

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE AND PROCEDURES

Palm Sunday: Palms will be made available and blessed at all Masses. There will not, however, be any special processions before, just the additional Gospel reading and blessing of palms at the beginning. Masses will be at the usual times.

Confession Times:

Monday, March 29: 11:00am-12:00pm or until all are heard.

Tuesday, March 30: 11:00am-12:00pm or until all are heard; 6:00-6:45 pm

Wednesday, March 31: 11:00am-12:00pm or until all are heard; 6:00-6:45 pm

Thursday, April 1: 11:00am-12:00pm or until all are heard; 6:00-6:45 pm

Friday, April 2: 11:00am-12:00pm or until all are heard; 6:00-6:45 pm

Saturday, April 3: 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Holy Thursday: Mass will be at 7:00 pm. There will be no washing of the feet, and we will not offer the chalice to the congregation at Communion time. There will not be a formal procession at the end of Mass, with the entire congregation following the priest to the altar of repose; however, the priest ministers will still process to the altar of repose, and we will have adoration there until 11:30 pm. Access to the Adoration Chapel in the basement will only be through the east door by the stairs.

Good Friday: Service will be at 7:00 pm. Veneration of the cross will be “touchless” (bow instead of kiss).

Easter Vigil: Mass will begin at 8:30 pm. Remember that the Easter Vigil Mass cannot begin until sundown. The only restrictions will be those listed under our updated COVID precautions.

Easter Sunday: Usual Sunday Mass times. No additional restrictions, no tickets necessary.



UPDATE ON COVID PRECAUTIONS

Effective Friday, March 26th, Saint Mary's will be implementing the following changes to our COVID precautions as restrictions in Lincoln continue to loosen with the increase in vaccinations.

- Pews will no longer be taped off in the two main sections. Parishioners are asked to socially distance themselves as best they can and to wear masks.
- The pews in the east nave will still be taped off (every other pew). We will also require masks in this section, and will ask those unable to comply, to move to another section. This is to give those who are still being extremely cautious the opportunity to socially distance and also to have those around them wearing masks.
- We will begin passing around the collection baskets again. In the east nave, the usher will use the long-handled basket so that it may be taken up without any contact.
- Pews will be thoroughly disinfected twice a week. Between Masses, we will wipe down the back of the pews (where the people behind them may have had contact) in the east nave only.
- Missalettes will go back into the pew pockets. Please recycle any copies of the Advent-Lent Missalettes, as well as any copies of the 2020 Music Issue you may have.
- Holy Water will be returned to the fonts at the Easter Vigil.

The loosening up of certain restrictions is based on data indicating that the virus is overwhelmingly airborne, through miniscule droplets, and that spread through contact with shared surfaces, while not theoretically impossible, is highly unlikely. We remind everyone that individuals must decide for themselves what is safest for them; the availability of hymnals, holy water, etc. does not mean that one must necessarily avail themselves of the use of them.

For the time being, certainly at least until Lincoln's "COVID Dial" is safely in "Green." We will continue to have ministers distributing communion sanitize their hands and wear masks; and we will continue to have confessions downstairs, in a better ventilated setting.