

# St. Anne Catholic Church

MOTHER OF MARY

OFFICE OF THE PASTOR

**A Message from Fr. John**

**April 7, 2020**

I want to thank everyone for doing their part to stay safe and healthy. These are dangerous times as we all know. This virus is easily spread and strikes at times without us even knowing how we have come into contact with it. We lift up in prayer those who face this danger each and every day and are on the front lines of fighting the virus. We pray for those who are dying alone because family members cannot surround them with love. We lift up all who have perished due to this deadly disease and their families who suffer this loss.

I have had to make difficult pastoral decisions in the past days for the safety and well-being of our deacons, the staff, the musicians and cantors, as well as all the liturgical ministries who come together and serve at the Table of the Lord. All of this saddens me. All of it weighs heavy on my heart. My own eye doctor has reminded me that I must consider my safety in regards to the corneal transplant I received late in January. With twenty stitches remaining in my eye, I am still at risk of my body experiencing rejection should my health be compromised. This too is a factor in my decision making.

As more and more data is shared and more guidelines have been given by our elected officials and health experts, we have seen things change from week to week. All of this is concerning as this upcoming week is to become even worse. We are all called to do our part.

Be assured that we are taking every precaution to keep things safe in church. For the filming I will make sure to be in the sanctuary before the cameras are placed. Vestments have been moved to a different room away from where we have plugged in the equipment for this technology. Everything will be set to be controlled remotely from the back of the church. I personally wipe down the altar, ambo and vessels while wearing gloves before each celebration. The danger is real and I take it seriously.

We will strive to bring you the Sacred Triduum and Easter Sunday Mass in the best way possible. We are still looking to live stream. Keep checking our website or the parish app to find the latest updates. In addition, we are offering Morning Prayer each day on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday to set the tone for the other celebrations of that day. I would like to thank the deacons for leading us in those prayers.

Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, has invited U.S. Catholics to join him on Good Friday, April 10, to pray the Litany of the Sacred Heart at noon (EDT), which is at 11 am our time. He asks us to pray together as a nation to seek healing for all who are unwell, wisdom for those whose work is halting the spread of coronavirus, and strength for all God's children. A live stream of the Litany of the Sacred Heart with Archbishop Gomez will be available on the Archdiocese of Los Angeles' website: [www.lacatholics.org](http://www.lacatholics.org) and on the USCCB Facebook page:

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[www.facebook.com/usccb](http://www.facebook.com/usccb). The text of Litany of the Sacred Heart can be found in English and Spanish on the Los Angeles archdiocesan website.

Again I want to thank you for doing the right thing and making the hard decisions to stay at home. We do all of this out of love. It is a sacrificial love that does not come easy. I struggle to stay at home, to stay in place. It is battle between what I can do and what I should do. I ask you to be strong and stay safe, because it is the right thing to do.

Know of my prayers as we invite holiness to find us in new ways,



Fr. John