

Notes on Lent 2021

Season of Lent · Begins on Ash Wednesday & Ends on Holy Thursday (excluding the Mass of the Lord's Supper)

Twofold Theme of Lent · Repentance & Baptism

Liturgical Days

- † Ash Wednesday · The prayers & readings of Ash Wednesday must be used. Funeral Masses, Ritual Masses, Masses for Various Needs, & Votive Masses are not permitted
- † Weekdays of Lent · Funeral Masses are permitted. Prayers & readings for Ritual Masses are permitted, & the Gloria is sung/said when required by the rubrics of the Ritual Mass. The use of prayers & readings for Masses for Various Needs & for Votive Masses requires permission from the diocesan Bishop.
- † Sundays of Lent · The prayers & readings of the Sundays of Lent must be used, except when Masses “For the Celebration of the Scrutinies” are used. Funeral Masses, Ritual Masses (excepting the scrutinies), Masses for Various Needs, and Votive Masses are not permitted
- † Memorials · All memorials are optional & may be omitted or observed as commemorations (see below).
- † Solemnities · The Solemnity of Saint Joseph (3/19) & the Solemnity of the Annunciation (3/25) are observed as solemnities (e.g., the Gloria is sung/said & the Creed is sung/said). Funeral Masses are permitted on these days. Ritual Masses, Masses for Various Needs, & Votive Masses are not permitted on these days.
- † Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday of Holy Week · Funeral Masses are permitted. Ritual Masses, Masses for Various Needs, & Votive Masses are not permitted
- † Thursday of Holy Week · The prayers & readings of Thursday of Holy Week must be used. Funeral Masses, Ritual Masses, Masses for Various Needs, & Votive Masses are not permitted.

Order of Mass

- † Commemorations in a Privileged Season · At Mass, the Collect of the Saint whose memorial is commemorated may replace the Collect of the Weekday of Lent. When the Collect of the Saint is used, the Collect of the Weekday of Lent (with the more simple ending “Through Christ our Lord”) may fittingly be used to conclude the Prayer of the Faithful.
- † “Alleluia” is not sung or said during Lent. It is replaced by the appropriate formula from the *Lectionary for Mass*.
- † Eucharistic Prayers for Reconciliation may be used with the Prefaces of Lent.
- † Prayers over the People are either optional or obligatory, depending on the day.

Order of Liturgy of the Hours

- † Commemorations in a Privileged Season · In the Office of Readings, the proper Hagiographical Reading & Responsory may follow the Patristic Reading and Responsory, and the Collect of the Saint may be used. In Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer, the ending of the concluding prayer may be omitted and followed by the antiphon of the Saint and the Collect of the Saint.
- † The “Te Deum” is omitted during the Office of Readings on Sundays of Lent.

RCIA

- † Rite of Election · Feb 21, 2021 at Cathedral (Arlington) & Feb 28, 2021 at St Theresa (Ashburn)

Rite of Election Parish Registration Form enclosed · due Jan 31, 2021

<http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/RCIA/>

The Rite of Election will be celebrated on Sunday, February 21, 2021, 3:00pm, at the Cathedral of Saint Thomas More in Arlington, and on Sunday, February 28, 2021, 2:30pm, at Saint Theresa in Ashburn. Attendance will be limited to Catechumens, their Godparents, and up to two representatives from each Parish. Face coverings are required for all participants. No reception will follow the liturgies. (*Candidates for Confirmation and/or Full Communion should not plan to attend the diocesan liturgies on Feb 21st or Feb 28th—more below.*)

If a Catechumen preparing for Baptism expresses sincere, serious concerns about attending the diocesan Rite of Election, the Pastor may request delegation to celebrate the Rite of Election by submitting a request in writing to the Vicar General. The request should provide the name of the Elect who will participate in the rite celebrated by the Pastor.

The Rite of the Call to Continuing Conversion—which is celebrated for uncatechized adult Catholics preparing for Confirmation and for individuals baptized in another Christian tradition preparing for Full Communion—should be celebrated by the local Pastor at a time he determines, preferably at the beginning of Lent. The rite can be found in RCIA, nos. 446-458 (chap. 4c), and is available as a PDF from the Office of Divine Worship.

- † Scrutinies · Whenever possible, three Scrutinies should be celebrated during Lent for the Elect who are preparing for Baptism in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. However, for serious reasons and in extraordinary circumstances, the RCIA permits the local Bishop to dispense individual Elect from up to two Scrutinies (RCIA, nos. 20 and 331). Therefore, for serious reasons arising from the coronavirus pandemic, Pastors may request dispensations from one or two of the Scrutinies for an individual under their care by making a request in writing to the Vicar General. The request should provide the name of the Elect and the number of scrutinies requested for dispensation.
- † The Presentation of the Creed ordinarily takes place after the First Scrutiny (Third Week of Lent).
- † The Presentation of the Lord's Prayer ordinarily takes place after the Third Scrutiny (Fifth Week of Lent).

Penance/Reconciliation · The Season of Lent is a most fitting time for the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Matrimony · If Matrimony is celebrated during Lent, couples should be reminded that the celebration must respect the special nature of the season. *See the enclosure for more details on celebrating Matrimony during Lent and Holy Week.*

Music, Arts, & Environment

- † Instruments are played only to give the necessary support the singing. However, on Laetare Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent) and on Solemnities, instruments may be played more fully.
- † The altar is not decorated with flowers; other decorations should be restrained. However, on Laetare Sunday and on Solemnities, decorations may reflect the feast.
- † Crosses and images may be covered on the Fifth Sunday of Lent. Crosses remain covered until the end of the celebration of the Lord's Passion; images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil.