

To: Priests and Deacons

From: Very Reverend Daniel J. Merz, SLD  
DLC Chair

Date: February 10, 2021

Subject: **Important Liturgical Announcement**

Dear brother Priests and Deacons,

**Please read the attachment carefully and note that this change goes into effect THIS ASH WEDNESDAY.** This may prove challenging to remember. Let's all make a concerted effort to make this important Christological change happen. This is important for Deacons as well, for example, when you lead a Communion Service.

Also, a reminder/refresher regarding the Lenten pandemic regulations:

1. Ash Wednesday distribution of ashes: for this year only, all of us are expected to distribute ashes by sprinkling on the head, not by signing the forehead. Please alert the faithful to this change this weekend. No other manner of distributing the ashes has been approved for this year. The ashes are blessed, sprinkled with holy water, one of the two formulas is proclaimed aloud once to the whole assembly, and then the ministers (and lay ministers ay help) sprinkle the ashes without saying anything (all should wear a mask).
2. Holy water stoups are to remain empty for the pandemic, but it is encouraged that holy water be made available to the faithful to take home.
3. The Rite of Election will take place once at 3pm at the Cathedral on Feb. 21. It is limited to the catechumens/candidates/baptized but uncatechized, plus the RCIA leader and pastor. Current numbers allow for easy seating with social distancing. There will NOT be a reception afterward.
4. Palms may be blessed and put out for the taking this year. Caution should be used in their distribution.
5. The Chrism Mass will be on TUESDAY of Holy Week (March 30) at 10am with banquet and business meeting to follow. Confessors will be available before Mass for the priests. PLEASE NOTE that the holy oils will not be available for pickup until after the banquet.
6. For Holy Thursday, we are encouraged to omit the foot washing; and a reminder that exposition in the monstrance on this night is strictly prohibited. The procession should NOT include the monstrance.
7. The Adoration of the Cross on Good Friday should be done without touching the crucifix/cross.
8. Baptisms on Holy Saturday should be done with separate doses of water for each candidate.