



Embracing God's People • Equipping Disciples • Accompanying Believers

March 21, 2020

Brothers and Sisters,

Here at Lourdes, despite all the upheaval that has come to us in this time of our COVID-19 reality, we continue to hold uppermost in prayer the health and safety of our community. The rapidly unfolding health crisis that has etched “coronavirus”, “social distancing”, “safe at home” and a whole host of other words and language, will be with us for some time to come.

I'm sure you are aware by now that the Archdiocese of Los Angeles has temporarily suspended all public Masses. This extraordinary step was taken for the safety and well-being of us all until the coronavirus is no longer a threat. The priests of the parish meet daily for mass, and your intentions are brought to the altar in our prayers.

Until we can gather normally as brothers and sisters in faith, Archbishop Jose H. Gomez is encouraging Catholics to pray at home and participate in the Holy Mass via the Internet or whatever live streaming options are available to us. I appreciate that some of our less technically advanced members will struggle with this, but we do what we can do according to our abilities. Our Cathedral live-streams mass daily at 12:10 pm, and on Sundays at 10:00 am and 12:30 pm. It is anticipated that this will be expanded to include additional masses.

Here at Lourdes, we have developed the ability to stream mass live on weekdays at 8:30 am.

Tomorrow, Sunday, March 22, we will attempt to live stream Sunday Mass at 8:30 am also. At this time we can accommodate 100 participants. If you wish to join us, please click on the link here:

Join **Mass from OLL**

<https://zoom.us/j/806182515?pwd=cUhsZHpDTjRoNkdsSThFWnBEZXozdz09>

Meeting ID: 806 182 515

Password: 002497

If participating, you might consider giving a little extra time for setting it up on your computer/device, not unlike showing up at a new church a few minutes early to get the lay of the land. I ask your patience should the technology not work well. We are gradually working up to this, and certainly hope to grow to develop a robust live-streaming opportunity going forward. Should there

be a need to increase the number of viewers we can accommodate, we will do so. Our baby-steps today will very quickly become adult strides for a bold new world.

We hope that you, too, will be conscious of your traditional habit of supporting Lourdes and the work of our Church. Our parish depends completely on the weekly offertory collection for many vital ministries and for staff compensation. Of course with public masses suspended, there is no “passing the basket”. We would be most grateful for your continued financial support to ensure the negative impact on our collections is mitigated as much as possible. You may mail your weekly contribution to the parish, or transition to online giving. Point your browser to **faith.direct/CA756**, or text **ENROLL** to **818-334-6955**. On behalf of the families who rely on our outreach ministries, as well as on behalf of the families of our employees who serve us so diligently, I thank you for taking the time to consider this request. Every little bit helps.

Of course, it is not just our parish that will experience the financial consequences of COVID-19. We must continue to support those who are most vulnerable — the poor, those with less stable employment, parents who must work while managing childcare with school closures, as well as college students unable to return home. The elderly and sick, especially, may feel scared, isolated, and alone. In the spirit of Lent, I am asking all of us to sacrifice and to practice a spirit of gratitude and generosity to others.

Please join me in praying for the repose of those who have died, for the recovery of those who are sick, for the strength of healthcare workers and caregivers and for their families who support them and make their work possible. And of course, we pray for an end to this health crisis with the faith of a people who have consistently known the faithfulness of God through historical calamity and extraordinary challenges.

Please be assured of my prayers for you and all of our extended Lourdes family, those here among us as well as the Lourdes “diaspora” who once celebrated here among us and still have family and friends here at Lourdes. You are all uppermost in our prayers.

Know that I am here for you, as always, during these uncertain times. I may be reached by telephone at 818-349-1500 x104, or by direct email at dloftus@ollnr.org. I am also available for individual meetings/conferences over the Zoom Tele/video-conferencing platform, should that be desirable.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. David