

UPDATED COVID-19 LITURGICAL ACCOMMODATION GUIDELINES FOR
PARISHES, SCHOOLS AND OTHER ARCHDIOCESAN MINISTRIES

(Updated: March 13, 2020)

Recognizing the grave cause of the current public health emergency, Archbishop José H. Gomez has dispensed 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 March 14-15, March 21-22, and March 28-29.

Daily and Sunday Masses are to continue as usual with accommodations for the recommended “**social distancing,**” which is the recommended six-foot distance. If Masses are celebrated in a chapel or smaller space, Mass should be moved into the main church to allow for more spacing.

Parishes are asked to begin preparations to limit Mass attendance to 250 people in accordance with state public health recommendations. Please make on-going pulpit and bulletin announcements and post signage that Masses will be limited to 250 people per the recommendation of the California State Department of Public Health. Also, please add more Mass times if needed to make this accommodation.

The following liturgical accommodations should be adhered to until further notice:

- Communion is to be given in the species of the Consecrated Bread and only on the hand. The Precious Blood in the cup, or chalice, is not to be given.
- The faithful should be encouraged to refrain from shaking hands at the sign of peace and holding hands at the Lord’s Prayer. There should be no shaking of hands to greet the faithful before and after Mass.
- For the celebration for the Sacrament of Baptism, please use a shell or pitcher to pour water from the Baptismal font instead of using hands. Also, remove holy water from fonts not attached to a filtration system.
- Lenten penance services can be cancelled. Individual confessions will continue as usual. Parishes are asked to allow for more confession times if needed.
- No social gatherings after Masses. Group blessings after Mass can be suspended. Individual blessings should be administered as appropriate.
- Collection baskets should be placed in one place for faithful to drop off their donations. Collection baskets with long handles can be used by volunteers that have sanitized their hands. Collection baskets should not be passed among the faithful. Page 2 of 4 Pastoral Regions: Our Lady of the Angels SanFernando San Gabriel San Pedro Santa Barbara
- Any gathering that is not essential to the celebration of our Catholic faith, such as retreats, penance services, parent meetings, youth groups, prayer groups, etc., should be cancelled. Any parish or school functions off parish property must be limited to 250 people, if not they should be rescheduled or cancelled.

Please continue to encourage all staff, volunteers, parishioners, students and others to **please stay home if they are sick** and be prepared to provide accommodations that allow for employees and students to stay home. Also encourage good hand hygiene practices and provide the time and supplies (easy access to running water and soap or alcohol-based hand cleaners) for them to wash their hands as often as necessary. Please sanitize on a regular basis all areas that are touched often. Also please continue to deep clean all public areas.

Remember: It is important to report any possible cases of infection and maintain good communication with all in your ministries and the public. All locations in the Archdiocese should maintain close contact with the Archdiocesan central offices to determine and report verified cases of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) infection. Reports of verified infections must also be made to the county health department (LA County, Ventura County, Santa Barbara County and Orange County). If the sick person lives in a county different from the parish or organization then both counties must be notified.

Representatives from the Archdiocese are in communication with local health officials and will provide updates as they become available.

Please visit the Archdiocese's emergency preparedness webpage, lacatholics.org/emergency, for the most updated information and resources on how to limit the impact of the coronavirus. To receive ongoing text updates from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles on this and other matters of importance to our local Church, please register online at: <https://archla.flocknote.com/ADLAUpdates>, or text "ADLA" to "84576."