

A photograph of a modern church building. On the left is a tall, slender steeple with a cross on top. The main building has a large, light blue mural on its wall, depicting a grid of small figures. In the foreground, there are three arched doorways with white columns. A street lamp is visible in the middle ground. The text "Parish Life in a Time of Pandemic 2020" is overlaid in large, bold, red letters on the right side of the image.

Parish Life in a Time of Pandemic 2020



Parish Life in a Time of Pandemic, 2020

The Year 2020 challenged our parish in many ways. The coronavirus pandemic and the risks it has posed to our health and well-being have required that we find new ways to gather, to worship, to pray, to learn, and to serve one another and our neighbor.



Our parish did not “close.” On the contrary, through creativity and cooperation among all, we have found new ways to “be church.” The Parish Center pastoral staff has remained in their positions throughout this time. Participants in our ministries and programs became Zoom experts. Our priests have continued to celebrate Mass, officiate at weddings, visit the sick, preside at funerals and gravesite services, hear confessions, and provide pastoral care to our community.

PANDEMIC TIMELINE

On January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced that the outbreak of a deadly and fast-spreading strain of coronavirus constituted a global health emergency and on March 11 declared COVID-19 (the disease caused by the virus) a pandemic.



On March 13, the United States declared a national emergency, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) followed soon thereafter with public health guidelines.





St. Joseph the Worker WORSHIP AND LITURGIES

Following the declaration of a national emergency, the Los Angeles Archdiocese, in accordance with state and local public health authorities, issued directives and guidelines for parishes and schools. The guidelines required accommodations in our liturgical practice here at St. Joseph the Worker. Very quickly, our liturgies looked a bit different.

WORSHIP AND LITURGIES

The Archdiocese announced on March 16 that all public Masses were suspended indefinitely. Shortly thereafter, on March 19, the State of California issued a “stay at home” order.



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

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ARCHDIOCESE ANNOUNCES SUSPENSION OF MASSES AMID COVID-19 PANDEMIC
March 16, 2020



Livestream Mass

Sunday, March 22 (Fourth Sunday of Lent), was our first Sunday without public Mass. A team of volunteers worked under challenging time constraints to bring us livestream Masses via Facebook, beginning on Palm Sunday (April 5).



Public Masses with Livestream (Limited Attendance)

Good news came from the Archdiocese in June, when parishes were permitted to once again open for public Masses (with livestream), under strict public health protocols and a limit of 100 people in attendance.



Outdoor Masses

Shortly thereafter, however (July 13), because of an increase in coronavirus cases, hospitalizations, and deaths, indoor Masses were discontinued — but outdoor Masses were permitted.



Outdoor Masses

Our first outdoor Mass, in the pavilion area, took place on July 26, with livestream.



Outdoor Masses

Outdoor Masses continue to the present.



Outdoor Masses

Other outdoor services included the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the annual Thanksgiving Mass.



SACRAMENTAL LIFE — *Baptism*

Since September 12, baptisms have taken place outdoors.



SACRAMENTAL LIFE — *First Holy Communion*

Children from St. Joseph the Worker School and the Religious Education program received their First Holy Communion on June 27.



SACRAMENTAL LIFE — *First Holy Communion*

Additional Religious Education students received the sacrament in Masses July 17-19.



SACRAMENTAL LIFE — *Youth Confirmation*

Fr. Beto presided at Confirmation Masses the week of June 22-26. The sacrament was conferred on 85 youth.



SACRAMENTAL LIFE — *Adult Confirmation*

In an outdoor Mass on December 4, Bishop Alex Aclan, Auxiliary Bishop, San Fernando Region, conferred the sacrament of Confirmation on twelve adults who participated in our parish RCIA process.





DEVOTIONS AND PRAYER GROUPS

Charismatic Prayer Group

The English Charismatic Prayer Group has held its Thursday evening prayer meetings since March, via Zoom. The group has Friday intercessory prayer sessions, via Zoom, and occasionally sponsors a Zoom Healing Mass.



DEVOTIONS AND PRAYER GROUPS

Rosary Rally

On Saturday, October 3, our parish hosted the 37th Annual Rosary Rally, sponsored by the Rosary Groups for Jesus and Mary. The livestream event, held in the pavilion area, included the Living Rosary, Flower Offering, Crowning of the Blessed Mother, and celebration of the Holy Eucharist.



DEVOTIONS AND PRAYER GROUPS

Our Lady of Guadalupe

On Saturday, December 12, our parish celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, beginning with Las Mañanitas (a traditional early morning serenade to Our Lady). Fr. Beto, in special vestments to honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe, presided at the Mass.



Although students in our Religious Education program and Confirmation process were not able to gather in person for their weekly meetings, the catechetical teams conducted the faith formation sessions via Zoom and video presentations.

FAITH FORMATION



Confirmation and Youth Ministry

Religious Education Program



Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth

FAITH FORMATION

Bible Study



Throughout the last many months, our Spanish and English Bible Study groups have been meeting via Zoom. Spanish Bible Study meets every Thursday, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. English Bible Study takes place Thursday evenings, 7:15 p.m. – 8:45 p.m., and Friday mornings, 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Becoming Catholic

Because of public health concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person RCIA sessions have been replaced by Zoom gatherings. RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is open to those who wish to be baptized, to complete their initiation, or to become Catholic.

OUTREACH TO PEOPLE IN NEED

Food Pantry

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul continues its service to people who need our help. The Food Pantry is open on Saturday mornings, adhering to strict public health protocols.



OUTREACH TO PEOPLE IN NEED

Food Drives

Over the last several months, drive-in Food Collections have taken place in the parking lot to help maintain the Food Pantry supplies.



OUTREACH TO PEOPLE IN NEED

Lunch Program

Volunteers continue to prepare lunch for those in need of a meal. Lunch is now prepared only on Saturdays and packaged “to go” for those in need.



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Thanks to our “open air” church, we have been able to gather in person or via livestream to celebrate the Holy Season of Advent and ...



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

... the birth of Christ
at Christmas.



CREDITS

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**Other photos and screen shots
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