Rev. Msgr. Paul T. Dotson, Pastor
Rev. Msgr. Peter O’Reilly, In Residence
Rev. Mark Warnstedt, Associate Pastor
Deacon Don Burt
Deacon Jim Egnatuk
Deacon Dale Sheckler

**Weekend Masses**
- Saturday: 5:00 pm (Sunday Liturgy)
- Sunday: 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am & 5:00 pm (Youth Mass)

**Daily Masses**
- Monday: 6:15 am & 8:00 am
- Tuesday: 12:00 noon
- Wednesday: 6:15 am & 8:00 am
- Thursday: 12:00 noon
- Friday: 6:15 am & 8:00 am
- Saturday: 8:00 am

**Reconciliation**
- Fridays during Lent - 6:00 to 7:00 pm
- Saturdays - 3:45 pm to 4:45 pm (or by appointment with a priest)

**Parish Office Hours**
- Monday - Friday: 8:30 am to 4:00 pm
- Saturday: Closed
- Sunday: 8:00 am to 1:30 pm

**Telephone Numbers:**
- Parish Office: 310-540-0329
- Office for Worship: 310-316-0090
- Office of Religious Education: 310-316-4460
- RCIA for Adults & Children: 310-316-0961
- Youth Ministry/Confirmation: 310-316-0466
- St. Lawrence Martyr School: 310-316-3049

1940 South Prospect Avenue • Redondo Beach • California 90277 • (310)540-0329 • www.stlm.org
Dear Friends:
In my 52 years of priesthood, I thought I had experienced, most times from afar but sometimes personally, just about everything. I must admit, God has sent me and all of us a real wake-up call with the coronavirus pandemic. I say “wake-up call” because on many levels it tells me how self-sufficient and insulated we can become. How many times have I heard or read about some type of epidemic in our society and said, “That’s not effecting me; thank God!” Well now, it is about me and all of us and it brings out many emotions. Perhaps the greatest emotion right now for most of us is one of fear. Fear is a terrible epidemic when it rules our lives. Fear comes about because something is amiss either in our lives or in society. I think the three Theological Virtues, faith, hope and love, are the greater antidote to fear. St. Paul summed this up beautifully in writing to the early Christians at Rome who were suffering greatly because of the persecution of the new Church. He says “hope does not leave us disappointed, because the love of God has been poured out into out hearts” (Romans 5:5-8). The God who loves us brings us hope through Jesus. At Lent, we are made aware of the value of suffering because it brings us closer to the heart of Jesus. It took awhile for the followers of Jesus to understand that His death and Resurrection mean new life...new hope for all of us. Keep hope in your hearts with the knowledge that the Lord will not leave us at this time or any other. Suffering is the most mysterious thing I can think of. But we must be hopeful. And at the same time, since we are people of hope, we must transmit that hope to others as an actor of charity. That hope takes away fear. Don’t transmit fear. So many people have reached out to folks who are completely homebound, in need of supplies, in need, most of all, to know that someone is watching out for them and caring for them. You folks that are involved in this are giving hope for many folks. Allaying their fears. Bless you.

One of the greatest challenges for me and the other priests is not to be able to pray with you as a live and active community. We have put a number of prayer opportunities online in order to pray with you and for you: daily Mass and Sunday Mass, Lectio Divina, the Rosary and other times of prayer that will be offered. Please continue to consult our website for these and for the times that you can view them. It is not a substitute for your presence or ours, but it is a way to stay connected to our St. Lawrence Martyr Parish. Please know that all of the staff are working constantly to see that we remain connected as a parish and a family, and most of all, to give hope in this time of fear and anxiety. We miss you. God’s love be with you as we journey with the Lord during this holy season.

Blessings and love,
Msgr. Paul

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**From Our Pastor**

Dear Friends:

In my 52 years of priesthood, I thought I had experienced, most times from afar but sometimes personally, just about everything. I must admit, God has sent me and all of us a real wake-up call with the coronavirus pandemic. I say “wake-up call” because on many levels it tells me how self-sufficient and insulated we can become. How many times have I heard or read about some type of epidemic in our society and said, “That’s not effecting me; thank God!” Well now, it is about me and all of us and it brings out many emotions. Perhaps the greatest emotion right now for most of us is one of fear. Fear is a terrible epidemic when it rules our lives. Fear comes about because something is amiss either in our lives or in society.

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Blessings and love,
Msgr. Paul

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**Your Continued Support of Our Parish is Appreciated**

During this uncertain time, our parish priests and staff are continuing to work to meet the needs of our parish community and transforming the way we do things to meet fast-paced changes and evolving new needs.

At this time, we turn our lives over to our loving God, and with trust in Him, we embrace the challenges we will face, knowing that God will be with us every step of the way. Let us pray for a grace-filled response to this pandemic, one in which we spread the light and love of Jesus Christ.

If you would like to support our parish during this time and continue to make your weekly offering, you may mail in your donation envelope to the parish office or make your weekly offering online. If you are not already giving online, we ask you to prayerfully consider shifting to making your regular offertory giving as an online donation. Your support now is more vital than ever before.

Getting started with online giving is easy. Visit faith.direct/CA707, or text the word ENROLL to (310) 879-5335.

We thank you for your support of our St. Lawrence community.

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**For those who may feel that our God has abandoned us, we, like Noah, have been affirmed of God’s promise through a rainbow - a sign of His covenant and love for us.**

This photo of a rainbow over St. St. Lawrence Martyr was taken by parishioner, Michael Pandolfo, on the morning of March 17, 2020.
**Weekly Mass Intentions**

*With the suspension of all Masses in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, all Mass intentions at St. Lawrence Martyr during the time period from March 17 to March 31 have been sent to Fr. Paul Keeya in Uganda. He and his brother priests will say the Mass for these and all our intentions. For the week of March 22 through March 28, Masses will be offered for the following:*

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<td>Laouida Sullivan †</td>
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<td>Janet Lucey †</td>
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<td>Nida Buncio †</td>
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<td>Carmelita Silvino</td>
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<td>Joyce Bastasch †</td>
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<td>Charles Upp †</td>
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<td>Sita Cortez</td>
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<td>Kirsten (Kay) Hurd</td>
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<td>Lizzy Gendron</td>
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<td>Samir Farag</td>
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<td>Sonya Moses</td>
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<td>Vera Little</td>
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<td>Michael Balleros</td>
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<td>Debra Stavish</td>
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<td>Walter &amp; Marie Aregger</td>
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<td>Wyatt Charles Pena</td>
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<td>Mauricio Flores</td>
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<td>Jane Larson</td>
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<td>Brenda Freepons</td>
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<td>Dave Bridi</td>
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<td>Jerry Hayes</td>
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**Prayer Requests**

*For those suffering illness, infirmity, and those in need of our prayers …*

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<th>Requests</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ruth Anderson</td>
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<td>Fr. James Anthony Rude</td>
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<td>Fr. Avelino Lorenzo</td>
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*Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord*

**Readings for the Week**

**First Reading** — As the prophet Samuel anointed David with oil, the spirit of the Lord rushed upon David (1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a).

**Psalm** — The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want (Psalm 23).

**Second Reading** — You who were once darkness are now light in the Lord (Ephesians 5:8-14).

**Gospel** — The man who had been blind from birth proclaimed: The one called Jesus made clay with his saliva, anointed my eyes with it, and told me to wash (John 9:1-41 [1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]).

GOSPEL MEDITATION
ENCOURAGING DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE SCRIPTURE

“Do you believe in the Son of Man?” Jesus wants to motivate each one of us to see the truth. After developing a relationship with Jesus, the blind man “sees” as someone very special. The Pharisees, due to the blindness caused by their ignorance, prejudice, and need for self-preservation, still remain blind. Presuppositions, prejudices, assumptions, and our needs can easily blind us to truth. We see what we want or need to see and not what is really there. In addition, our stubbornness continues to convince us that we are right and that our vision is perfect. Only God can complete the picture.

Look around at our world. So much of what is happening today is due to the reluctance of folks to allow themselves to be stretched and brought to see what is really there. Many react to what life presents to them more with the lenses of ignorance than lenses of clarity. The Gospel carries great transformative value. With it, God corrects our vision and replaces our limited sight with the fullness of his sight. God opens our eyes so that we can see that it is not about preserving what we have created but of living in the immensity and wonder of God’s kingdom.

Through a simple, loving relationship with God, we can break through the tethers of prejudice, eradicate fear, dispel the darkness of hatred and sin, discover freedom, live in peace, work for justice, be effective stewards of creation, assist the migrant and the immigrant, and safeguard our economic systems and policies so that they truly serve all of God’s children. What we see is often an artificial lie. Our truth is much bigger than what our limited sight believes it to be. Allow God to work in and through you. Do not be afraid. Be open and be humble enough to know that you need help. Many human beings are living with severe cataracts that produce sight that is at best blurred. Are you one of them?

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP
The 6 Characteristics of an Everyday Stewardship 3rd Week of Lent – Gracious

Vacations can be great times for refueling the body and renewing bonds within a family and between friends. No matter how good the vacation was, it is almost always good to get home when it is over. Sleeping in our own bed, taking a shower in our own bathroom, and resting on our own couch are some of the aspects of home we can miss while on the road. That’s why encountering truly gracious and hospitable people while we are away is so important. These people are not family, but they sure can provide for us a glimpse of home. They can be waiters at a restaurant, desk hosts at a hotel, or even Uber drivers. They enrich our lives if for only a moment, yet that moment can make all the difference.

When disciples of Jesus Christ act in a gracious manner to all those they meet, they provide a glimpse of home. This home is not in a house in a particular location, but it is a home prepared for all of us for eternity. No matter how comfortable we may be in our earthly homes, it truly pales in comparison to eternity with God. In that heavenly home, there is no darkness, only light. There are no tears, only joy. There is no hate, only love.

We are ambassadors for heaven by how we offer ourselves to others. Our stewardship of hospitality allows others to see a glimpse of what God promises to us. Unless we truly step up and act in a gracious manner, will those we encounter ever know the Truth? I hate it when I am on the road and fail to meet people full of joy and welcome. At least I can look forward to coming home. What do those along the way look forward to in the next life that you can’t show them a glimpse of in this one?

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

“God does not abandon us, he goes with us even now in this time of trial and testing. In this moment, it is important for us to anchor our hearts in the hope that we have in Jesus Christ. Now is the time to intensify our prayers and sacrifices for the love of God and the love of our neighbor. Let us draw closer to one another in our love for him, and rediscover the things that truly matter in our lives.”

- ARCHBISHOP JOSÉ H. GOMEZ
THE HOLY MASS: On March 16th, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles announced the suspension of Masses amid the current health threat due to COVID-19. “I deeply regret that we are forced to temporarily suspend public celebration of the Mass in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles,” said Archbishop José H. Gomez in a statement to the faithful of the Archdiocese. “What we do in the Church, we do out of love for God and love for our brothers and sisters. We are taking this extraordinary step today out of love and concern for those in our families and communities who are most vulnerable to this deadly coronavirus.”

Although we are unable to attend Mass in person, we invite you to participate in the Holy Mass via the Internet. Here at St. Lawrence Martyr, we will be recording Mass daily in our chapel and posting it online on our website (stlm.org).

A livestream of the Mass is broadcast from the Cathedral of Our Lady of Angels each Sunday. You can watch live on the LA Catholics Facebook Page (facebook.com/lacatholics/) or visit lacatholics.org/emergency/. The English Mass is celebrated at 10 am and the Spanish Mass is celebrated at 12:30 pm. The Cathedral is also arranging to have daily Mass livestreamed, as well; please check their website for updates.

There are also other parishes in the Archdiocese that provide livestreams of their Masses over the Internet or social media. You can find a listing of those and links to their livestreams at lacatholics.org/emergency/.

HUMILITY AND ACTION

“Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance, but the Lord looks into the heart.” In our first reading, Samuel draws conclusions about who God will choose as king based on his assumptions of what a proper king looks like. But God sees a deeper reality.

How easy it is to miss our own blindness. How frequently we are unaware of our own flawed assumptions about others and about ourselves. We often need a deeper humility about the limitations of our perceptions and our convictions.

Yet, as the letter to the Ephesians encourages, there are times to expose the “fruitless works of darkness”, to speak out, especially when persons or groups are suffering from abuse or oppression. We are called to live within a tension that these scripture passages convey. We are to seek God’s guidance in prayer with genuine openness. We are then to speak and act forcefully against wrongdoing, even as we maintain humility about how much we know, or what is the best action to take. We are called to bring God’s wisdom and mercy to all.

Pope Francis has said that Lent is a special time “to let God wash us, purify us, to let God embrace us,” and the best place for that is the confessional. However, this Lenten season the Sacrament of Reconciliation is now not readily available to us and many may be wondering what they are to do. Pope Francis addressed this in his homily on March 20 at Casa Santa Marta.

Pope Francis said, “Many will say to me today: “But, Father, where can I find a priest, a confessor, because one can’t leave home? And I want to make peace with the Lord, I want Him to embrace me, I want the Father’s embrace...What can I do if I can’t find priests?”

The pope said his response would be, “Do what the Catechism says; it’s very clear: if you don’t find a priest to hear your Confession, talk with God, He is your Father, and tell Him the truth. Say “Lord, I’ve done this, and that, and that... I’m sorry,” and ask Him for forgiveness with all your heart. Make the Act of Contrition and promise God: “Afterwards I will go to Confession, but forgive me now.” And you will return to God’s grace immediately.

As the Catechism teaches, you yourself can approach God’s forgiveness without having a priest at hand. Think: it’s the moment! And this is the right moment, the opportune moment. And Act of Contrition well made, and so our soul will become white as snow. It would be good if today this “return” resounded in our ears, “return to your Papa, return to your Father.” He is waiting for you and He will celebrate you.
During this time when we cannot receive Communion, join yourself to the Eucharist - the source and summit of our Catholic faith - by making an act of spiritual communion through prayer. In his last encyclical *Ecclesia de Eucharista*, St. John Paul II said;

“...it is good to cultivate in our hearts a constant desire for the sacrament of the Eucharist. This was the origin of the practice of “spiritual communion,” which has happily been established in the Church for centuries and recommended by the saints who were masters of the spiritual life. Saint Teresa of Jesus wrote: “When you do not receive communion and you do not attend Mass, you can make a spiritual communion, which is a most beneficial practice, by it the love of God will be greatly impressed on you.”

**TO MAKE A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION:**

- Simply place yourself in the presence of God, who is everywhere and already with you.
- Express silently, or in words, your desire to unite with Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Here are two prayers that may help you:

**Recommended by Archbishop Jose Gomez:**

“I wish, my Lord, to receive you with the purity, humility, and devotion with which your most Holy Mother received you, with the spirit and fervor of the saints.”

**AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

from St. Alphonsus Liguori

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 spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen

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**VIDEO OF OUR DAILY MASS at ST. LAWRENCE MARTYR**

To continue serving the spiritual needs of our parishioners, we will be recording daily Mass in our St. Lawrence Martyr chapel. Video of the Mass will be posted on our parish website daily sometime after 10:00 am. Although we cannot be together physically, join us in community for Mass on our parish website: stlm.org
I’ve read the Man Born Blind many times. In today’s environment, I heard it differently. The phrase that really hit me was “Keep the Sabbath.” In the Gospel, the Pharisees are questioning the blind man. How was he able to see? Who is the person who restored his sight? Even though the blind man tells them, the Pharisees doubt. “This man is not from God, because he does not keep the sabbath.”

I began to ponder . . . What does it mean to “Keep the Sabbath?” Why are the Pharisees accusing Jesus of breaking the third Commandment, “Keep Holy the Sabbath” or for us Christians “Keep Holy the Lord’s Day.”

Living in a world that is filled with many social commitments, activities, sporting events, shopping malls, obligations, working long hours and the never ending “To Do List”, Keeping the Lord’s Day Holy is challenging. Going to Mass seems to be how we define honoring what God has asked of us… but does it?

I continued meditating and waiting for Jesus to speak. Finally, he points to another phrase, “I washed and I now can see.” Okay. So if I wash, I then will see? I could not argue with God. He obviously knows the situation and the importance of washing our hands more frequently and thoroughly. What is he really trying to tell me? What am I blind to?

Connecting the phrases helped – “I washed and I now can see” with “Keep the Sabbath”. The pieces were coming together. I need to wash away things that don’t really matter, declutter and reprioritize my life. The question is: Who is leading? God? Or external circumstance, events, activities, work, etc?

St. John Paul II said that the day of rest “offers spiritual enrichment, greater freedom, opportunities for contemplation, family time and spiritual communion”. It’s time to live out the joy of the Resurrection by rearranging work and duties to focus on the “Day the Lord Made” for us.

I think we can all agree. Our lives, around the world, have been disrupted and rearranged. The coronavirus is bringing us back to our domestic church . . . our homes with our families. We are asked to stay home, connecting with our families. Like St. Mother Teresa’s said: “Love begins at home.”

WOW! God was right. If we allow God to wash away everything that keeps us from him, we will see what truly matters. God must be first. We are the church and he is inviting us to rebuild our domestic churches. By doing this, we are keeping the Sabbath every day. Each day becomes holy. We become Eucharist for our families. Our families, our homes become incubators, the greenhouses of His love.

After this journey with the man born blind, I can now see! Jesus is here. He is inviting us to ‘Keep Holy the Sabbath’ by allow him to live in our hearts and be part of our story in our families, in our homes, in our domestic church. He wants to reclaim our families and put things back in order. This is a time to celebrate the Word of God and live a Eucharistic life by feeding those we love with our presence. Being present to our families is a rare gift. Let’s stay home. Let’s allow God to prepare our hearts by cleansing us so his son, Jesus, in the Eucharist can find our hearts on fire and burning for him. So Keep Holy the Sabbath. Stay home. Rebuild your Domestic Church. St. Mother Teresa would agree: “If you want to bring happiness to the whole world, go home and love your family.” - Caterina Krai

Seeing is much more than just a function of our eyes. We can look at something with clear vision but not really see it. Often what we think we see is colored by our presuppositions, prejudices, assumptions, and needs. We judge things by appearance, but God looks into the heart. God’s sight has a much wider range and far greater depth. Receiving things or people just based on appearance can lead us to erroneous and hurtful judgments. We think we are seeing clearly, but we are not. Allowing God to restore our sight so that we can truly see is a worthy goal for our Lenten journey. Look within and look without. What do you see? Allow God to complete the picture for you. Ask Him to give you the insight to look into someone’s heart. Don’t draw hasty conclusions or presume you know the truth. Be open and humble enough so that you can receive the sight that only God can give.

It is helpful to observe that our Gospel passage from John, the healing of the blind man, is the first part of a longer episode. When Jesus’ words end Chapter 9 in today’s passage, he goes on speaking in the discourse on the Good Shepherd in Chapter 10. The healing of the blind man was not only a demonstration of God’s power, giving him the physical capacity of sight. It was even more than the awakening of the man’s personal faith in Jesus. The image of the Good Shepherd confirms that the man was liberated from the social isolation of his blindness and became a member of Jesus’ flock. All of Jesus’ powerful actions of healing were intended as gifts, not only to individuals, but for the building up of the community of faith.
While we cannot be together physically, stay connected to our St. Lawrence Community.

Join St. Lawrence’s flocknote today…

Flocknote is a communication tool that allows St. Lawrence to more effectively communicate with you and your family through text or email. With flocknote, you will receive news & information on events happening at SLM, reflections and complete access Bishop Robert Barron’s Word on Fire ENGAGE video library.

Join flocknote today by texting our keyword STLM to 84576

**Won’t You Be a Prayer Partner?**
Our Elect and Candidates need your prayers during this time of spiritual preparation to the joys of the Easter Season. We ask the St. Lawrence Community to please hold them in your daily prayers.

- **Elect for the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation**
  Mary Herati and Sabrina Dumiao

- **Candidates for Sacraments of Eucharist & Confirmation**
  Jessyca Blunt, Brad McDermott, Jade Carillo, Jacob Carillo, Kody Gordon, Ashley Hoang, Kaylee Hoang, Lexis Hoang, Paige Hoang, Preston Hoang, Juliette Iniguez, Jose Pepe Iniguez, Grace Tayag

**Open Arms Ministry**

Help us reach sick or lonely persons in our parish to let them know they are loved, wanted, and worthy. Together, we can help them and their loved ones with friendly visits, light chores, or errands, and connect them with community resources.

The Open Arms Ministry is here to help an individual or a family experiencing a challenging life event. Someone who might benefit from our support could be:
- Just diagnosed with a serious illness
- Getting treatment for a serious illness
- Frail because of old age
- Very ill with limited or no support
- Lonely and isolated
- Families needing help with a life-changing event

If you or someone you know would like a visit from the Open Arms Ministry, contact Didi Egnatuk at openarms@stlm.org or (310) 540-0329, extension 540.

**Ministry to the Homebound**

Due to the present “Safer at Home” restrictions, we are suspending all pastoral visits to the sick, elderly and homebound unless there is dire necessity. We will reach out by phone so that we can keep in contact with them as much as possible. We are very concerned about the effects of social isolation on many of our parishioners and will be exploring innovative ways to create a sense of community without physically being present to one another. If you are aware of a sick, elderly and homebound parishioner who is in need, please contact our Parish Office at 310-540-0329.

**FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY**

We are continuing our ministry to our Food Pantry clients and homeless or struggling sisters and brothers. Stringent hygiene and food handling practices will be put in place. At this time, we will NOT be accepting clothing donations.

The Food Pantry will be open every Saturday morning at 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. (or until all bags of food have been distributed.)

**This Lent, Go Online to Pray the STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

**TRADITIONAL VERSION:**
https://mycatholic.life/catholic-prayers/stations-of-the-cross/

**CONTEMPORARY VERSION:**
https://bustedhalo.com/video/virtual-stations-of-the-cross

**Rosary to Our Lady**

During this time of uncertainty let us turn to Mary our Mother...
Join us in praying the rosary on our parish website: stlm.org
In this time of trial, I entrust us all to the maternal care and intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe. I invite you to join me in praying the prayer below, which is composed especially for this moment.

May God be gracious to us, and make his face shine upon us. And may he grant us peace,

Most Reverend José H. Gomez
Archbishop of Los Angeles

PRAYER IN THE TIME OF THE CORONAVIRUS

Holy Virgin of Guadalupe,
Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas.
We fly to you today as your beloved children.
We ask you to intercede for us with your Son,
as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother,
and gain for our nation and world,
and for all our families and loved ones,
the protection of your holy angels,
that we may be spared the worst of this illness.
For those already afflicted,
we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance.
Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful,
wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

In this time of trial and testing,
teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind.
Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.

We come to you with confidence,
knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother,
health of the sick and cause of our joy.
Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,
keep us in the embrace of your arms,
help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus.
Amen.