

March 18, 2020
St. Cyril of Jerusalem

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope and pray that you are able to find God's peace during this time. Many people are filled with fear, worry and anxiety about what is going on in our world. Fear of the Coronavirus, anxiety of being cooped up with our families and being distant from others, and worried about what will happen to our future. This is our reality that we find our world in today, and yet there is a great desire for all of us to find peace. When one has peace, one is able to act rationally, be prudent, and respond to the current emergency with genuine love and peace.

Currently, we are in the season of Lent, which is a time to repent, and draw ever closer to the heart of God. Often times when we choose our own Lenten Sacrifices, the reality is that we succeed or find loopholes to satisfy what we began, but when someone else helps us to choose one, it becomes a challenge worthy of the journey. We, as a society have been given a new Lenten Sacrifice in the wake of the reality of the Coronavirus. We are being challenged by our leaders on how to love our neighbors by keeping our distance from them, staying in place as much as possible, and ultimately, probably the hardest, which is to love those that we live with. The reality is, most of us do not spend a lot of time together as a family, as we are often pulled in various directions. As we find ourselves these days together at home, we will be challenged to live and overcome the scruples of our brothers and sisters, and we will learn an important lesson on how to truly love, forgive and to pray for one another.

Today, all the priests were asked to suspend all public Masses with the faithful. This is a very difficult command that is being asked by our Bishop, but it is asked out of love to keep all of us safe and healthy. I will be offering up the daily Masses privately in the Church, offering the Mass up for the daily intentions and for you the faithful. I am going to do my best to record them and post them on the website, if you wish to pray with me. I will also be offering a daily message on the website as well. A lot of people have been asking about the obligation of attending Sunday Mass, and according to the Church it states, **“Given the serious nature of the pandemic and the fact that Mass will not be available to the general public, the obligation is impossible to fulfill and so it is automatically lifted and cannot be binding. This is the official teaching of the Church.”**

It is important that we continue to grow in our faith and to pray for one another. The Church will be open daily from 8 am to 7 pm for private prayer. Please stop by and spend some time before the Blessed Sacrament. Feel free to light a candle asking for the intercession of St. Joseph, St. Mary or St. Patrick. I will continue to offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Monday through Wednesday from 6 to 6:30 pm and Saturday from 2:45 to 3:45pm. These dates and times could change at any time as the directives from the local government change by the day, so please check the website before heading out.

Please also check the website for resources to help you through this time. If there is anything that I can do for you during this time, please do not hesitate to give me a call or email me.

May God bless you in His love and mercy

Fr. Chris Martel

Intercession Prayer 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.

Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops