Catholic Diocese of Cleveland

Memorandum

Cathedral Square Plaza OFFICE OF THE MODERATOR OF THE CURIA

To: Priests, Parish Life Coordinators, Deacons

From: Reverend Donald P. Oleksiak – Vicar General/Moderator of the Curia

Date: 13 December 2022

Re: Easter Vigil Start time

Advent Greetings,
We are grateful to Bishop Woost who provided the following information regarding the start time of the Easter Vigil celebration. Please see below:

We have received several inquiries regarding the earliest time for celebrating the Easter Vigil next year. The initial rubrics for "The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night" in the *Roman Missal* indicate the following: "3. The entire celebration of the Easter Vigil must take place during the night, so that it begins after nightfall and ends before daybreak on the Sunday." The key phrases here are "…must take place during the night…" and "…after nightfall…"
According to astronomical definitions, nightfall occurs *approximately* 45 minutes after sunset when the sun has moved eighteen degrees below the horizon. On Saturday, April 8, 2023, sunset in northeastern Ohio will happen around 7:59 p.m. Therefore, the earliest that the Easter Vigil may begin is at 8:45 p.m. "On Preparing and Celebrating the Paschal Feasts" (*Paschale Solemnitatis*, 16 January 1988, #78) notes that the rule regarding the time for celebrating the Easter Vigil "is to be taken according to its strictest sense."
The following chart indicates start times for the Easter Vigil for the next five years:

Year	Vigil Date	Sunset Time	Vigil Time
2023	April 8	7:59 p.m.	8:45 p.m.
2024	March 30	7:52 p.m.	8:30 p.m.
2025	April 19	8:14 p.m.	9:00 p.m.
2026	April 4	7:57 p.m.	8:45 p.m.
2027	March 27	7:50 p.m.	8:30 p.m.

Regarding the liturgies of Holy Week, parish staffs may consider consulting other resources in addition to the *Roman Missal*:
Paschale Solemnitatis offers some helpful guidance for providing catechesis, preparation, and celebration of the liturgies of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. *Paschale Solemnitatis* may be found as a PDF file at this web address:
https://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Calendar/Seasons/Documents/Paschale-Solemnitatis.pdf
Fr. Paul Turner's book, *Glory in the Cross: Holy Week in the Third Edition of the Roman Missal* (Liturgical Press, 2011), is a useful resource for understanding the Church's theology and

1404 East Ninth Street ▪ Sixth Floor
Cleveland, OH 44114-1722
Telephone ▪ 216-696-6525 x3480

pastoral vision grounding the Holy Week liturgies. Fr. Turner provides practical advice for preparing the rituals and celebrating the liturgies of Holy Week.

Guide for Celebrating Holy Week and the Triduum by Corinna Laughlin *et al* (Liturgy Training Publications, 2017) intends to assist and guide parish staffs as they prepare to celebrate the Holy Week liturgies. It includes practical commentaries on the liturgical rituals and responses to frequently asked questions concerning the rites, liturgical music, environment, etc.

1404 East Ninth Street ▪ Sixth Floor
Cleveland, OH 44114-1722
Telephone ▪ 216-696-6525 x3480