



Resumption of Public Liturgies in the Time of Public Health Concern

Other Considerations

*Directives and Guidelines for the
Diocese of Youngstown ~ May 2020*

OTHER SACRAMENTS AND LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS

Other sacraments and liturgical celebrations – *Reconciliation, Baptism, Matrimony, Funerals, Anointing of the Sick, Daily Liturgy of the Word Services, Devotions* – may be celebrated during this time. All directives and guidelines outlined for the celebration of Mass regarding physical distancing and sanitizing requirements are to be maintained and enforced for all other sacraments and liturgical celebrations.

CONFIRMATION, INITIATING THE ELECT AND CANDIDATES, and FIRST COMMUNION

At the present time, liturgies that would unduly crowd church buildings or compromise physical distancing should be delayed, adjusted or duplicated to ensure smaller crowds. When scheduled, all directives and guidelines outlined for the celebration of Mass regarding physical distancing and sanitizing requirements are to be maintained and enforced.

CONFIRMATION

Bishop Murry will grant delegation to pastors to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with candidates from their parish for ceremonies that were postponed. A letter of delegation will be sent to the pastor. This year ceremonies are to take place in the candidate's home parish. Parishes are not to combine with others. The Office of Religious Education and Office of Worship will provide guidance and resources in the coming weeks. It is recommended that parishes schedule this ceremony at a time it has been determined comfortable and convenient for those involved.

INITIATING THE ELECT AND CANDIDATES

Rites Belonging to the Period of Purification and Enlightenment: The Scrutinies

Given the nature of the meaning and understanding of the scrutinies and their place within the Lenten Season, and due to the existing circumstances, a dispensation from

celebrating the scrutinies is granted for this year. For those wishing to celebrate them, #146 states that *“When, because of unusual circumstances and pastoral needs, the period of purification and enlightenment takes place outside of Lent, the scrutinies are celebrated on Sunday or even on weekdays, with the usual intervals between celebrations. In every case [on weekdays] the ritual Masses are celebrated in sequence with the assigned gospel readings.”* (cf. RCIA #146).

The Elect (Unbaptized Adults and Older Children)

In accord with the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, (cf. #34), Bishop Murry has determined that the rites of Christian Initiation may be celebrated outside the usual time for 2020. As there was no public celebration of the Easter Vigil, parishes are encouraged to plan to celebrate the Rite of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist of the Elect at a time comfortable and convenient for those involved. (cf. RCIA # 26-27, *Outside the Usual Times*). Further liturgical guidance and support will be developed and provided by the Office of Worship and the Office of Religious Education.

Baptized Candidates for Reception into Full Communion:

It is important to remember that candidates for Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church (*already baptized Christians*) may be received into the Church during Mass at any time during the year. This rite takes place within Mass. (cf. RCIA, #475). It is encouraged that candidates for Reception into Full Communion of the Catholic Church be received into the Church at a time comfortable and convenient for those involved. This should happen separate from the ceremony in which the Elect are initiated.

FIRST COMMUNION

First Communion celebrations may be scheduled at a time comfortable and convenient for those involved. Parishes must take into consideration physical distancing and sanitizing requirements. Parishes with a large number of participants should consider multiple ceremonies to maintain precautionary measures.