



NOTES ON LENT 2020

updated & expanded from the ODW Bulletin of January 2020

Season of Lent | *from* Ash Wednesday, February 26, 2020
to Holy Thursday, April 9, 2020 (*concluding before Evening Mass of Lord's Supper*)

Twofold Theme | Repentance & Baptism

Liturgical Days

- † *Ash Wednesday:* The proper texts of Ash Wednesday must be used. Funeral Masses, Ritual Masses, Masses for Various Needs, and Votive Masses are not permitted.
- † *Weekdays of Lent:* Funeral Masses are permitted. Prayers & readings for Ritual Masses are permitted. The use of prayers & readings for Masses for Various Needs or for Votive Masses requires specific permission of the diocesan Bishop.

CLARIFICATION

Because Votive Masses are generally not permitted on weekdays of Lent,
the Votive Mass of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest (first Thursday),
the Votive Mass of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (first Friday),
and the Votive Mass of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (first Saturday)
are not permitted during Lent.

- † *Sundays of Lent:* The proper texts of the Sunday 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.

POINT OF INTEREST

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is called “Laetare Sunday”
because of the first word of the Entrance Antiphon.

*Rejoice (Laetare), Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.
cf. Isaiah 66:10-11*

- † *Memorials:* All memorials are optional and may be omitted or observed as commemorations (*see p. 2*).
- † *Solemnities:* The **Solemnity of Saint Joseph (3/19)** and the **Solemnity of the Annunciation (3/25)** are observed as solemnities. Funeral Masses are permitted. Ritual Masses, Masses for Various Needs, and Votive Masses are not permitted.
- † *Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday of Holy Week:* Funeral Masses are permitted. Ritual Masses, Masses for Various Needs, and Votive Masses are not permitted.
- † *Thursday of Holy Week:* The proper texts of Thursday of Holy Week must be used. Funeral Masses, Ritual Masses, Masses for Various Needs, and 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.
- † The “Gloria” is not sung or said on Sundays or weekdays of Lent.
- † “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:* Office of Readings— The Proper Hagiographical Reading and Responsory may follow the Patristic Reading and Responsory; the Collect of the Saint may be used.
- † The “Te Deum” is omitted during the Office of Readings on Sundays of Lent.
- † *Commemorations in a Privileged Season:* Morning 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.

RCIA

- † *The Rite of Election and of the Call to Continuing Conversion* will take place in the Diocese of Arlington on the first two Sundays of Lent.
- † *The Scrutinies* are ordinarily celebrated on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent within the Ritual Masses “For the Celebration of the Scrutinies.” All three scrutinies are celebrated, except when the Bishop provides specific dispensations from one or even two of the scrutinies for serious pastoral reasons.
- † *The Presentation of the Creed* ordinarily takes place after the 1st Scrutiny (Third Week of Lent).
- † *The Presentation of the Lord’s Prayer* ordinarily takes place after the 3rd Scrutiny (Fifth Week of Lent).

Penance/Reconciliation

- † The Season of Lent is a most fitting time for the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, especially communal celebrations according to Rite II of the *Rite of Penance*.

Matrimony

- † If Matrimony is celebrated during Lent, couples ought to be reminded that the celebration should respect the special nature of the season.

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, the altar may be decorated.
- † Crosses & images may be covered on the 5th Sun. 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.

*Additional details on the observance of Holy Week, the Sacred Paschal Triduum, and Easter Time
will be provided in other resources.*