



1869

Sesquicentennial

2019



Celebrating our past with joy today
and with hope for the future

DIOCESE OF LAKE CHARLES
Established April 25, 1980

The Most Rev. Glen John Provost, D.D., M.A.
Bishop of Lake Charles

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
CATHEDRAL PARISH**
Established December 8, 1869

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Fr. Rommel P. Tolentino, *Pastor*
Rev. Fr. Ruben Buller, *In Residence*
Canon Jean Marie Moreau,
In Residence

Rev. Deacon Christopher Fontenot

Mr. Robert Marcantel
Music Director

Mrs. Marlene Mullenix
Organist

Ms. Sue Burke
Receptionist

Mrs. Lavonne "Cookie" Dennison
Secretary

Ms. Carla Primeaux
Bookkeeper

Mr. Philip Ardoin
Maintenance

Mrs. Monica Broussard
Youth Director

Mrs. Christi Jarreau
Principal ICCS

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CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 29, 2020

**ALL PUBLIC MASSES HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED PER BISHOP PROVOST
DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK. OUR PRIESTS WILL CELEBRATE DAILY MASS
WITHOUT A CONGREGATION FOR OUR PARISH INTENTIONS.**

THE CATHEDRAL WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR INDIVIDUAL VISITS AND PRAYERS
MONDAY—FRIDAY FROM 8:00 AM—5:00 PM
SATURDAY FROM 3:00 PM—5:00 PM
SUNDAY FROM 11:00 AM—5:00 PM

**HOURS ARE SUBJECT
TO CHANGE**

Catholics Cling to Faith as Masses are Suspended

By Pamela Seal, Diocese of Lake Charles

It wasn't a Holy Day of Obligation or even a Sunday Mass. But that didn't keep area Catholics from filling the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception to near capacity for what would be the final public Mass as all public liturgical services in the Diocese of Lake Charles were suspended, effective at noon on March 17.

Faithful in the diocese were informed of the halt in liturgical services through a letter on March 16 from Bishop Glen John Provost. The difficult decision came following recent developments regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19) at the federal and state levels and in the interest of the common good, according to the letter.



"This was the most touching and emotional Mass I have ever celebrated," the Very Reverend Rommel Tolentino, pastor of the Cathedral, said in his closing remarks.

For many Catholics, the upsetting news about the suspension of Masses is not about social distancing, but more about being separated from the real Presence of the Body of Christ. Crying and heavy sobbing could be heard throughout the church as people received the Eucharist one last time, at least for a while.

Not knowing when the Holy Eucharist will be available again, Tricia Flavin said she would not have missed the Mass for anything. "As Catholics, the Eucharist and the sacraments are what sustain us and what we live for," she said. Amanda Martin echoed those sentiments saying the Mass gave her hope that we are not alone in this. "Once I was here, I knew this was exactly where I needed to be," she said noting that the attendance felt more like a crowded Sunday Mass. "There was a much longer line for confession," she observed, "and that was with two priests."

Anyone who is in regular attendance at a weekday Mass in the Cathedral knows the typical time frame is about a half hour. Tuesday's Mass began at 11 a.m. instead of the usual time of noon and lasted a full hour. Many people remained in the church afterward to spend time in the presence of God. "The Eucharist is the core of our faith," said Maria O'Dowd. "It's heartbreaking since we don't know when we will get to come back."

In his homily, Father thanked everyone for attending and reminded them they had come to the right place during this time of difficulty. "We have to trust in our bishop, our good shepherd," Father Tolentino said. "He is doing this with a heavy heart and with much sadness."

Father said this is a time for Catholics to reflect on their faith and their relationship with Christ. "We are spoiled as Catholics," he said, "as we can receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist anytime. Many places in the world are still being persecuted and are not allowed to practice their faith. We need to always be grateful for what we have." Father also encouraged people to get into a regular prayer routine at home suggesting ways to foster their faith. "Pray the rosary as a family, read Scripture together, turn to Our Lady who recognizes our needs even before we do," he said.

Father's message was comforting for Jennifer Wainwright. "I think it is important to gather as a community and be able to hear words of wisdom from Father Tolentino for this time that we are going through," she said. "He gave us some really good thoughts to remember and keep in mind for however long this takes."



Father Tolentino reassured the congregation during this penitential season of Lent that priests throughout the Diocese would still be available to administer the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick.

"Now is the time to turn to God. He is the one who can help us," Father said. "We need to turn to God in humility and repentance asking for His mercy."



Given the circumstances, Bishop Provost is providing this prayer for the use of the faithful:

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least into my heart. I embrace You as if You are already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

(You may make this Act of Spiritual Communion anytime you need it and as often as you need it.)

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



**Salus Populi Romani
Protectress and Health
of the Roman People**

PRAYER against the Coronavirus

Pope Francis offered the following prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary on Wednesday (March 11, 2020), entrusting the city of Rome, all of Italy, and “the entire world to the protection of the Mother of God, as a sign of salvation and hope” during the ongoing coronavirus emergency. Let us join our Holy Father in prayer, penance, and fasting during this time of trial.

O Mary, you shine continuously along our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the Cross were near to the pain of Jesus, keeping your faith firm.

You, Salvation of the Roman people, know what we need, and we trust that you will provide for those needs so that, as at Cana of Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this moment of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us, He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and took up our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

“I BELIEVE though I do not comprehend.
and I hold BY FAITH
what I cannot grasp with the mind.
St. Bernard

Archbishop Gregory Aymond of New Orleans has tested positive for the coronavirus. Please keep him and all who are affected by this disease in your prayers.

“I will use this quiet time for additional prayer and sacrifice for all those seriously affected by the virus. I pray to get well soon and continue ministry. In the meantime, I will be present through Facebook and the archdiocesan website with reflection on this crisis and God’s healing power. Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us! Blessed Seelos, pray for us!”

“Be assured of my prayers daily and a remembrance at Mass. God is faithful and, in his time, and his way we will come to experience healing and peace. We must wait patiently which is no easy task,” the Archbishop added.

CHURCH HOURS (*Hours are subject to change*)

The Cathedral will remain open for individual visits and private prayers:

Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Saturday, 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Sunday, 11:00 am - 5:00 pm

CONFESSIONS (*Hours are subject to change*)

Monday - Friday, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Saturday, 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Sunday, 11:00 am—12:30 pm

The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed in a monstrance for Eucharistic Adoration during the hours of Confession.

AVE MARIA HALL & OFFICE BUILDING

All meetings in the Cathedral office building are cancelled until further notice, even if they are less than 10 people.

We would like to keep the office building and the Ave Maria Hall a "green zone" to make it safe for all staff members who are continuing to work.

The following activities in the church are **suspended** until further notice:

Holy Hour of Reparation—*Those who wish to make a Holy Hour of Reparation in the church may do so privately during the time the church is open.*

Stations of the Cross—*Those who wish to pray the Stations of the Cross in the church may do so privately during the time the church is open. The booklets will be available in the narthex.*

Eucharistic Adoration—*Those who wish to pray before the Blessed Sacrament exposed in a monstrance may do so privately during Confession hours.*

OFFERTORY DONATIONS

March 15...\$10,871 (offertory...\$7,086 online...\$3,785)

March 22...\$ 3,720 (mailed in...\$2,000 online...\$1,720)

\$1,782...Seminarian Quota

A GENTLE REMINDER...

Our weekly offertory collection provides the necessary funds to meet our financial obligations - staff payroll, insurance payments, utility bills, building maintenance, etc. While public Masses are suspended at this time, our daily work of parish and pastoral ministry will continue on. Please consider sending your weekly donations by mail, dropped through our mail slot on the office door, or online. Here’s the link to our secure online donations page:

<https://immaculateconceptioncathedral.com/donations>

We are grateful for your generous spirit during this difficult time.

As we bid a fond farewell to Pamela Menou, we are happy to introduce you to our new bookkeeper, Carla Primeaux!

Carla comes to us from the Diocese of Lake Charles where she worked in bookkeeping for 4 years. Before that she was the bookkeeper, secretary and receptionist for Sacred Heart Church in Creole for 18 years.



"I enjoy working for the Church and look forward to meeting and working with the parishioners of the Cathedral."



The Sanctuary Lamp will burn the month of April for
Engert Family
Canal Family

If you haven't signed up for the Cathedral's **Flocknote** yet, we urge you to register **so that you can keep up with our news, latest developments and more.**

You can either visit flocknote.com/iccathedral or text **ICCATHEDRAL** to **84576** from your cell phone to subscribe. Then follow instructions from there. Flocknote is free, safe, secure, and your personal information will not be sold to 3rd parties. You can unsubscribe at any time, but please give it a try!

READINGS FOR THE WEEK **March 29—April 5, 2020**

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 [41c-62]; Ps 23:1-6; Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-21; Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52-56; Jn 8:31-42

Thursday: Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105:4-9; Jn 8:51-59

Friday: Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7; Jn 10:31-42

Saturday: Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10, 11-13; Jn 11:45-56

Sunday: Mt 21:1-11 (procession);
Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24;
Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14 — 27:66 [27:11-54]

Formed is a valuable resource for your homeschooling, religious ed, study and entertainment!

Don't forget to access formed.org, the Cathedral's gift to you! Go to formed.org, enter our parish code on the homepage: **J8M3GP**, create a personal account with your email and password. Start enjoying inspiring movies and video series, Catholic ebooks, and audio presentations. The best Catholic content is all in one place...and it's free!

The Diocese of Lake Charles will continue to stream Bishop Glen John Provost's private Mass at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays while public Masses are suspended. The Bishop's Mass will also be televised on KPLC from 9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. The Mass will be available on the Diocesan website as well as on the Diocesan Facebook Page and on YouTube. You can also tune in at 9:30 a.m. on the radio to KLCL-AM 1470 or KJEF-AM 1290 in Jennings.

There are a number of priests throughout the diocese live-streaming Masses on their websites or Facebook Pages. (NOTE: This listing is being updated regularly. Please check the Diocese website: lodiocese.org often for the latest information.)

For more news, updates, and a daily reflection from Bishop Provost follow the Diocese on lodiocese.org and on its Facebook page Roman Catholic Diocese of Lake Charles.

Additional Resources:

Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) — broadcasts daily Mass, Sunday through Saturday, at 7 a.m., 11 a.m. (except Thursday at 10:30 a.m.), and 6 p.m. (except at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday and no 6 p.m. Mass on Sunday)

• For Mass in the Extraordinary Form, go to [Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest](#) or [Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter](#).

• Word on Fire with [Bishop Robert Barron](#) @ Bishop Robert Barron on Facebook

• [Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception](#) in Washington, D.C. — through the remaining Sundays of Lent, the Basilica will live stream Mass at noon, as well as several beloved Catholic devotions. Recitation of the Rosary will take place at 1:30 p.m. CT and the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 2 p.m. CT, followed by Benediction with the Most Blessed Sacrament.

CANCELLATIONS IN THE DIOCESE:

- ◆ Saint Charles Center temporarily closed
- ◆ Bishop's April Men's Prayer Breakfast and Women's Prayer Luncheon presentations
- ◆ Saint Joseph Abbey Spring 2020 Come and See Weekend scheduled for April 3—5
- ◆ Clergy Cook-Off scheduled for Saturday, April 18
- ◆ Catholic Charities Jazz Brunch scheduled for Sunday, April 26

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

ALL PUBLIC MASSES HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED PER BISHOP PROVOST DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK. OUR PRIESTS WILL CELEBRATE DAILY MASS WITHOUT A CONGREGATION FOR OUR PARISH INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, March 28—Dora Jean “Dori” Scalisi Rogers; Annette Pronia; John LaVern; Souls in Purgatory.

SUNDAY, March 29—“Pro Populo” (For the People); Enos Miller Family; Dena & Fred Nodier; Bev Wise; Evelyn & Hardy Williams; Ragan Gaspard & Family.

MONDAY, March 30—Mrs. Melissa Mathew & Family (living); Catherine & Wilson Lemelle.

TUESDAY, March 31—Mrs. Kay Morgan & Family (living).

WEDNESDAY, April 1—Anthony Navarro (living).

THURSDAY, April 2—Landri Kate Richard (living).

FRIDAY, April 3—Anna Rita & Joseph Scalisi.

SATURDAY, April 4—Gladys & Delma Devillier; Hidalgo & Fazzio Families (living & deceased); Scott Gauthreaux (living); Betty Henry (living).

SUNDAY, April 5—“Pro Populo” (For the People); Robichaux & Robert Families; Albert “Rabbit” Manuel; Mabel & Lee Trahan; Waldean Mae Broussard.

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS WHO ARE ILL

Sondra Abraham; Rosa Adams; Sam Ange, Jr.; Owen Arceneaux; Renee Arceneaux; Jenna, Aden, Grace, David Babcock; James M. Bailey; Henry Barnatt; Gloria Bennett; Charles Benoit; June Benoit; Donald Blanchard; Leneta Boudreaux; Robert Boudreaux; Melanie Bowles; Chandra Broussard; Dean Broussard; Kylan Broussard; Stephen Broussard; Turner Brumby; Jerry Cain; Emily Carleton; Teresa Chapoy; Ada Cochran; Denise Collette; Thad Crouch; Betty Daigle; Wade Davis; Vickie Denison; Claudia Dyle; Charles Elter; Dee Elter; Bill Ferguson; Lamont Francisco; Carolyn Gauthreaux; Ty Griffen; Diane Hagerty; Gabriel Hardy; Michelle Hart; Mary Hebert; Stephanie Hinton; Brenda Hoback; Emery Hooper; Anne Hoyer; Jessica Hulin; Georgia Ieyoub; Mary Jeffers; Gary Johnson; Brice Jones; Darrel Jones; Hattie Kadlubar; Janet LaBiche; Cheryl Lecompte; Helen Lecompte; Sarah LeCompte; James Leger; Michael Lee; Della Lemaire; Melanie Lupo; Elizabeth Louviere; Judy Marcantel; Jules Maust; Brett McCaughey; Barbara McCombs; Ray Miles; Elaine Morrow; Betty Mueller; Kenneth Newman; Ruth Ottenweller; Larry Parker; Chris Percle; Ben Perry; Clifford Raleigh; Oliver “Rick” Richard; William P. Richard; Taylor Rock; Marian Rome; Lathan Russell; Rene Russell; Michael & Marie Scimemi; Cammie Shaddock; Sue Spears; Jaxson Spikes; Chris Stemmann; Rob Stephens; Beau Styron; Darrell Sullivan; Theresa Theriot; Warren Thomas; Betty Trahan; Charlie Viccellio; Aly and Riley Wilkins; Gay Young; Martha Young.

***If you would like to add or remove a name, please call the church office at 436-7251.
Please let us know if your loved one has recovered or is deceased.***

Prayer Intentions:

Pope Francis: (March) We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

(April) We pray that those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied.

Bishop Provost: (March) May all converts, catechumens, and Confirmation candidates preparing for the reception of the Sacraments open their minds more fully to the truth of God's Word and embrace wholeheartedly their vocation as a Christian in the Church.

(April) May the celebration of Easter increase our devotion to Christ, strengthen our faith in His Resurrection, and keep us united in the pursuit of what is good, moral, and just.