



**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.”