



LENT 2020

LITURGICAL SUPPLEMENT

Diocese of Syracuse

Table of Liturgical Days

February 2020		
26	Ash Wednesday	

March 2020		
1	First Sunday of Lent	Rite of Election: 2:30 PM at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
15	Third Sunday of Lent	Scrutiny I
17	Saint Patrick	Commemoration
19	Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Solemnity
22	Fourth Sunday of Lent	Scrutiny II
25	Annunciation of the Lord	Solemnity
29	Fifth Sunday of Lent	Scrutiny III

LENT – Frequently Asked Questions:

The season of Lent– what is its purpose?

It is a time of preparation for both catechumens and the faithful to celebrate the Paschal Mystery. Catechumens are led to the sacraments of initiation by the Rite of Election, the Scrutinies, and catechesis. The faithful are led to renew their baptismal promises through a spirit of repentance brought about by prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

The season of Lent – when does it begin and end?

It begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26th. It ends on Holy Thursday, April 9th, before the celebration of the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper.

LENT – Frequently Asked Questions:

The season of Lent – are solemnities and feasts celebrated?

Yes. For example, the Solemnities of Saint Joseph and the Annunciation. When these are celebrated the Lenten weekdays are not commemorated.

The season of Lent – are memorials of saints observed?

All memorials during Lent, including obligatory memorials, are optional. If they are observed, it is only as commemorations (*see below*).

The season of Lent – no *Te Deum*, *Gloria*, or *Alleluia*?

The *Gloria* and the *Te Deum* are not said on the Sundays of Lent. However, they are said when prescribed, for example, on the Solemnities of Saint Joseph and the Annunciation and at the celebration of certain ritual Masses (e.g., Matrimony and Confirmation). The *Alleluia* is omitted from the beginning of Lent until the Easter Vigil.

The season of Lent – what is *Laetare* Sunday?

The Fourth Sunday of Lent. *Laetare* means “rejoice!” It is a joyful anticipation of Easter. Rose-colored vestments may be used, instruments may be played at Mass, and the altar may be adorned with flowers.

The season of Lent – can the celebration of Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Matrimony take place?

Yes. Baptism can be celebrated anytime, but its celebration may be discouraged in certain circumstances during Lent because this season is a time of preparation for Baptism. When Confirmation is celebrated on Sundays during Lent the Mass of the Day is celebrated, the readings of the day are used, and violet vestments are worn. Couples celebrating the Sacrament of Matrimony are to be reminded that wedding plans should respect the nature of this austere liturgical season (e.g., flowers, music, etc.).

Lent in practice – who must abstain from meat and when?

Catholics ages 14 and older are required to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday (February 26th) and Good Friday (April 10th) as well as on all Fridays during Lent.

Lent in practice – who must fast and when?

Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are required to fast (eat only one full meal; two smaller meals may be taken but may not be equal to the one full meal) on Ash Wednesday (February 26th) and Good Friday (April 10th). When possible, the fast from Good Friday should continue until the Easter Vigil. This is called the “Paschal Fast.” It is done to enter into the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus and to prepare more fully to celebrate his Resurrection.

Lent in practice – how should the sanctuary be decorated?

The altar should not be decorated with flowers except on the Fourth Sunday of Lent.

LENT – Frequently Asked Questions:

Lent in practice – what music is appropriate?

The proper antiphons of *Lent* or other suitable *Lenten* hymns that stir up a spirit of repentance. Musical instruments may only be played to support singing. Therefore, there should be no preludes or postludes; rather, sacred silence that invites prayer and mediation.

Lent in practice – how is memorial of a saint observed as a commemoration?

At the Office of Readings: add a third reading and a third responsory (of the saint) before the concluding prayer. At Morning Prayer or Evening Prayer: omit the ending of the concluding prayer (Through our Lord Jesus Christ...) and add the saint's antiphon for the *Benedictus* or *Magnificat* (from the proper or common) and the saint's prayer. At Mass: the collect of the saint may be used as the collect and the collect of the Lenten weekday may be used to conclude the universal prayer.

Lent in practice – how / when is the Prayer Over the People offered?

These prayers are either obligatory (i.e., on Ash Wednesday and Sundays of Lent) or optional (i.e., on the weekdays of Lent.) The priest says, "*The Lord be with you.*" The people respond, "*And with your Spirit.*" The deacon or priest says, "*Bow down for the blessing.*" With hands outstretched over the people, the priest offers the prayer. After the people respond, "*Amen,*" the priest adds, "*And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you forever.*" The people respond, "*Amen.*" The deacon or priest then offers one of the formulas for the dismissal (e.g., "*Go forth, the Mass is ended*").

Lent in practice – are statutes and images covered?

They may be covered beginning with the fifth Sunday of Lent. Crosses remain covered until the end of the celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday. Images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil.

“Penance service” – what is it?

The Sacrament of Penance is one of the primary ways to “return to the Lord with your whole heart” (Joel 2:13) A “penance service” is a communal celebration of the sacrament of Penance, which “shows more clearly the ecclesial nature of penance” (*Rite of Penance*, 22). Moreover, a “penance service” has a particular structure set forth in the *Rite of Penance: Rite for Reconciliation of Several Penitents with Individual Confession and Absolution* (i.e., Introductory Rites, The Celebration of the Word of God, The Rite of Reconciliation, and the Dismissal of the People).

“Penance Service” – can general absolution be given or received?

When it is either morally or physically impossible for presbyters to hear individual confessions, they are to grant general absolution. This can be done by law only: (1) in danger of death, (2) when there is not enough time, and (3) there are not enough confessors for individual confession. Likewise, in situations of grave necessity presbyters are to grant general absolution. For example, a presbyter in the missions – but not one on a pilgrimage or at a parish penance service – may grant general absolution when there are not enough confessors to hear confessions within a suitable time and penitents will be deprived of the grace of this sacrament or of Holy Communion for some time, (c. 961 §1, 1° and 2°). For the *valid* reception of general absolution, the faithful must be (1) suitably disposed and (2) intend to confess individually any grave sins as soon as possible (*Rite of Penance*, 34). Accordingly, general absolution is ***not permitted*** at a scheduled penance service.

LENT – Frequently Asked Questions:

“Anointing service” – is this the same as the Sacrament of Penance?

No. An “anointing service” is the communal celebration of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. When celebrated communally, presbyters are to ensure that the sick are suitably prepared and properly disposed (c. 1002). For example, they should instruct those present concerning who can receive the sacrament (i.e. those who begin to be danger of death because of sickness or old age). Note: the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick forgives only those sins that cannot be confessed because of physical or moral constraints (*Pastoral Care of the Sick*, 6).

R.C.I.A. during Lent

What	When	Who	Where
Rite of Sending [optional]	First Sunday of Lent March 1, 2020	Catechumens	Parish R.C.I.A. nos. 106-117
Rite of Election	First Sunday of Lent March 1, 2020	Catechumens	The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
Rite of Call to Continuing Conversion	Beginning of Lent e.g., first week or the Second Sunday	Candidates	Parish R.C.I.A. nos. 446-458
Penitential Rite	Second Sunday of Lent or a Lenten weekday	Candidates	Parish R.C.I.A. nos. 459-463
First Scrutiny	Third Sunday of Lent	Elect	Parish R.C.I.A. nos. 150-156
Presentation of the Creed	During the week after the First Scrutiny	Elect	Parish R.C.I.A. nos. 157-163
Second Scrutiny	Fourth Sunday of Lent	Elect	Parish R.C.I.A. nos. 164-170
Third Scrutiny	Fifth Sunday of Lent Parish	Elect	Parish R.C.I.A. nos. 171-177
Presentation of the Lord’s Prayer	During the week after the Third Scrutiny	Elect	Parish R.C.I.A. nos. 178-184
Preparation Rites on Holy Saturday	Holy Saturday – before the Vigil	Elect	Parish R.C.I.A. nos. 185-205
Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation	Easter Vigil	Elect and/or candidates	Parish R.C.I.A. nos. 206-243 or nos. 562-594

Note: “**catechumens**” and “**elect**” are those who will celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist; “**candidates**” are those who have already been baptized. Also, for rites of initiation for children who have reached catechetical age, see R.C.I.A. nos. 291-330

ASH WEDNESDAY – Frequently Asked Questions:

How does Mass begin?

It begins with the Sign of the Cross, the Greeting (“The Lord be with you.”), “Let us pray,” and the Collect. The Penitential Act is omitted.

When are ashes blessed and distributed?

After the Homily.

Who may distribute ashes?

A priest or deacon is the ordinary minister. Others (e.g., extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion) may assist when there is a genuine need.

May ashes be blessed and distributed outside of Mass?

Yes. After the Entrance Antiphon, Collect, readings, and Homily. The rite ends with the Universal Prayer, the Blessing, and the Dismissal of the Faithful. See the *Book of Blessings*, 1656-1678.

What is to be said during the distribution of ashes?

“Repent and believe in the Gospel.” or “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.”