



WEEKLY Diocesan Update



Special Announcement:

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Following directives of the State of California, the Pastoral Center is closed and all personnel are working from home. Most personnel are available by phone and email. As the situation develops we will post the latest information and resources on our diocesan [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Prevention](#) webpage.

Please pray for those affected by COVID-19, those afflicted, their families and caregivers and all health care workers. Through the intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary, Health of the Sick, may we find protection and comfort during this time.

Photos of the Week:

Without the ability to gather together for public Masses several parishes provided livestreamed options for their parishioners this past weekend. Some parishes were already equipped to do so, others scrambled to make this a reality. The opportunity for parishioners to worship virtually with their own local parish community was greatly appreciated by many. This is just a sample of those offered on Facebook. Clockwise from top left: Presentation Church, Stockton, St. Joseph's, Modesto, St. Anthony's Manteca and St. Anthony's, Hughson.

Office of the Bishop:

Bishop Cotta's Monthly Reflection – Please [click here](#) to read Bishop Cotta's Monthly Reflection for the month of March.

Catholic Rural Life – The Catholic Rural blessing this month is the Blessing of the Wind. This blessing can be found [here](#). For more information about Catholic Rural Life please visit [our website](#).

Feast of the Annunciation – This Wednesday, March 25, is the Feast of the Annunciation. Bishop Cotta invites all to pray the Rosary on this day, asking our patroness, Our Lady of the Annunciation, for her assistance during this anxious and uncertain time. [Read more here.](#) We will livestream a recitation of the Rosary and a Mass on Wednesday, March 25th. Please check our [diocesan Facebook page](#) for updated information as it is available.

Catholic Schools Office:

Suspension of Onsite Learning Effective March 13, 2020 the Diocese of Stockton has suspended onsite learning at all Catholic Schools. Our school campuses are temporarily closed, and teachers are facilitating distance-learning at home. [Read the latest information here.](#)

Priestly Ordination Anniversaries – Bishop Cotta asks the people of our diocese to join him in prayer and gratitude for the life and service of our priests who were ordained in the month of March.

- March 23, 1985: Msgr. Bonifacio Baldonado
- March 23, 1991: Fr. Leonardo del Carmen
- March 24, 1986: Fr. Alvaro Lopez

Other March Anniversaries – Bishop Cotta celebrates several anniversaries himself this month. Let us pray for his continued good health and leadership.

- March 15: Second Anniversary as Bishop of Stockton
- March 21: Bishop Cotta's birthday
- March 25, 2014: Episcopal ordination of Bishop Cotta

Catholic Social Teaching:

Faithful Citizenship – Census 2020 - As required by the Constitution, the federal government has begun conducting the [2020 Census](#). By April 1, the Census Bureau plans to send a letter or a door knocker to every U.S. household. Your responses will shape how political power and federal tax dollars are shared in the U.S over the next 10 years. The number of congressional seats and Electoral College votes each state gets are determined by census numbers. Census numbers also guide how an estimated \$880 billion a year in federal funding is distributed for schools, roads, faith communities and other public services in local communities. Please see the diocesan website: [Catholic Social Teaching](#), for guidance offered by the US Bishops, and other related resources, and ensure that you are counted.

Life and Dignity Ministry

Walking with Moms in Need – Follow Walking with Moms in Need - Sign up by [clicking here](#) to receive monthly prayer intentions and updates on this Year of Service. In this month's Pray for Life we're praying that Evangelium Vitae's 25th anniversary will spark widespread zeal for serving expectant mothers facing difficult circumstances. (Access prayer guide here: [English](#) / [Spanish](#)).

Marriage and Family Life Ministry

Healing & Wholeness – The Diocese of Stockton [Healing and Wholeness webpage](#) includes links to resources to assist families and individuals while navigating through challenging circumstances of their lives. Three recently added links to this section are:

- **Courage and Encourage** - Courage members are men and women who experience same-sex attractions and desire to lead chaste lives. EnCourage members are parents, spouses, sibling and friends of people who identify as LGBTQ who are looking for help to keep the faith and keep their family bonds intact.
- **Jesuit Institute for Family Counseling** – Provides Marriage Counseling, Family Therapy, Child and Adolescent Counseling, and Individual Counseling.
- **Sexual Addiction Recovery** – Reclaim Sexual Health provides an anonymous, Catholic, science-based, 100% online recovery program from all types of sexual addictions.

Upcoming Events:

It is not known at this time what events will continue or be postponed. Please check with each parish for the latest information on parish events.

March 25: Feast of the Annunciation (Annunciation)

May 15-17: Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

July 11: Sanctus Cup 3: Young Adult Event (St. Stanislaus)

Visit our [website's calendar](#) for full details about upcoming events

***All events are Pastoral Center events unless specified.**