

1 April 2020

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

I miss you. We are not the church without the People of God. I regret that the Archdiocese closed all churches and chapels, even for private prayer and devotions. We were glad to have some who previously availed themselves of this opportunity.

Thank you for your calls and emails. I especially relish the occasional sighting of a parishioner on the streets when I jog or bike. Hoboken is like a ghost town. Between those spending more time at home and those who have left town, there are far fewer people around.

I continue to pray for all those who are sick and those who have lost loved ones, wherever they are. And for laid-off workers and their families. The healthcare professionals and first responders are extraordinary. And I am so thankful for mail and delivery workers, grocery and pharmacy staff, essential government employees, restaurant workers and many others for doing their share every day. I hope that parents are able to find childcare if they need to leave their homes to work. There are so many prayer needs out there; let us acknowledge them as we privately pray at home.

I thank Fr. Phil for live-streaming Masses, including Holy Thursday and Good Friday next week. Please see details below.

And I thank all who mailed in or dropped off weekly donations. There are several ways to contribute, detailed at the end of this message. Christina Mueller, our outreach coordinator, is our link to the outside world and is so good to us.

With all this downtime, I also dream. Knowing that we will not be here for Easter, I would envision people coming to our cathedral-sized church, sitting one in every bench alternating at either end. It won't happen now, but it may be the temporary way in which we worship as normalcy returns, which I hope will come soon.

Hang in there and be hopeful. Try to reach out to anyone who is in need and do good. I reached out to Rev. Marjorie Boyden, the pastoral care director at Hoboken University Medical Center. She will select a particularly hard-hit unit of the hospital, and we will treat the staff to lunch on behalf of our parish. The founding pastor of OLG, Fr.

Antonio Cauvin, founded that hospital in 1863, during the Civil War. It is the oldest in the state. How blessed we are to still have them.

This coming Sunday, Palm Sunday, will not be the same. I do have palm for you so call if there is a way to get it to you.

I pray for you daily. Notwithstanding this pandemic, we are still blessed.

Peace,

Fr. Alex Santora,

Pastor

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**Churches:** OLG Church, OLG Chapel and St. Joseph Church are closed until further notice per guidance from the Archdiocese.

**Livestream Masses:**

We are live-streaming **Mass in English** on our English-language Facebook page at the following times:

- Daily Mass: Mon./Wed./Fri. at 12:30 PM and Tues./Thurs. at 7 PM (except Holy Thursday and Good Friday - see below)
- Sunday Mass at 8:30 AM

[www.facebook.com/OLGandSJHobokenNJ](http://www.facebook.com/OLGandSJHobokenNJ)

We are live-streaming **Mass in Spanish** on our Spanish-language Facebook page on Sunday at 11 AM:

[www.facebook.com/OLGSJHoboken](http://www.facebook.com/OLGSJHoboken)

You can watch each Mass live at the scheduled time or click on the "Videos" tab of the Facebook pages to watch later. We encourage you to watch and participate.

**Mass schedule for Holy Week:** Masses will be live-streamed at the following times on the Facebook pages linked above.

- Palm Sunday: 8:30 AM in English and 11 AM in Spanish (normal Sunday schedule)
- Holy Thursday: 7:30 PM Bilingual

- Good Friday: 3 PM Bilingual
- Easter Saturday Vigil: No Mass
- Easter Sunday: 8:30 AM in English and 11 AM in Spanish (normal Sunday schedule)

**Sacraments:** The Archdiocese has placed restrictions on baptisms, weddings, funerals and burials, and confession (reconciliation). Please contact the parish office for more information or if you need pastoral assistance.

**Visitation of the sick:** There will be no visitation of the sick by Eucharistic Ministers. However, the priests will visit anyone if requested.

**Events and programs:** Our parish buildings are closed, and therefore all events, programs and meetings have been cancelled until further notice, including the following:

- Las Damas and Christian Mothers meetings
- CCD, RCIA and the St. Joseph Wednesday Evening Prayer Group (Círculo de Oración)
- The OLG Gifts of Faith shop and the St. Joseph Flea Market

**Parish offices:**

- The OLG office is open by prior appointment only. Please call 201-659-0369 or email [olgrace@optonline.net](mailto:olgrace@optonline.net) if you need assistance.
- The St. Joseph office is closed, and staff is working remotely. Please leave a message at 201-659-0221, and staff will return your call. If you require immediate assistance, please contact the OLG office.
- There are secure mailboxes in front of the OLG office at 411 Clinton St. and the St. Joseph Rectory at 61 Monroe St. if you need to drop off documents or monetary donations. Please do not bring donations of clothing, books or other items to either church at this time.

**Supporting our parish:** Our parish relies on the support of parishioners and friends. Your help is especially critical at this time as we have lost our regular source of income from in-person donations at Masses. If you are experiencing financial insecurity as a result of this crisis, please take care of yourself and your family. If you are able to contribute, we welcome you to do so in one of the following ways:

- Drop off your donations in the secure mailboxes in front of the OLG office at 411 Clinton St. or the St. Joseph Rectory at 61 Monroe St.
- Mail your donations to either church: OLG at 400 Willow Ave. or St. Joseph Church at 61 Monroe St.
- Contact your bank or financial institution and designate a set amount each week or month that will be mailed as a check to either church: OLG at 400 Willow Ave. or St. Joseph Church at 61 Monroe St.
- Donate via our parish's GoFundMe portal (part of an Archdiocesan initiative to support parishes). Here is the link:

[charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/our-lady-of-grace-and-st-joseph-hoboken-nj](https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/our-lady-of-grace-and-st-joseph-hoboken-nj)

These are uncertain times, and the situation may change. Please check our website ([www.olghoboken.com](http://www.olghoboken.com)) and follow our social media accounts on Facebook and Instagram (links on our website homepage) for updates. Please connect with the Archdiocese as well at [www.rcan.org](http://www.rcan.org) and on Facebook and Instagram for updates.

Please share this information with any parishioners that you know that do not access the internet or social media.

Peace and God Bless