



St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Community

A Message from the Pastor on COVID-19 *March 17, 2020*

HAPPY SAINT PATRICK'S DAY!

Dear Parishioners,

Bishop Barron reflects upon this point after reflecting on today's Gospel: "Friends, today's Gospel exposes the roots of our unforgiveness. There is a tremendous shift of consciousness required if one is to be a Christian. It is realizing that your life is not about you. In the deepest sense, we don't belong to ourselves. Everything we have and all that we are comes from God. We are meant, with all our gifts, to serve God's purposes." In the more selfish pictures we are viewing of the daily news we observe, the focus on "self" rather than on God or neighbor. I know you are different and that it is NOT about you. Thank you.

Attached my fellow "self-isolators" is the brief version of Archbishop Gomez' announcement regarding the cancellation of masses. There is a lengthier instruction sent to us priests of further protocols regarding the closure of parish life. Let me enumerate some of these for you now. The priests of the Archdiocese have been mandated to follow these protocols:

- Public celebration of Mass suspended until at least March 29 or otherwise extended;
- Mass may be viewed via websites, television, radio, etc. Please visit the [St. Luke Parish Web site](#) for details.
- Pastors to remind faithful to keep the Sabbath holy: read the Gospels, pray with your family at home, make a spiritual communion;
- All Penance Services are cancelled;
- Priests are encouraged to offer confession, if not at risk, but NOT in the confessionals or other closed space (Fr. Tommy and I will let you know.);
- Eucharistic Ministers should not visit the sick – Only priests, if able and allowed;
- Baptisms will not be held, unless an emergency;
- No Funerals to take place, except for graveside services;
- No Weddings of more than 10 people;
- Confirmations will not take place at this time;
- No public to be present for the Holy Week Celebration of the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral;
- Other Holy Week Services will be decided before March 27.

So, folks, as I said we are living in extraordinary times and the outcome of this trial largely depends upon how we embrace this by our own attitude and action. I ask you to respond with graciousness and an openness to do God's will. This situation can offer a tremendous time of grace for each one of us. Let us be the positive force wherever we find ourselves and pray for those who need our spiritual power.

Our Pastoral Office will be open 8:00 am-5:00 pm on weekdays and 9:00 am-Noon on Saturday/Sunday (unless otherwise mandated) for quick parish business. The Chapel is open for prayer weekdays 9:00 am-4:00 pm on weekdays and 9:00 am-Noon on Saturday/Sunday. We are operating on a shoestring budget and the bills keep coming in and so I ask your generous weekly giving to either take place through the mail or through [online donations](#).

I thank you ahead of time for remembering your parish community as we continue to hold our programs online for our educational programs. During this time of closure, we are also taking advantage of the absence of people to sterilize all our facilities for when we re-open. Pray for your parish staff and fellow parishioners as we all worry about family members, especially the vulnerable, aged and ill. Thank you.

Finally, I will keep you updated with news and hold you in my daily spiritual journey and prayer. Take care of your neighbor and yourself. Please abide by all the directives of our civil and ecclesiastical authorities so that we can move through this crisis more quickly. Remember, it is not about **US** (and what we want) it is always about the **OTHER** (especially respecting the health of another) during this time.

God bless you and keep you. Do something to raise the spirit of another and give thanks to our loving God. Happy St. Paddy's Day!

Please visit our Parish Website for continued information: <http://stluketemplecity.org/covid-19-notice>.

In Christ's Love,

Fr. Mark



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ARCHDIOCESE ANNOUNCES SUSPENSION OF MASSES AMID COVID-19 PANDEMIC March 16, 2020

The Archdiocese of Los Angeles announced this afternoon the suspension of Masses amid the current health threat due to COVID-19 (novel coronavirus).

“I deeply regret that we are forced to temporarily suspend public celebration of the Mass in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles,” said Archbishop José H. Gomez in a statement to the faithful of the Archdiocese. “What we do in the Church, we do out of love for God and love for our brothers and sisters. We are taking this extraordinary step today out of love and concern for those in our families and communities who are most vulnerable to this deadly coronavirus.”

Archbishop Gomez stressed that the decision was “not made lightly,” and that it was made after “much prayer and reflection” and in consultation with the Archdiocese's auxiliary bishops, Council of Priests, lay advisors, and government and public health officials.

“I ask your continued prayers for all those who are afflicted with this virus and those who are afraid and vulnerable. I also ask you to pray and reach out to help the many families who are facing difficulties as a result of this emergency. We also need to keep in our prayers all the doctors, nurses, caregivers, and public health and civil authorities working to contain the outbreak of this virus and treat those who are sick,” stated the Archbishop.

Catholics are encouraged to continue to pray at home with their families and join to the sacrifice of the Mass by making an act of spiritual communion. They are also encouraged to participate in the Holy Mass via the Internet. The Archdiocese will provide a livestream of non-public Masses celebrated by the priests from the Cathedral of Our Lady of Angels daily and on Sunday via Facebook, @lacatholics, ([facebook.com/lacatholics/](https://www.facebook.com/lacatholics/)) or visit lacatholics.org/emergency/. The daily Mass (M-F) in English at 12:10 p.m. and the Sunday Masses in English at 10 a.m. and in Spanish at 12:30 p.m. will be livestreamed

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