



**FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS,
ARCHDIOCESE PROVIDES UPDATED GUIDANCE REGARDING
COVID-19 (NOVEL CORONAVIRUS)
(Updated: March 11, 2020)**

With the growing concern of the spread of COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) in California and around the world, institutions are putting in place preventative measures to limit the spread of the virus locally. Following recommendations from local public health officials, the Archdiocese has decided that, at this time, there will be **NO** cancellation of Masses, **NO** school closures and **NO** suspension of other essential ministries and services in the Archdiocese.

Please note the following guidelines from the Archdiocese until further notice:

- In light of the sensitive nature of the impact of the COVID-19 threat to those most at risk in our communities, such as the elderly and those with pre-existing conditions, Archbishop José H. Gomez has dispensed those in these categories from the obligation to attend Mass.
- All who are sick are not under the obligation to attend Mass and are urged to stay home.
- Pastors, parish administrators and principals may cancel non-essential activities after consultation with respective Archdiocesan officials and following recommendations of local authorities.
- The Archdiocesan Catholic Center remains open and operational to continue to serve the parishes and ministries of our local Church. All Archdiocesan staff will maintain daily work schedules and duties unless otherwise directed by their senior director or supervisor.
- On March 6, 2020, the Archdiocese instituted temporary liturgical accommodations to help in the prevention of the spread of COVID-19 and other illness during this cold and flu season, which can also be found online at <https://lacatholics.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/COVID-19-Accommodations-060320.pdf>.
- The California State Department of Public Health has provided guidelines for schools at : <https://lacatholics.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/School-Guidance-COVID19.pdf>.
- For updated information from the public health departments in the three counties in the Archdiocese, visit their respective websites at these links: Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara.

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."