



ST. MARK CATHOLIC CHURCH

4200 Ripa Avenue

St. Louis, MO 63125

Phone: (314) 743-8600

March 16, 2020

Dear St. Mark Parishioners,

In order to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus, Archbishop Carlson has mandated the **“suspension of all public Masses in the Archdiocese of St. Louis” until at least April 6.** That means weekday and Sunday Masses will not be celebrated at St. Mark until at least April 6. **“All public celebrations of the liturgy, as well as Liturgy of the Hours, Stations of the Cross, and other group services, Bible studies and activities are to cease immediately.”** St. Mark will not have **Adoration** of the Blessed Sacrament on Tuesdays until at least April 7.

The **dispensation** from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass has been extended through April 5. Check for the option to participate in the Mass on TV or online via channels such as EWTN. Priests have the duty to celebrate Mass, *sine populo* (without a congregation), with the Mass intention being for the people. All currently scheduled Mass intentions will be reassigned to a later date.

Funerals Masses can be arranged but should be restricted to immediate family members. If possible, they should be postponed.

Churches are to remain open to individuals for personal prayers, devotions, and confession. St. Mark Church will be open on weekdays from 6am to 12noon for individual prayer only, not for any organized group prayer or liturgy.

If you would like the Sacrament of **Confession**, please call me and I will arrange to meet you in the confessional. This can be done anonymously. In the confessional, the screen must be used. The Sacrament of **Anointing of the Sick** may still be administered to those seriously ill or in danger or death. Please call me if Anointing is required.

The usual **Sunday collection** remains essential to the continued operation of our parish and our mission. Please use **online giving, or drop off or mail in your contributions** to the Parish Office, 4200 Ripa Ave., St. Louis, MO 63125.

Please check www.archstl.org/coronavirus or www.cdc.gov for updates.

Please be patient as we take these precautions. Archbishop Carlson pledges his prayers for us as we endure this challenging time.

My prayers for you as well. We continue to trust ever more in our Lord!

Fr. Hecktor

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Prayer

<https://www.archstl.org/Portals/0/prayer-coronavirus-2020-card.pdf>

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.