



The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist

337-232-1322 - [saintjohncathedral.org](http://saintjohncathedral.org)

The Very Reverend, Father Chester Arceneaux  
Rector of the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Lafayette  
3/19/2020 The Solemnity of St. Joseph

## COVID – 19 Pastoral Plan

*“We have in our day no prince, prophet, or leader, no burnt offering, sacrifice, oblation, or incense, no place to offer first fruits, to find favor with you. But with contrite heart and humble spirit let us be received; as though it were burnt offerings of rams and bulls, or tens of thousands of fat lambs, so let our sacrifice be in your presence today and find favor before you; for those who trust in you cannot be put to shame.” (Daniel 3:38-40)*

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My Dear People,

Words cannot express the sadness in my heart in not worshiping with you around the altar of the Lord. On Monday, I celebrated Mass for our livestream in an almost emptied church. I cried. I cried because as a priest, I have given my life to give you the Bread of Life. I have given my heart to bring you to the Heart of Jesus. I have given my work so that God may work through me to reach you in the Sacramental life of the Church. I experienced an emptiness and sadness because you were not there with me worshiping God together and encountering His mercy in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Many of you are experiencing similar movements of sadness, confusion, loss, and anxiety. Many of you have told me how you are hungering and thirsting for the Eucharist. Some of you don't know how you are going to pay your mortgage. Some of you cannot see your loved one in the nursing home in person. Some of you don't know if you will have your job back after the crisis is over. This is truly a time of unprecedented difficulty for many of us.

I want you to know that God has not abandoned us. He is with us. Just because it seems like He is being silent, remember He is never absent. Just because what is happening is shocking to us, remember that He is never surprised and has already provided for us everything we need. We must remain humble and offer him our hearts as best we can. God loves you. I love you. The Church will not leave you but as a Mother she is taking particular care of you in your suffering.

In order to continue our mission as a Church Parish which is needed now more than ever, I am immediately enacting a COVID -19 Pastoral Plan. I met with Fr. Schumacher and the Parish Staff in order to address every pastoral priority that will need to be attended to in the coming weeks. I encourage you to read our Pastoral Plan and make yourself familiar with what our clergy and staff will be doing to help continue to nurture your Faith. We are offering many things in the areas of **Liturgy and Spirituality, Parish Stewardship, Faith Formation, Parish Outreach, and Community Outreach.**

In times like these, our Faith is most important not only to ourselves but also as a witness to others. Stay close to Christ and his Church. Help others to remain engaged in their Faith. I want to thank all of you for the tremendous sacrifices you've made in this time. There will be an end to this. By God's grace, may that end be swift with few permanent consequences. I will remember you all in my daily prayers and carry you lovingly in my heart.

With Prayers and Deepest Affection,  
Fr. Chester Arceneaux

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### **COVID-19 Pastoral Plan**

The mission of the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist during the COVID-19 crisis is to **communicate the love of God the Father in Christ Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit**. We will accomplish this through the work of our clergy and staff in the areas of **Liturgy and Spirituality, Parish Stewardship, Faith Formation, Parish Outreach, and Community Outreach**.

**Liturgy and Spirituality** - Staff Coordinators are Mrs. Danielle Huval, Mrs. Brittany Primeaux, Mr. Brady LeBlanc, and Mr. Tom Niel.

#### **Sacraments**

**-Confession** will be offered Monday-Friday from **11:00-11:45** and **Saturday from 9:00-10:00am**. At the end of the Confession time, everyone must leave the Church immediately in order for space to be made for the daily Mass livestream. This will be strictly enforced.

**-Anointing of the Sick and Last Rites** will continue to be offered. Please call the parish office if you or someone with you is near death 337-232-1322

**-Holy Mass will be streamed daily on our website and Facebook Page**. On Sunday, Mass will be streamed at 11:00am and 5:00pm. Monday-Friday, Mass will be streamed at 12:05pm. On Saturday, Mass will be streamed at 8:00am. We encourage you to make a Spiritual Communion during the Communion time of the Mass. More information about how to do that is available on our homepage.

**-Baptisms may go on as scheduled as long as the gathering is no more than 10 people**. You are welcomed to reschedule your child's baptism for a later date.

**-Weddings may go on as scheduled as long as the gathering is no more than 10 people**. You are welcomed to reschedule your wedding for a later date.

### **Devotions**

- The Holy Rosary will be live streamed on our Facebook Page** from our chapel Monday through Friday at 9:00am.
- The Angelus will be streamed at 12:00pm Monday through Friday** before the noon Mass in the Church.
- The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be streamed on our Facebook Page** from our chapel Monday through Friday at 3:00pm.
- **The Stations of the Cross will be live streamed Fridays on our Facebook Page** from the church at 11:30am.
- We will livestream an hour of Benediction and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Mondays from 6:00-7:00pm on our Facebook Page.**
- The Church and the Chapel will remain open during the day for private prayer.** We ask that you take every precaution in personal hygiene and social distancing.
- Every family is encouraged to pray the Liturgy of the Hours at home.** If you set certain times of the day for your family to pray, especially Mid-Day Prayer and Night Prayer, it will help you stay connected to the liturgical life of the Church and order your day in prayer. You can visit find the prayers for each day at this link: <http://www.ibreviary.com/m/breviario.php>.

**Parish Stewardship** - Staff Coordinator is Mrs. Andrea Polito.

**Your Continued Financial Support of the Parish will be very important in the coming weeks.** The work of the Church must go on in the midst of this crisis. We are limiting our bills as much as possible so that we are able to reserve our current savings for the road ahead. There are many of us that will not be able to give due to lost income or jobs. Those of us that can give I ask that you commit to continue your gift either through online giving or mailing you check in. If you are able to give more than you normally do, I am going to ask you to consider a larger gift than normal to help balance out those are not able to give anything at this time. Thank you for your continued generosity in this difficult time.

- Online Giving** will be very important during this time when the Faithful are unable to attend Mass and make their regular offering. We are making this optional as easy as possible on our parish website. Please utilize this feature. You can find it at our website: <https://saintjohncathedral.org/online-giving/>
- Mailed Checks are still going to be processed** by our parish staff. Please feel free to give in this way by mailing your gift to 515 Cathedral Street, Lafayette, LA, 70501.

**Faith Formation** - Staff Coordinators are Mr. Adam Conque and Mr. Chad Beraud

**Adults**

**-Fr. Arceneaux and Fr. Schumacher will offer a daily message of spiritual encouragement on our parish Facebook Page at 10:am Monday through Friday.** This will be a great opportunity to continue to hear from your shepherds regularly despite not being able to attend Mass.

**-A Faith Formation livestream will take place Monday-Friday on our Facebook Page at 2:00pm.** This will be an opportunity for you to continue to grow in your Faith. We encourage active participation with your questions or comments on the live video.

**-Please Utilize FORMED.ORG as a family and as individuals.** There are so many great resources with this service that is free to you. Visit formed.org and set up your profile today. It is free but you need to indicate that you belong to the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Lafayette.

**-RCIA classes will continue through Video Conferencing** at the regular time on Sundays at 6:30pm.

**Youth**

**-Small Groups and Bible Studies will continue through video conferencing.** Members of the Youth Group will be emailed instructions about how to participate in these groups.

**Parish Outreach** - Staff Coordinators are Mrs. Christie Domingue and Mrs. Karen Broussard

**It is crucial that we continue to offer the love of our Faith Community** to those in our parish family that are particularly hurting at this time. For that reason, we will have a team of people tending to the needs of the homebound, elderly, and financially struggling. Regular Parish Business will also take place via phone or email.

**-The Parish Office is closed.** You can call or email parish staff in order to conduct regular parish business. We will continue to process mass intentions, annulments, baptism requests, wedding requests, etc.

**-Parishioners will not receive communion on a homebound visit** unless it is in the context of the Last Rites.

**-If you know someone in our parish that is struggling in a particular way in this crisis please share their name with us.** We will collect prayer intentions to be offered daily and visit people who need the love of Christ.

**Community Outreach** - Staff Coordinator is Mrs. Kristi Munzing

**It is important that in this difficult time we do not turn in on ourselves only but continue to communicate the love of Christ to the world around us.** For that reason we will be focusing our energy on how our faith community can bless the world around us spiritually and materially. There will be opportunities soon for participation in the corporal and spiritual works of mercy in our community. Please participate.

**-A Church Tour will be livestreamed on our Facebook Page on Fridays at 10:00am.** This will be a great way to continue to spread our Faith to the greater community.

- **Weekly Hlstory Bites** will appear on Facebook by Wednesday of each week to continue to educate people on the important role of the Faith and the Cathedral in Lafayette's history.

**-A daily Children's Window Coloring Page will be posted by 10am on Facebook,** offering our children to color one of our stained-glass windows and learn about the Cathedral.