

Pastor's Corner



My Brothers and Sisters,

Last week I reflected on this time of COVID-19 self-isolation as an invitation to slow down and spend more time with God. This week, let us recognize the other side of this coin. God has made us as needing community. During this time, we are feeling a loss of togetherness, especially those who live alone. There is a loss of physical contact and vocal conversation.

May we reach out to others, check on others, drop a line, and make a phone call. Someone may have a need for help. Everyone has a need to be connected. We are one in Christ. The incarnational and sacramental aspect of our faith reminds us that Christ joined (married) Himself to humanity by becoming human. We are the Body of Christ. Even as we pine for the sacraments, we can still be the sacrament of Christ to the world; the way the world meets Christ.

Even while keeping the habits of health and safety in mind, we are called at this time to be creative in reaching out to others. Thank you for all your efforts in this, most of which may never be seen and praised by the world.

Holy Week Starts this Sunday. Palms will NOT be available at this time. If possible, they will be available later. The 3 greatest days of our Liturgical Year compose the Triduum – Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday. They make up one 3-day liturgy. We are encouraged to observe these as best as possible – by them being live-streamed, by prayer during the times they are going on. At archindy.org, there are some resources and suggestions for observing these days (and all Sundays) at home. We are working to stream these liturgies here. As the days draw closer, please check the website.

The Bishop has reminded us that the necessity of having multiple Masses on Sunday has to do with the church not being big enough for the number coming on a weekend. During this time that is not an issue, so the expectation is only one Mass a day. I have written to you that I am maintaining the Parish Schedule, but I will be looking at revising that as this period of Self-isolation continues. Either way – your Intentions will be taken care of.

Please look at the various ways we are trying to keep in touch with all of you, and you can keep in touch with the office: phone, email, myParish app, Twitter @FrTomS, Facebook 'Iglesia Catolica San Lorenzo'. The digital Bulletin is found on the Website (www.saintlawrence.net) and myParish app. Printed copies are not available at this time.

The Holy Father has granted special opportunities for Plenary Indulgences during this time of the COVID-19, when Communion and Confession is not available.

Here is a prayer given to us by the Bishops of the United States for this time.

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.

In Prayer, In Christ Our Lord,