



4/1/2020

LEXINGTON — The Catholic Diocese of Lexington will stream its Chrism Mass on the Tuesday of Holy Week, April 7, at 10 a.m. While the suspension of public Masses remains in force across the diocese, Catholics are encouraged to follow the Facebook Live broadcast of this diocesan event, courtesy of Lexington’s Cathedral of Christ the King:

www.facebook.com/pg/ctklexky/videos

At the annual Chrism Mass, celebrated in dioceses all over the world, bishops bless and distribute the three sacred oils that will be used in parishes throughout their dioceses for celebrating baptisms, confirmations and the anointing of the sick. Diocesan priests also renew their promises of obedience to their bishop. In this case, the oils will be distributed to parishes and missions in the Diocese of Lexington after the Mass, and priests will renew their promises remotely.

“This Mass will be an opportunity for our local Church to pray together as one and can serve as an opportunity in religious education for parents currently homeschooling their children in the midst of this pandemic,” said Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv., of Lexington. “This Mass will also give us an opportunity to reflect on the healing presence of Jesus Christ in the Church as we bless the oils that will be used to anoint the sick in the year ahead.”

As the Church also approaches Triduum, the holiest days of the year leading into Easter Sunday, Catholics are encouraged to pray along at home, following either the livestream from Christ the King or their own local parish. Some rituals of the Triduum, such as venerating the cross on Good Friday, can be celebrated by families in their homes. Bishop Stowe will celebrate livestreamed services for Holy Thursday night (April 9), two on Good Friday (April 10), in English and Spanish, and a modified Easter Vigil the night of April 11.

Resources for praying the Triduum can be found on the website of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops:

www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/triduum/index.cfm

This year the diocese will not be able to celebrate the Rites of Initiation as usual. The baptisms of the Elect and the receptions of candidates into the Catholic Church, normally celebrated at the Easter Vigil, will need to be postponed until they can be done safely and with some representation of the community present.

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