

TO: ARCHDIOCESE OF PGH AND W PA (OCA) - CLERGY / LAITY
FROM: ARCHPRIEST WILLIAM J. EVANSKY, CHANCELLOR
SUBJECT: HOLY WEEK/PASCHA INSTRUCTIONS - COVID-19 EMERGENCY

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Attached is an important document from His Eminence, Archbishop MELCHISEDEK concerning his policy for our diocese concerning Holy Week/Pascha services in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Please understand that much thought went into the preparation and final form of this document. The document strives to work within the framework of the statements issued by the OCA Holy Synod and Metropolitan Council this week while detailing local diocesan application. However, please also realize that we are ALL dealing with an unprecedented situation requiring unprecedented actions that will undoubtedly not please everyone. Never-the-less, we must work *together* to the best of our ability to glorify our God given the circumstances.

The goal of clarity was uppermost in the preparation of this document's construction and final form - however - His Eminence realizes that there still may be clarifications sought. I ask you to please carefully review this document (perhaps more than once) and then email me any questions you may have so that I can answer your emails over the next few days, or refer questions I cannot answer as chancellor to the hierarch. I will not be in my office this evening, but I will be in my office Saturday (4/4) from approximately 9 AM until 1 PM should you wish to phone me at my Ambridge parish office (724-266-5009). I will not be in my office (us usual) on Sunday, but I will again be in my office for phone calls/emails Monday (4/6) between 8:30 AM and 4 PM. Please leave a voicemail if I cannot answer your call when placed - I strive to return all voice mails as promptly as possible. (As you might imagine, my phone HAS been "rather" busy lately!)

Also, there is a "waiver form" mentioned in this document. Any parish wishing the diocese to provide a template that can be "tailored" later to your local needs should email that request to me. That format is not required, however - feel free to construct your own locally.

May the Lord's loving grace protect you and your loved-ones during this time of great suffering across our great nation! Let us keep each other in prayer - - now, perhaps more so than ever, we ARE "brothers and sisters in Christ" who need each other!
Thank you.

With concern in Christ,
Fr. Bill