

Mary Star of the Sea Parish, March 14, 2020

Dear Mary Star of the Sea Parishioners:

We have received guidance from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles regarding the current public health emergency and I wanted to make you aware of the following:

Daily and Sunday Masses will continue as usual with accommodations for "social distancing" of 6 feet. Thankfully, our church is quite ample. Our church will remain open during the regular hours. Confessions will still be heard as usual.

Archbishop Gomez has dispensed all the Catholic faithful of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass for the remaining weekends of March. Those who are at high risk for exposure and those who are sick should stay home. If you remain at home you are encouraged to watch Sunday Mass on EWTN or the Cathedral livestream and to read the Bible and pray the Rosary with your family.

During the current situation with the corona virus outbreak, all parishioners are reminded to use good hygiene and the usual common-sense practices used during the cold and flu season.

Holy Communion from the chalice is discontinued. Please remember that it is an article of our faith that when we receive Holy Communion under the species of the consecrated bread, we are always receiving both the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

Regarding receiving Holy Communion on the tongue: This is the preferred option of the Church and always has been the preferred option. Universal church law does not allow us to restrict receiving Holy Communion on the tongue. You May receive either on the hand or the Tongue.

The Sign of Peace replaces a handshake with a bow.

Avoid holding of hands at the Our Father (was never an approved practice).

Avoid the shaking of hands to greet the faithful before and after Mass.

Holy Water has been removed from the fonts due to health concerns not due to Lent. You may use the Holy Water from the Baptismal Font to fill up your bottles.

Our Schools are closed until March 31.

Lenten meals are cancelled.

The parish staff will continue to work as usual. This also means all our expenses continue so we would be most grateful for your financial support during this time when our collections will be severely affected. You can always mail in your donations to the parish.

Very importantly, please join us in prayer for the repose of those who have died, for the recovery of those who are sick, for strength of healthcare workers and caregivers and for an end to this health crisis. Please be assured of my prayers for all of you.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Harrigan, Pastor