



**LITURGICAL GUIDELINES FOR THE YEAR 2020
DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC
(Updated: April 19, 2020)**

In order to help Priests perform their ministry with faith, prudence, and wise judgment, the Archbishop in consultation with the Auxiliary Bishops and the Council of Priests has established the following revised liturgical guidelines. These guidelines are to be followed until further notice.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Parish churches, chapels, centers, and missions are to remain closed to the public until May 15, 2020, or until further notice.
- Church offices are to be closed to the public. Pastors may allow a minimal number of parish staff members (less than 10) to continue working in the office provided that social distancing is observed. For example, while the office is closed to the public, staff members can still answer telephones, answer emails, process payroll. If these functions can be performed remotely from home, this would obviously be ideal and diminish the risk of contagion.
- Social distancing requires separation of individuals at least six feet apart. Also, practice good hygiene by washing hands with soap and water frequently or using hand sanitizing products with at least 60% alcohol. Pastors should be vigilant in reminding parishioners and staff members to stay home if they are sick, especially having symptoms of fever or cough. Lastly, encourage frequent cleaning and sanitizing of premises.
- If your parish is equipped with a bell system, you are invited to ring your bells at 12:00 PM and 6:00 PM as a sign of solidarity and hope, and to ensure the people of God that we as a Church still very much present, even if we have adapted the way our parishes operate in these times. Please be mindful of observing City noise ordinances.

MASS

- Archbishop José H. Gomez dispenses all the Catholic Faithful of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and all Catholics currently in the Archdiocese from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass for the weekends of April 25-26, May 2-3, and May 9-10.
- The public celebration of Mass has been suspended in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles until May 15, 2020 (inclusive), or until further notice. Priests are encouraged to continue celebrating Mass for their Faithful, but should take the form of a “Private Mass” (i.e. without a congregation) in their church or chapel and be livestreamed. One or two ministers may assist the Priest.
- Priests are to encourage the Faithful to keep the Lord’s Day holy. Some ways to do this include: reading the Gospels, praying with your families, and to join yourself to the sacrifice of the Mass by making an act of spiritual communion.
- Parishes are invited to inform their parishioners of opportunities to view Mass or other services via livestream. The weekday and Sunday Masses will be livestreamed from the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels via the LA Catholics Facebook page, [facebook.com/lacatholics](https://www.facebook.com/lacatholics).
- The English Mass from the Cathedral is available on television KCOP Ch. 13 on Sunday at 10:00 AM. The Spanish Mass from the Cathedral is available on television UniMas Ch. 46 on Monday to Friday and Sunday at 7:00 AM.
- For more information on additional Mass broadcasts on TV and radio visit, [lacatholics.org/mass-for-the-homebound](https://www.lacatholics.org/mass-for-the-homebound). If your parish is livestreaming its Masses or other services, please email DigitalTeam@la-archdiocese.org to be added to the list on the Archdiocese’s website.

EXPOSITION/ADORATION

- If a Priest wishes to expose the Blessed Sacrament for Adoration he should do so for the Faithful via livestream and in the presence of at least two people, namely the Priest who exposes the Blessed Sacrament and another minister who may assist the Priest (*Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside of Mass*, n. 86). Please be sure to observe physical distancing.

RECONCILIATION/CONFESSION

- Parishes are to suspend all regularly scheduled confession times.
- Priests may offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation only in danger of death or extremely extraordinary situations. Please observe social distancing, while at the same time ensuring privacy for the Penitent. There are no confessions by telephone, electronic means, or by “drive-up.”

- As Pope Francis reminded us in his homily on March 20, 2020, Priests are encouraged to remind the Faithful who are physically unable to attend individual Reconciliation of the Church's teaching on Perfect Contrition. Such contrition arises when the penitent expresses a love of God above all else, the sincere desire for forgiveness, and firm resolution to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation as soon as possible when available. Perfect contrition obtains the forgiveness of sins, both venial and mortal. (cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)* 1452).

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

- Priests are to attend to the needs of those who ask for the Anointing of the Sick. If a Priest is sick or considered to be a high-risk individual (e.g. above 65 years of age, suffers from respiratory conditions, immunocompromised, etc.), he should request assistance from another Priest.
- Priests attending to the needs of the sick are to observe all proper sanitary protocols. If in a hospital setting, check-in with proper medical personnel and follow their directions before entering and upon leaving the room of the patient. For home visits, this includes but may not be limited to handwashing before and after the visit, wearing gloves, a facemask, and a gown to cover clothes.
- If you find out that you have been exposed to the coronavirus, immediately contact your health care provider. As a result, you may be required to quarantine yourself.
- Priests must clean and refresh their oil stocks before visiting each sick person.
- Instead of using his hand, the Priest may use an instrument, such as cotton-tipped swab or cotton ball, to anoint the sick person (cf. *CIC* 1000, §2). The Priest dips the cotton-tipped swab or cotton ball in the oil to administer the Sacrament. Please take care of using only one swab per person and dispose of the instrument appropriately (e.g. by burning or burying in the ground).
- If desired by the person requesting the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, Priests may hear the confession of the sick person and grant individual absolution.
- For the time being, sick calls and distribution of Holy Communion for the homebound are reserved to Priests only.

CONFIRMATIONS

- The celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation is postponed until May 15, 2020 (inclusive), or until further notice.
- Parishes whose Confirmation Mass is postponed because of the suspension of the public celebration of Mass have two options for rescheduling only after the suspension has been lifted.

- Pastors/Administrators will be provided delegation to preside at their parish's Confirmation Mass at a time most convenient for the parish and those participating.
- Parishes may also contact the Office of the Bishop previously scheduled to preside at their Confirmation Mass and reschedule with that particular Bishop, if available. If the Bishop is not available to reschedule, then the parish must choose the delegation option.
- If parishes chose the delegation option, they must notify the Office of the previously scheduled Confirming Bishop of the rescheduled date, time, and name of the Pastor/Administrator in need of delegation. That Office will then provide the proper delegation. Please note that the Bishop originally scheduled for the parish's Confirmation Mass may not be their Regional Bishop.
- All other parishes not affected by the postponement of their Confirmation Mass will proceed with their originally scheduled date, time, and Confirming Bishop.

BAPTISMS

- Unless an emergency, the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism is to be postponed until further notice. This includes those baptisms which customarily take place at the Easter Vigil.

WEDDINGS

- The celebration of the Sacrament of Matrimony from now until May 15, 2020 (inclusive), or until further notice, are to be postponed.
- A Priest may not assist at a wedding without a valid civil marriage license.

FUNERALS

- Funerals may take place only in the form of "The Rite of Committal with Final Commendation" (also known as the "graveside service") at the Cemetery. If desired by the family, a memorial Mass can be scheduled appropriately at a later date.

MASS FORMULARY IN TIME OF PANDEMIC

- By Decree of the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments, the Mass in Time of Pandemic "can be celebrated, according to the rubrics given for Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions, on any day except Solemnities, the Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Easter, days within the Octave of Easter, the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day), Ash Wednesday and the days of Holy Week" (cf. Decree, *On the Mass in Time of Pandemic*, Prot. N. 156/20).

- Presidential Prayers in English:

Entrance Antiphon (Isaiah 53:4)

Truly the Lord has borne our infirmities, and he has carried our sorrows.

Collect

Almighty and eternal God,
our refuge in every danger,
to whom we turn in our distress;
in faith we pray
look with compassion on the afflicted,
grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners,
healing to the sick, peace to the dying,
strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders
and the courage to reach out to all in love,
so that together we may give glory to your holy name.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Prayer Over the Offerings

Accept, O Lord, the gifts we offer
in this time of peril.
May they become for us, by your power,
a source of healing and peace.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon (Matt 11:28)

Come to me, all who labor and are burdened, and I will refresh you, says the Lord.

Prayer After Communion

O God, from whose hand we have received
the medicine of eternal life,
grant that through this sacrament
we may glory in the fullness of heavenly healing. Through Christ our Lord.

Prayer Over the People

O God, protector of all who hope in you,
bless your people, keep them safe,
defend them, prepare them,
that, free from sin and safe from the enemy,
they may persevere always in your love.
Through Christ our Lord.