



# Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church

244 Prospect Ave., Hermosa Beach, CA 90254

phone: 310-372-7077 Web: [ourladyofguadalupechurch.org](http://ourladyofguadalupechurch.org)

Peace and All Good,

26 March 2020

I pray this letter finds you and your loved ones in good health. However, as the world address the coronavirus pandemic, I worry that this may not be true for some, for you I am praying.

Recently the Archbishop has directed all parishes to NOT have public Masses until April 19, 2020 or until further notice. For the last week we had been able to keep the church open for private prayer, and many of you came to pray and expressed that was a comfort. However, as of March 24, the Archbishop has directed that we take the further step to close our church. I am not aware that our Catholic Church has ever experienced the closing of churches and public Masses, and during Easter! These can be shocking events to many, including myself.

Fr. Carlos and I we will continue to have Masses in private, and with the help of our staff, we are live streaming the Masses on Facebook. You can find them live on our Facebook page [@OLGChurch.hb](https://www.facebook.com/OLGChurch.hb), or after the broadcast the recordings are on our website:

<https://www.ourladyofguadalupechurch.org/>.

The Eucharist is the “Source and Summit” of our Catholic Faith. To do without this sacrament is one of the greatest losses for myself and many. But we also must trust in God’s Mercy and realize that God will continue to sustain us and fill us with His Grace even in these times. I remind you of the tradition of “Spiritual Communion”, talked about by many Saints during times when they were unable to receive the Eucharist. There is a beautiful “Prayer for Spiritual Communion” that we say at all our Masses and that we have on our website.

Additionally, for the safety of our employees and parishioners, the Church office is closed. However, the staff are answering their calls and emails from home. Please do not hesitate to call if you have questions, need help of any kind, or even just want to say HI!

Doing “Church” in this new way is a learning experience. The staff and I have a conference call daily to talk about what our parishioners may need at this time, and how we can help you. As we continue to create new ways to minister during these times, I want you to be kept up to date. I have included a list of what we are doing now in this mailing. But that changes often, maybe even by the time you get this letter. So to help us communicate in a timely manner ***ask you*** to do the following two things.

## **Stay Informed about all the rapid changes happening here at OLG**

- 1. Sign up for our email updates; a service called FLOCKNOTE. To do this simply text JoinOLGHB to 84576 from your cell phone, or sign up through our website, at: <https://www.ourladyofguadalupechurch.org/join-olghb-flocknote/>**
- 2. Continue to reference our website: <https://www.ourladyofguadalupechurch.org/>**

*The letter continues on the backside.....*

## **May I also take the opportunity to talk about your Tithes and Offerings?**

The cancellation of public Masses means we no longer have the Sunday collection which is the main source of our income. Managing our parish finances responsibly and compassionately has always been important to me, so these times present a challenge.

The Archdiocese of Los Angeles has been a great source of counsel over the last week. They have been regularly communicating with us not only about procedures, but also our finances. Our biggest expense is paying our employees. (Our payroll is 56% of our expenses.) Our employees are mostly dedicated lay personnel, who work first as a ministry, at rates of pay much less than they would receive public sector. Many have served us loyally over many years and have legitimate financial needs. The Archdiocese has recommended, and I agree, that we should make every attempt to be loyal to our employees at this time and continue to employ them in new ways to reach out to our flock. I feel this is especially important since the Archdiocese of Los Angeles does not participate in the "California Unemployment Program" therefore our employees do not qualify for unemployment benefits.

Therefore, at this time, I have reduced staff hours somewhat, but only minimally. I am working to keep all spending as low as possible, cutting back where I can. However, many of our costs are "fixed cost", such as utilities, insurance payments, property taxes, etc. I am also receiving counsel from our Finance and Parish counsels over this last week. I thank them for their extra time and dedication. We are concerned because we do not have a large savings account. Since public Masses stopped, we have had a negative cash flow and are depleting our savings.

Many of you might be experiencing similar tough times and tough decisions in your households. If you find yourself with less income due to the virus precautions that we are all sharing in together, I want to first say I support you during these difficulties. I believe what we are doing will save lives, and I pray will strengthen us in the end. If you find it difficult to continue your tithes, offerings or pledges at this time, or need to reduce them, or even defer them and catch back up when times are better, I would understand. (It is my belief however, that tithing, at any percent, is an important spiritual practice, even in difficult times. But this has taken me a long time to learn through hearing the testimony of many who have found that to be true.) So again, if you are having difficulty and are forced to make tough financial choices at this time, I support you in whatever you decide. And ***if you or your family has food or financial needs, let us know***, we may be able to assist some with our Hand in Hand Ministry.

However, ***if you are able to continue your financial support***, I ask you to make the extra effort to continue your weekly donations even with our public Masses cancelled. This would be a big help to our parish and especially to our employees and myself. Might you even consider "donating in advance" for the coming month or two? Or, if you can, would you consider to even give a bit more to help carry more of the load of the parish during these times when others might not be able to carry as much as they had before?

A few of you have dropped your donations off or mailed them in. I thank you. Some of you are enrolled in our regular electronic giving called **WeShare**. This is a big help and I am very grateful for these blessings. Thank you again to all for all the support you've given in the past, especially over the almost two years that I have been here.

None of us know how long or deep the fiscal impact of this fight against this virus will be. If it were to last only a short while causing us to deplete a large portion of our savings, I would be grateful to have

gotten through it, because that is what savings are for. However, we don't know how long this will last. Therefore, I am writing you for help sooner, not later. I also write because some have mentioned to me that with the many changes and pressures that we are all navigating, they just didn't think of dropping off their offering!

*So, if you can support the parish at this time, please do one of the following, thank you.*

#### **How to Get Your Donations To the Parish:**

- **The best way is to sign up to give regularly through our electronic giving called WeShare. Sign-up on our website under the giving tab, or go to: <https://ourladyofguadalupechurch.churchgiving.com/ws/opportunities/Regular> If you have difficulty call or email our bookkeeper Robin @ 310-372-7077 x227 or [robinboz@msn.com](mailto:robinboz@msn.com).**
- **You may also give a one-time electronic donation by the above method.**

**Or, you may also:**

- **Send your donations through the mail to the OLG parish Office at: 244 Prospect Ave., Hermosa Beach, CA 90254 (the mailbox is checked & emptied every day)**
- **Drop your donation off at the parish office (you may drop it in the mailbox)**
- **If you find it helpful, arrangements can be made for someone to pick up your envelope, just call the Parish Office.**

Please know that Fr. Carlos and I, as well as the friars in residence at the friary, are keeping you and your families in our daily prayers and that we are here to help as necessary. (Fr. Carlos is extension 222, and I am extension 225.) With God's grace and our working together, we will get through this difficult time. I pray we will be better after it, perhaps in ways we yet do not understand.

Let us continue to pray for an end to this pandemic, for those who are ill, and for the medical personnel working so hard to care for the sick. Pray for all the scientists working to find a cure, and for our public health officials and government leaders making tough decisions, and for the Archbishop and those helping him.

Thank you and may God bless you and your family,

Fr. Paul, OFM Conv.  
Pastor – Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church

**Please turn page over for COMPLETE LIST OF OUR SERVICES AT THIS TIME. Thank You.**

**OUR DETAILED SCHEDULE and ACTIVITIES at OLG – as of 3-25-20**  
**Until April 19<sup>th</sup>, or further notice**

- ✓ As per directives from the Archbishop, public masses are canceled. But continue privately. Daily Mass is at 8 AM. Sunday Masses are at 5PM Saturday Evening in English, and 6PM Saturday evening in Spanish.
- ✓ Masses will be live streamed on our Facebook page [@OLGChurch.hb](https://www.facebook.com/OLGChurch.hb) and the recorded Masses are also available later on our website ([Mass Recordings](#)).
- ✓ We expect to be live streaming more prayer and devotions soon; e.g. Adoration/Benediction and more. Find these through our website.
- ✓ The church is closed, even for private prayer.

At this time no other sacraments will be performed, unless in the case of serious illness or a situation near to death. Call 310-372-7077 and follow the instructions for emergency to page a priest.

- ✓ Priests will be able to visit patients in hospitals following the safety precautions of the medical staff, but home visits must be evaluated on a case by case basis. Please call Fr. Carlos or Myself directly. Fr. Carlos is extension 222, Fr. Paul is extension 225.
- ✓ The church office is closed until further notice. However, you will still be able to access our staff through the phone, their extensions will ring on their cell phones, and someone will try to get back to you as soon as possible.
- ✓ Our Catholic School has begun Distance Learning for all students and families, including the Preschool. Principal April Beuder continues to be on campus to oversee operations and provide support to faculty, staff, and families.
- ✓ Tom Baumann and Theresa Avila will continue to be in touch with those youth and families in our Religious Education and Confirmation programs, Bobbi-Lynn Lambert with Music ministers, and similarly our other ministry leaders with their ministries.
- ✓ As a parish, we are committed to providing outreach to one another, especially to those who are homebound, immunocompromised or otherwise at-risk. If you know someone who is in need of assistance, such as grocery shopping, picking up medications, virtual home visits, or other support, please contact Tom Baumann at [310-372-7077](tel:310-372-7077) ext. 226. If you would like to assist in helping us in this effort, please call Tom as well or email him at [confirmation@olgmail.org](mailto:confirmation@olgmail.org).
- ✓ We also plan to add additional material on our website to help you and your families in home prayer and spiritual growth during this time. But for now are you taking advantage of our FREE online Catholic Videos and Books on [Formed.org](https://www.formed.org)? Sign up through our up website and visit our [page for personal Spiritual Growth](#).
- ✓ Fr. Carlos and I will continue to pray our Mass intentions, for those that are scheduled, and for all our parishioners.