



Our Lady of Lourdes

Embracing God's People • Equipping Disciples • Accompanying Believers

March 31, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As I watched and prayed with Pope Francis on Friday last, like most people watching the *Urbi et Orbi*, I was deeply moved at the solitary figure limping across the rain-soaked St. Peter's Square. This man who personally understands human frailty because of his own physical ailments, set aside the pain of his sciatica and the challenges of breathing with diminished lung capacity, and invited the world into deeply trusting prayer of supplication before God. There was no sentimentality that often comes from the mouths of public figures, but instead, there was an affirmation of God's faithfulness and a reminder to us all of our human frailty.



Pope Francis reminded us all of the realities of our vulnerabilities and our temptations to false certainties, before going on to witness to our call to faith and trust in the Lord.

“Like the disciples, we will experience that with him on board there will be no shipwreck. Because this is God's strength: turning to the good everything that happens to us, even the bad things. He brings serenity into our storms, because with God life never dies.”

If you haven't already had the opportunity, you might like to read the [full text](#) of the english translation of his reflection for yourselves.

Reflecting on Mark's account of the Calming of the Storm, the Pontiff said: “We find ourselves afraid and lost. Like the disciples in the Gospel we were caught off guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm. We have realized that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other.”

As we move now into the last days of our Lent, we are anticipating the celebration of Holy Week, commencing on this Sunday with the Celebration of Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. See the notices below for information of the plans in place to broadcast our services from Church.

Once again, I want to offer a sincere expression of gratitude to all who have made the extra effort to get your **offertory** envelopes to us. Thank you to those who took the time to drive by the office and drop them off, as well as to those who mailed them to us. Your thoughtfulness and generosity are greatly appreciated especially by those whom we support in our outreach, as well as by the employees and their families who rely on our Church as their employer. While church buildings may be closed, the reality of Church continues to live on.

I'm also aware that many of you have begun to avail yourselves of the ease and convenience of our electronic giving option. If you're one of those who uses FaithDirect, please share how easy it is with your fellow parishioners. I encourage everyone to [sign up for FaithDirect](#) for sustained online giving.



For those who wish to make a single, one-time offering, please take advantage of the "Text to Give" option.

Finally, as we approach Holy Week, commencing on this coming Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, I can't help but imagine how odd it will be to do so without you all present, gathered together as a family of faith at 5:30 on Saturday evening, as well as on Sunday itself at 7:30, 9:00, 10:30, 12Noon, 1:30 & 5:30pm. At every mass we have had at the altar, with our voices echoing off the walls of our empty Church, the priests have been praying for your intentions. You are deeply missed, and I know from your calls and emails that you also miss your priests, and indeed, one another.

So this **Palm Sunday, I am going to invite you to place a green branch, or a green wreath on the door of your house.** Let the knowledge that we do this **together** be a sign for us of the ties that bind us together as a community of faith, even as we cannot physically gather together. I would ask that when you put your green up, take a picture of it and email it to Anne at awing at ollnr.org, and we'll share them on our parish website.

Blessings always,

Fr. David

SEE notices below

Remote Office Hours

Staff continue to work remotely this week. Our efforts to serve in this new reality of “Safer at Home” are stretching us in ways we find most interesting. Anyone calling during regular office hours is likely to receive a call-back pretty quickly. Likewise, email inquiries are being addressed regularly.

Emergency calls in the event of someone facing death and needing to be anointed are responded to promptly. We’ve put contingencies in place to comply with appropriate health and protection guidance, and the Rite of Anointing” has been modified accordingly. Call (818) 349-1500 and select option “0”

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord:	8:30am & 10:30am
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday of Holy Week	8:30am
For Monday Evening Chrism Mass , see information below	
Holy Thursday Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper	7:30pm
Good Friday The Passion of the Lord	2:00pm
Holy Saturday Easter Vigil of the Lord’s Resurrection	8:00pm
Easter Sunday - Mass of Easter Day	8:30am & 10:30am
All Celebrations can be accessed by clicking https://zoom.us/j/806182515?pwd=cUhsZHpDTjRoNkdsSThFWnBEZXozdz09 Meeting ID: 806 182 515 Password: 002497 Reminder: When joining the ZOOM meeting, please mute your microphones and turn off your cameras.	

Monday of Holy Week - The Chrism Mass

Broadcast from the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angeles in Los Angeles at 7:00pm

<http://www.olacathedral.org/live/>

or

<https://lacatholics.org/mass-for-the-homebound/>