

TIPS FOR LENT/ EASTER SEASONS 2010

Feb.7th - Invite people to bring the **palm branches** taken home last year to the church, so that they may be burned and used in the Ash Wednesday liturgy.

Feb.14th – If catechumens go to the Cathedral next Sunday for the Rite of Election, the **Rite of Sending** may be celebrated this Sunday.

The parish bulletin should remind people of the **main Lenten works** (prayer, penance and fasting, almsgiving).

Feb.21st – **Rite of Election** – St. Ninian Cathedral, 11am

Gloria is not sung during Lent.
Instruments are used only to accompany singing.

“**Ash Wednesday and Good Friday** are days of **fasting and abstinence from meat**. It is in the best interest of the Church that these days be proclaimed and practiced in the parish community as days of true penance. Pastors are to invite and encourage their people to do special penance on these two days”.
(*Ordo # 29c*)

It is preferable to celebrate **penance services** on weekdays rather than on Sundays. Sundays are not days of penance.

Weddings. If a wedding is to be celebrated during Lent, the presider should remind the couple that their wedding plans should respect the special nature of the liturgical season; they should refrain from too much pomp and display. This belongs to a general

parish program of education in the spirit of the liturgy and has to begin a long time before the couple arrives at the rectory to discuss the wedding date.

Some churches empty the Holy Water stoops during Lent in correspondence with the desert symbolism that opens the season and in longing for the blessing of new baptismal water at Easter. However, the CDWDS (*Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments*) declared the practice “**not permitted**” in a letter dated March 14, 2000, because Lent is also a season rich in symbolism of water and baptism and because sacramentals should be available to the faithful year round.

The practice of **covering crosses, crucifixes and statues** is optional. If it is followed, crosses and crucifixes remain covered until the end of the celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday; statues are uncovered at the beginning of the Easter vigil service.

March 5 – **World Day of Prayer**

March 21 – **Collection for Development and Peace.** Christians are urged to share their goods with others and thus express in a concrete way their desire to come closer to God and all God's children as a result of their Lenten efforts. The offering should reflect the money saved through penitential fasting and set aside for God's people. (*ORDO page 144*)

March 29th – **Mass of Chrism** – Holy Family Parish, Eskasoni .
Each parish sends two representatives to the Mass of Chrism to bring the Holy Oils back to their respective parishes.

Reception of Oils: The optional rite for the reception of oils that were blessed and consecrated during the Chrism Mass may be used at the beginning of the Holy Thursday liturgy. The oils may be carried in the entrance procession. Following the greeting they are brought forward and placed on a table prepared for this purpose or placed in the ambry. Music for this rite may be found on pages 238-239 in *"A Companion to the Catholic Book of Worship 111 Guidelines for Liturgical Music."* When this rite is used the penitential rite is omitted. It would be appropriate for the two people who represented the parish at the Chrism Mass to present these oils along with a catechumen.

On Holy Thursday the presentation of gifts should include gifts for the poor.

Where the reposition takes place, the Good Friday liturgy must be celebrated.

A **single genuflection** is always made before the Blessed Sacrament; the double genuflection is no longer made.

Holy Saturday, communion may be given during the day only in the form of viaticum.

The **Easter Vigil Mass** is not to be seen as an ordinary Saturday evening Mass. It should **begin after dark** and be at a different time from the usual Saturday evening Mass hour to show its unique character as the greatest celebration in the Church year. (*CDW, Easter Feasts, nos. 77- 80 and 93*). The entire celebration takes place **at night**. It does not start before nightfall and must be over before daybreak on Sunday.

The two **eucharistic prayers for reconciliation** are appropriate for use during Lent (*ORDO page 138*).

A **daily homily** is recommended during Lent. (*ORDO 9f*).

The **Easter candle** remains in the sanctuary near the altar or ambo until Pentecost. Its use during all liturgical services is encouraged.

The **Easter season ends after Evening Prayer on Pentecost**. The Easter candle is then placed in the baptistry, where it is displayed with due honour.

It is appropriate for children to receive their first communion on one of the Sundays of the Easter season.

The **Rite of Sprinkling** is recommended during the Easter Season.

The use of the **Nicene Creed** is recommended on **Pentecost**.

April 25 – **World Day of Prayer for Vocations**

May 9 – Sixth Sunday of Easter is also Mother's Day. Because Sunday is first of all the Lord's Day, undue emphasis must not be given to this secular celebration. A suggestion for blessing mothers after the homily or during the final blessing is found in *Blessings and Prayers for Home and Family*, page 103.