm is that confession is to be heard in a church. However, if the church is small, and the chance of being overheard is an issue, priest may (weather permitting) hear confessions outside. Care is to be taken to keep crowds from forming.

The idea of "drive by" confessions (Toot and Tell) is not a recommended option. The maintenance of social distancing, the required 6' distance between the priest and penitent is required. Again notification of such may encourage larger crowds and lead those who should be staying home to come out.

It should go without saying that the Sacrament cannot be celebrated through electronic means (phone, internet, etc.).

Updated CONFESSIONS

Regularly scheduled Sacrament of Penance hours at SMO: Sat. 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.; SMP: 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. are canceled. Those desiring to pray the Sacrament of Penance are to contact Fr. John (Mobile phone: 319-383-6635 and a time and protocol acceptable site will be arranged. The following statement from the Vatican remains in force.

Where the individual faithful find themselves in the painful impossibility of receiving sacramental absolution, it should be remembered that perfect contrition, coming from the love of God, beloved above all things, expressed by a sincere request for forgiveness (that which the penitent is at present able to express) and accompanied by votum confessionis, that is, by the firm resolution to have recourse, as soon as possible, to sacramental confession, obtains forgiveness of sins, even mortal ones (cf. CCC, no. 1452)."

**GIVEN IN ROME, FROM THE SEAT OF THE APOSTOLIC PENITENTIARY,
ON MARCH 19, 2020,
THIS HAS NOW BEEN RE-EMPHASIZED BY POPE FRANCIS:**

Act of Perfect Contrition:

The Holy Father has recently drawn attention to the fact that, before Easter, many faithful go to Confession to meet with God again. "However," he acknowledged, "many will say to me today: 'But, Father, where can I find a priest, a confessor, because one can't leave home? And I want to make peace with the Lord, I want Him to embrace me, that my Papa embrace me . . ."

What can I do if I can't find priests?" "Do what the Catechism says,"

the Pope stressed, "it's very clear: if you don't find a priest to hear your Confession, talk with God, He is your Father, and tell Him the truth: 'Lord, I've done this, and that, and that . . . I'm sorry,' and ask Him for forgiveness with all your heart, with the Act of Contrition and promise Him:

'Afterwards I will go to Confession, but forgive me now.'" "If you do all this," Francis said, "you will return to God's grace immediately. As the Catechism teaches," he reminded, "you yourself can approach God's forgiveness without having a priest at hand. Think: 'it's the moment!' And this is the right moment, the opportune moment. An Act of Contrition well made," Francis said, "will make our soul become white as snow." – Pope Francis, Daily Mass Homily, Friday of the Third Week in Lent," 20 March 2020 While there is no set formula for making a Perfect Act of Contrition, a common one reads as follows:

"MY GOD, I AM SORRY FOR MY SINS WITH ALL MY HEART. IN CHOOSING TO DO WRONG AND FAILING TO DO GOOD, I HAVE SINNED AGAINST YOU, WHOM I SHOULD LOVE ABOVE ALL THINGS. I FIRMLY INTEND, WITH YOUR HELP, TO DO PENANCE, TO SIN NO MORE, AND TO AVOID WHATEVER LEADS ME TO SIN. OUR SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST SUFFERED AND DIED FOR US, IN HIS NAME MY GOD HAVE MERCY."

FR. JOHN

