



**The Catholic Community of Our Lady of Lourdes**  
10191 Central Avenue  
Montclair, California 91763

June 2, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

Greetings of Peace. On behalf of the Parish Pastoral Council, I pray that you and your family members are well in these trying times. We know that this pandemic has been hard for many of our parishioners; we have suffered isolation and economic hardship. Still, we hope that staying at home has renewed the value we have in friends and family, and our faith in God. It is in times of trouble that we are most likely to turn to God and seek his refuge.

Bishop Barnes, in cooperation with local authorities, will allow the churches to open the weekend of June 13 for **limited** Sunday Masses. I met with the Pastoral Council to discuss our plans for re-opening the church while keeping our parishioners safe. Presently, the County of San Bernardino limits gatherings to 25% of capacity or 100 celebrants, whichever is less. Masses will not include a choir; will have limited singing by the cantor; will have only one lector and one altar server; and may have other adjustments as necessary to celebrate the mass but shorten the community contact. We will offer fewer masses with more time between Masses to allow adequate time to sanitize the sanctuary/hall between services in order to provide the safest environment possible.

Bishop Barnes noted that those individuals with compromised health conditions, and those who are 65 and older and are not yet ready to join us at this time are encouraged to stay home and join their parishes in the livestream celebration of the Mass. In this spirit, he will keep in place the dispensation from attending Mass weekly in our Diocese.

Initially, we would offer the following masses:

- Saturday, 4 pm (English)
- Saturday, 6:30 pm (Spanish)
  
- Sunday, 9 am (English – in the Church)
- Sunday, 12 noon (Spanish)
- Sunday, 4 pm (Vietnamese)

We will continue to “live stream” via Facebook (with rebroadcast on our website) the 9 am English and 12 noon Spanish masses for those who are unable to join us in person.

To make this work, we ask parishioners to:

1. Make a reservation for the mass of your choice. You can do this by calling the office at (909) 626-7578 during regular business hours (Mon to Thu 8:30-12 noon & 1-5 or Fri, 8:30-12 noon). To maintain social distance, the church capacity is limited to 100 people.  
If you are volunteering to work at the mass, your family members must still have a reservation.

2. Due to the gathering size restrictions, we do not expect that everyone who wants to attend mass on the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend will be accommodated. If we cannot offer you a reservation for week 1, you will be given a priority request for the next week. Please be patient.
3. Please wear a face mask. Without a mask, we cannot offer you space within the sanctuary/hall.
4. Please arrive at least 15 minutes early so that the Ministers of Hospitality can:
  - a. take your (no contact) temperature, and
  - b. can seat you according to your reservation. This allows us to maintain social distancing of 6-feet per current guidance.

Per American Red Cross guidelines, anyone whose temperature reads greater than 99.6°(F) will not be able to participate. It is suggested that you refrain from drinking a hot beverage for at least one hour prior to mass to avoid a false high-temperature reading.

5. Be respectful of the direction(s) given to you by our volunteer Ministers of Hospitality. Their job will be to seat you, maintain the safety of the community, and execute the pastor's direction.
6. At the conclusion of the mass, please follow the direction of the ushers, return to your cars promptly, and resist the temptation to engage in fellowship with other parishioners. I know that fellowship is a significant part of our faith community, but for now try and limit your physical interaction.

As your pastor, I will be working with the Pastoral Council and parish staff to adjust operations weekly. That may mean more masses, moving masses outside to accommodate the size of the group and still maintain social distance, and other options. By now, we all know that the situation changes frequently, and we must maintain flexibility.

Thank you for your continued support in these uncertain times.

Respectfully,



Fr. Clarence Saldua, MS  
Parish Administrator