

GUIDELINES FOR LENT AND HOLY WEEK 2022

Archdiocese of Palo

BASIC PRINCIPLES

1. As the period of preparation for Easter, the purpose of Lent is two-fold: to prepare those who will receive baptism and for those who are already baptized, to renew their baptism (through penitential acts) GNLYC 28. How has this been concretely done? Per RITUS et PRECES. Penitential acts (fasting and abstinence), sacraments of confession, even celebrating the marriage of those who are cohabiting already (the purpose of which is to enable them to fulfil the precept of the church to receive Holy Communion during Eastertime. **DO SOME PENANCE or PRACTICE PENITENTIAL DISCIPLINE, GO TO CONFESSION AND RECEIVE COMMUNION.**
2. To strike a healthy balance between a worthy celebration of the Paschal Triduum, the heart of our Christian life and faith, and the call of our health and civil authorities to help stem the rapid transmission of the virus. And so, for the sake of justice and charity to all, it is a must to follow the health and safety protocols. It is a must to coordinate with the LGU especially if activities will be done outside the premises of the church.
3. Live streaming of the liturgical celebrations should be provided for those who will not be able to participate, following the guidelines set by CBCP.

ON PARTICULAR CELEBRATIONS

A. Ash Wednesday

1. The ECL recommends the imposition of the ashes on the forehead; but the sprinkling of ashes in the crown of the head remains an option.

B. Celebration of the Sacrament of Confession / Reconciliation and Lenten Retreats or Recollections

1. Confession should be made available to all. And so, parishes should have a regular schedule for confessions, including the chapels.
2. The practice of *Kumpisalang Bayan* – when many are expected to go to confessions – should first start with a penitential rite (even a short one).
3. Confessions should be done in well ventilated spaces. Aside from requiring the wearing of the face masks for both the priest and the penitent, a confessional screen should be provided not just for reasons of health but also to protect the anonymity of the penitent.
4. To safeguard the integrity of the sacrament, the use of the electronic devices (video or phone) and writing pads / paper should be avoided.
5. In case a general absolution is given, a Penitential Rite should be celebrated and the conditions should be observed and made known to all, especially the obligation to confess mortal or serious sins once individual confessions is available.

6. Lenten Retreats or Recollections in chapels or in similar places should follow the protocols set for the celebration of the Mass.

C. Other Solemnities and feasts during Lent

1. *St. Joseph*: March 19 is a Saturday.
2. *The Annunciation*: The Solemnity of the Annunciation will be on March 25, a Friday.
3. *St. Pedro Calungsod*: Since April 2 is a Saturday.
4. *St. Vincent Ferrer*: April 5 is a Tuesday.

D. Palm Sunday

1. The ECL still recommends the Second Form of the Blessing of the Palms. This means that the faithful are already in their seats or places holding their palms and the priest may just go around to bless them. However, the priest may also begin the celebration at the door of the church or the church patio; the priest with some ministers will represent the assembly in the act of procession.
2. Instead of asking a large number of people to congregate in one church, the priests may schedule more masses, even in chapels within the parish.
3. The proclamation of the Passion Narrative can be done in the traditional way – different parts are assigned to different lectors with the priest taking the part of Jesus.

E. Holy Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

1. Aside from the masses allowed on these days, our churches should be open for the faithful to avail of the sacrament of Confession and for other devotional practices including the *Visita Iglesia*.

F. Holy Thursday

1. Morning Prayer on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday should be celebrated with the participation of the faithful provided that they observe the proper protocol inside the church.
2. The Chrism Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral on Holy Thursday, April 14, 2022 at nine in the morning. All priests working the Archdiocese of Palo are required to attend.
3. The Mass of the Lord's Supper can only be celebrated starting at five in the afternoon, not earlier.
4. The washing of the feet can be done to less than twelve persons, but not more than twelve persons.

5. The place of Reposition for the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament which follows the Mass of the Lord's Supper or the *Visita Iglesia* should accommodate a large number of people.

F. Good Friday

1. The Meditation of the Lord's Passion (*Siete Palabras*) may be given inside or outside the church. Like other liturgies, the faithful who participate should observe proper health protocol. However, in order not to unnecessarily prolong their stay inside the church, this meditation could be shared via radio or live streaming or loud speakers (for the faithful to hear them in their respective homes).

2. The celebration of the Lord's Passion can only be celebrated at three in the afternoon. Only the Presider will kiss the Cross; the rest will just venerate by the usual gestures without touching the cross.

3. The procession after the Liturgy of the Lord's Passion may be held – either by a small number of devotees observing the proper health protocol, or by the images on *carrozas* only (with the people lining in the streets) or by motorcade of the images going around the parish.

G. Easter Vigil

1. The Easter Vigil can be celebrated not earlier than six in the evening. The *Lucernarium* (the Service of the Light) including the blessing of the fire can be done entirely inside the church or at the entrance door or patio (so, there is no need for bonfires).

2. If there is a celebration of the baptism, candidates should be limited to two persons. However, the Blessing of Water should never be omitted.

3. The *Sugat* may be simplified and may be done inside the Church immediately after the Easter Vigil. The image of the Risen Lord may be brought around the parish in a motorcade.