

Monday, March 23, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Please share this on social media, print and share with your neighbors especially those who are homebound and not able to access social media.

With the governor's shelter-in-place announcement yesterday, we are reminded of the fragility of our lives and our common humanity. We continue our walk toward eternity into uncharted territories *together*. Our Lord reminds us through the writings of the Prophet Isaiah:

Do not fear: I am with you; do not be anxious: I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand. (41:10)

God does not abandon us. Jesus walks with us every step of the way. It is important for us to anchor our hearts in the hope we have in Jesus Christ. I urge you to bring your thoughts, feelings and desires to God in prayer and then spend time listening to his voice speak to you in the Sacred Scriptures.

Brothers and Sisters, our governor is not mandating total isolation or full quarantine. However he is asking us to limit our contact with members outside of our household by only participating in essential activities including visiting our doctor, grocery shopping and purchasing prescriptions and other medical supplies.

It is the Church's hope and my desire to provide the essential sacraments as needed to you. I will continue to offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass daily at 8:30 am and I encourage you to participate virtually online via our parish website and Facebook. I ask you to reach out to my administrative assistant, Susan Gautreau (sgautreau@olohr.com) should you or a member of your family need to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation or a graveside funeral service. If a member of your family needs to receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, and they are hospitalized, please reach out to the hospital chaplain. If your loved one is at home and needs to receive the Last Rites, please call our office hotline (225-647-5321, prompt 1). All non-sacramental events at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church (OLOHR) continue to be postponed or cancelled until further notice.

The parish office will be closed for all outside business beginning Tuesday, March 24, 2020 until April 13, 2020. Parishioners are encouraged to do business and interface with our parish through all forms of social media (olohr.com, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter), by email and regular mail. I want to really encourage you to please check on our parishioners who you know are not connected via social media. Please!

The OLOHR staff will work a modified schedule off campus. We will follow the federal government and Governor Edwards' shelter-in-place guidelines, and any future directives from Bishop Duca. I am committed to updating you.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) encourages all of us to unite ourselves with the Holy Father Pope Francis in our prayer for our brothers and sisters who are sick. Let us pray for those who have lost loved ones to the Coronavirus (COVID-19). May God give them solace.

We pray too for those who serve in the health profession and for our civic leaders. May God grant them courage, wisdom and patience as they follow the call to serve compassionately for the common good.

While face-to-face meetings have been temporarily suspended, OLOHR staff will continue to pray and meet together via zoom. We invite you to do the same with your small groups. I also plan to remain in communication with our Pastoral and Finance Councils.

Please know that I am aware of the devastation the cautious behavior our nation is taking in response to COVID-19 and can only imagine what it must be costing you in dollars and cents. Many families have been hard hit by the extreme downward turn in the markets and how this will curtail income and livelihoods.

We are blessed by many of you who continue to make contributions regularly by [WeShare](#) or [EFT](#) given our temporary inability to receive your offertory at Masses. For those who would like to mail a donation, please send to:

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church
44450 Hwy 429
St. Amant, LA 70774

If you cannot contribute monetarily, we ask that you keep us in your prayers.

My brothers and sisters, we remain united to Jesus Christ Crucified. God is with us. In these extremely challenging times I am amazed with the creative and dynamic ways our community is thriving despite the obstacles in our midst. I beg you to reach out to those who are alone and isolated. We need to stay connected with every member in our parish community.

Finally, along with the USCCB, I ask you to join me as we ask for the maternal intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe:

Holy Virgin of Guadalupe,
Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas.
We fly to you today as your beloved children.
We ask you to intercede for us with your Son,
as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother,
and gain for our nation and world,
and for all our families and loved ones,
the protection of your holy angels,
that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

For those already afflicted,
we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance.
Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful,
wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

In this time of trial and testing,
teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind.
Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land
and to our hearts.

We come to you with confidence,
knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother,
health of the sick and cause of our joy.

Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,
keep us in the embrace of your arms,
help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

*U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, USCCB, Archbishop José
H. Gomez*

Rest assured of my prayers for you. Please keep me in yours!

In Christ,

Fr. Josh Johnson
Pastor