

From: Father LaMorte
Archdiocese of New York
Office of the Vicar General
Date: March 15, 2020
Re: Coronavirus Update

I thought it would be helpful to everyone if I provided a summary of all the memos of the past few days. The chancery office will continue to monitor advisories from Catholic and other organizations regarding precautions on the Coronavirus and share any appropriate information with the faithful and the parishes.

1. All public Masses are canceled beginning Saturday, March 14 at 4:00 PM, until further notice. This includes Sunday Masses as well as weekdays.
2. Churches will remain open for private prayer.
3. Funerals and weddings will be permitted, but should be limited to family members only. You might suggest to families that, if they are worried about coming to church, the burial take place now, with a memorial Mass celebrated at a later date.
4. Parish baptism celebrations should be limited to family only if they cannot be postponed.
5. Upon reasonable request, confessions may be heard, preferably by "appointment" at the parish office or some other appropriate place, like in the church when it is open for private prayer.
6. As we begin the busy confirmation season, consult with the bishop who is scheduled to preside.
7. Experts advise people to be spaced three to six feet away from one another while in the church.
8. Parishes should continue with increased cleaning and sanitizing efforts. Have maintenance staff or volunteers wipe down pew railings. Place hand sanitizers and disinfectant wipes at all entrances to the church.

9. The obligation to keep the Lord's day holy can be fulfilled by maintaining a prayerful attitude and through personal and family prayer. The faithful are urged to watch the celebration of the Eucharist on TV as well.
10. Effective Monday, March 16 until Friday March 20, Catholic schools will be closed, with the possibility of a lengthier closure.
11. Beginning Saturday, March 14 until at least Monday, March 23, in-person religious education and youth ministry programs are suspended.
12. Parish business offices may remain open.
13. In addition, it is strongly advised that all precautions should be taken when visiting and anointing the sick at home, in nursing homes, and hospitals. Protective clothing and gear should be worn as directed by medical professionals at these facilities.

**From: James L. Rogers,
Chief Communications Officer
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops**
Date: March 14, 2020
**Re: Prayer Cards Printable and Ready-to-use in English and Spanish
with Prayer offered by Archbishop José H. Gomez, President**

Earlier today, USCCB President Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles invited "all the faithful to seek together the maternal intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe." His Excellency shared a powerful prayer to bring us spiritually together as a community of faith in these uncertain times.

Prayer Cards:

<http://www.usccb.org/about/communications/usccb-president-reflection-andprayer-during-coronavirus.cfm>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/usccb/videos/1431696590371969/>

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/USCCB/status/1238506116759371776?s=20>

Instagram:

https://www.instagram.com/tv/B9rl4ReABSp/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link

Prayer Resources in the Absence of Mass

As previously announced, all Masses in the Archdiocese of New York will be canceled due to continued concern surrounding the Coronavirus, and at the advice of medical experts.

In light of these developments, members of the faithful may wish to observe Sunday as a day of prayer in the following ways:

1. **Mass** will be celebrated in Saint Patrick's Cathedral, and will be available on many cable systems via the Catholic Faith Network and its website (<https://www.catholicfaithnetwork.org>), live streamed on the Saint Patrick's Cathedral website (<https://www.saintpatrickscathedral.org/live>), and broadcast on radio on The Catholic Channel of Sirius XM (Channel 129).
2. **Act of Spiritual Communion:** It has long been a Catholic understanding that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion, which is a source of grace. Spiritual Communion is an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament and lovingly embrace him at a time or in circumstances when one cannot receive Him in sacramental Communion. The most common reason for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when a person cannot attend Mass. Acts of Spiritual Communion increase our desire to receive sacramental Communion and help us avoid the sins that would make us unable to receive Holy Communion worthily
3. **Prayer for Spiritual Communion:** My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, Come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.
4. **Prayers of Praise:** In addition to praying for communion with the Lord, it is also important to take time to offer God our praise. This can be done by celebrating the Liturgy of the Hours or through a Celebration of the Word service, which can be celebrated at home. The following publishers have

graciously made these services available for free and online at the following links:

Magnificat:

<https://us.magnificat.net/free>

<https://es.magnificat.net/gratis> (Spanish)

Magnificat Celebration of the Word Service:

<https://tinyurl.com/u3dzdyg>

Give us this Day:

<https://giveusthisday.org/Digital>

The Word Among Us:

<https://wau.org/meditations>

5. Lastly, let us **keep each other and our world in prayer** during these challenging times. In addition to the Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet, the following prayers asking for the intercession of Our Lady may be offered:

Prayer to the Virgin Mary for Protection: O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith. You, Our Lady of New York, know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.