



Office for
Liturgy & Spirituality

February 26, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: Pastors in the Diocese of San Diego

FROM: Noreen M. McInnes *Noreen McInnes*

RE: Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation

The guidelines for the Easter Vigil in 2020 reflected that we were in total lockdown at that time with no liturgies permitted inside or outside the church. In 2021, we are able to celebrate Masses and other liturgies both outside and inside. Masses and liturgies celebrated inside are currently limited to 25% of building occupancy.

At the pastor's discretion, the celebration of the sacraments of initiation for those in the RCIA process may take place during the Easter Vigil, with due regard for physical distancing, face coverings, and limits in the number of people in attendance (if celebrated indoors). Baptismal fonts, large or small, may not be used. Baptisms must take place with a pitcher and bowl, with the pouring of fresh water over the head of each person to be baptized. Confirmation must be administered with the use of a cotton ball. The parish celebration of the Easter Vigil is to begin at 7:30pm or later on Saturday, April 3rd.

If the pastor decides to delay the celebration of the sacraments of initiation until a later date, one of the Masses of Pentecost Sunday is a good option, as is any other Sunday within the Easter season.

For more information, please contact Noreen McInnes at the Office for Liturgy and Spirituality at nmcinnes@sdatholic.org or 858-490-8291.