



## ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

### Sacramentals Update During Covid-19 Pandemic

January 11, 2021

*The following guidelines still require wearing masks and social distancing by presiders, ministers and recipients, as stated in all of our diocesan directives.*

**Memorial of Saint Blaise**

**February 3, 2021**

**Blessing of Throats**

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**There are three possible options to consider for the blessing of throats.**

1. The blessing of throats may be offered with hands extended over the assembly (See Book of Blessings, 1622).

“If offered within Mass, it may be prayed after the general intercessions or may take the place of the final blessing.” (BB, 1626)

“If, for pastoral reasons, each individual cannot be blessed in the manner described ... a priest or deacon may give the blessing to all assembled by extending hands, without the crossed candles, over the people while saying the prayer of blessing.” (Book of Blessings, 1628)

2. If the priest is willing, and persons desire an individual blessing, the priest may do so using the candles but without any physical contact. As in all, both celebrant and recipient must wear protective masks.
3. The blessing of throats is an option and may be omitted entirely.

**Ash Wednesday - February 17, 2021**

**Distribution of Ashes**

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*The overriding principle on Ash Wednesday is that the minister does not touch the recipient*

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Due to the pandemic, in the Archdiocese of Newark in 2021, there is an option to forego the distribution of Ashes. (Parishioners should be informed beforehand that ashes will not be distributed at the liturgies.)

**Worship sites that wish to distribute Ashes should note the following:**

1. Ashes may be distributed with the use of a Q-Tip or other device; however, a fresh Q-Tip or other device must be used for each recipient. With proper introductory catechesis, a parish may introduce and use this custom to dispense ashes without touching each individual.
2. If it is the custom in a parish to sprinkle ashes on the top of the head (as in Europe and some monasteries), then that practice may be maintained.

3. Ashes may be blessed in individual packets and distributed as people leave the church to sign themselves at home. Remaining ashes may be placed in the ground.
4. Parishioners should be informed of the method for the distribution of ashes beforehand.

**Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion**  
**March 28, 2021**  
**Distribution of Palms**

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In places that wish to do so, palms may be distributed before Mass. The palm should be prepared beforehand so that individuals may take it as they arrive without human contact.

“The Third Form: The Simple Entrance” (see the *Roman Missal*, “Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord”) may be used at every Mass this year. It does not require the use of palm.

**Holy Water Update**

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**1. Holy Water**

- As previously stated, no holy water may be kept in fonts or receptacles at the doors of the church (Large holy water dispensers, where individuals can fill bottles are permitted)
- Small bottles of Holy water may be blessed and distributed to people as needed

**2. Baptisms**

For the celebration of Baptism, a pitcher of fresh water should be blessed and used for each ceremony.

**3. Sprinkling Rite**

- The Sprinkling Rite is always optional.
- If used, for example, during the Easter Season the following should be observed: A small amount of fresh water may be blessed and used for the sprinkling rite. This needs to be repeated for each liturgy where the Sprinkling Rite is occurs.

**The holy water should be reverently disposed of after each liturgy.**

**Further questions should be directed to the Worship Office**

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