



Embracing God's People • Equipping Disciples • Accompanying Believers

March 24, 2020

Brothers and Sisters,

Earlier today in a conference webinar, Archbishop Gomez announced that all churches in the Archdiocese are to close their doors. At noon, I posted signs on the doors of our Parish Church building, informing any passers by that the building is now closed and people are strongly encouraged to return home.

Like many of you, I find this a deeply difficult and trying time, exacerbated by the unavailability of usual comforts, such as praying in Church, visiting with the Blessed Sacrament, and one of the very difficult things for all of us priests - not being present with our people for the celebration of the Eucharist. We miss gathering with our parishioners as much, if not more, than you miss gathering with one another. **Eucharist** is central to the life of our Church and to our experience as a community of faith. It is the heart of a priest's personal spirituality. I now have a deeper appreciation for how the early Christians must have felt when they were unable to participate at the table of the Lord because of the circumstances of their own time. Yet they still found ways to maintain and even build up their community, despite the constraints they endured. We will do likewise, and with the resources available to us which they couldn't even dream of, we will more than meet this challenge. I want to make a point of reassuring you that while mass is not celebrated publicly, the priests of the parish continue to pray mass daily. We have the technology to share that experience with you using teleconferencing tools. **Every morning at 8:30 we will celebrate Eucharist.** Know that your intentions, and the intentions of your families are held before God's altar every day.

Within the constraints of the public orders designed to protect our common health and to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, we continue to make every effort to have the sacraments of anointing and confession available to those in extreme need. Call the parish office at (818) 349-1500 and choose option "0" to be connected to the priest on emergency duty.

**Church Building Closed**

All are advised to return home and observe the State and City orders limiting movement outside except for essential needs.

**PLEASE:**  
*If you are ill with any communicable disease, go home now and contact your health-care provider.*

Until Further Notice:

- Church building to remain closed
- Confession will be made available only under the strictest of conditions, and only in cases of serious emergencies
- Anointing of the Sick will be reserved to extreme cases. Any priest exposed to the COVID-19 virus is mandated to observe a 14-day quarantine.
- Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Marriages, Funeral Masses suspended until pandemic passes

**Mass video-conferenced daily at 8:30am.**  
**See [ollnr.weconnect.com](http://ollnr.weconnect.com) for information.**

Church business will continue with necessary restrictions to comply with civic orders. Church Office is remotely staffed.

- Call (818) 349-1500 with questions or concerns.
- [parishcenter@ollnr.org](mailto:parishcenter@ollnr.org)

For latest information and ongoing church activities, see the parish website at <http://ollnr.weconnect.com>

**IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO?**

- Place a phone call to a neighbor, a friend, and check in with them. Share news and information, especially if they don't have access to the internet or social media.
- If going to the store, offer to pick up necessities for a neighbor
- Choose to stay home as much as possible to keep others safe and well.

We have already celebrated **funerals** and worked with bereaved families within the new realities we face. Cemeteries and Funeral Homes are also adapting to the societal constraints, while still supporting families. Please be assured that one of the priests will be present at the graveside of a loved one, and will officiate over the funeral rites of anyone who desires such from us. We are also committing ourselves to celebrating Memorial Masses for families at a later date, should that be desirable on the part of the family.

With the videoconferencing technology that is available to us, we anticipate trying some creative ways to give parishioners the option of connecting and of perhaps even growing in faith. For example, the popular “Winter Nights with Fr. David”, the informal Q&A which was cut short this season, may be revived electronically. We are also exploring the possibility of electronically hosting different prayer experiences, so that we can continue to “gather” without being physically in the same space.

We are also looking at the possibility of providing some support for those struggling with **stress or anxiety** through the use of the videoconferencing technology. We are working with a licensed therapist who has experience in the field, so look for future developments to be announced online.

The mantra with which parish staff continue to do their work is becoming more and more to think in terms of what we can do, and to think less and less about what we can not. On that note, I have to affirm our staff... both those in ministry leadership as well as the office support and administrative staff. They have been working very diligently and in very trying conditions, without access to the office in which they usually discharge their responsibilities.

Once again, I am going to ask those who can to please consider their support of our ministries and our outreach programs. While the building is not available to us for shared worship, the work of the Church continues. As you are all very much aware, our parish depends completely on the weekly offertory collection for many vital ministries and for staff compensation. 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 (18405 Superior St., Northridge, CA 91325), or transition to online giving. Point your browser to [faith.direct/CA756](http://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.

For the most current parish information, look for <http://ollnr.weconnect.com>

I continue to hold you all in prayer every day. If absence makes the heart grow fonder, when this passes, I may have to work to contain the fondness within myself. Until next we see each other, either on a screen or in person, please be well, stay well, and keep your families and your neighbors healthy.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Fr. David*