



# *St. Catherine of Alexandria*

7005 Brockton Avenue  
Riverside, California 92506

Phone: (951) 683-0800

Fax: (951) 778-9316

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Dear Parishioners,

In keeping with the direction of Pope Francis and in concern for the safety of all, our local Shepherd, Bishop Barnes has suspended all Masses and most church activities effective immediately in responding to the COVID 19 crisis. As his letter of today explains, effective immediately there will be no weekday or Sunday Masses, no weddings, baptisms, funeral Masses, confessions or other parish gatherings until further notice. Those who are in need of Anointing of the Sick still can call and a priest will come to you for the Sacrament, which must be in accordance with the health department directives.

We are all saddened by the loss of our ability to worship together every week as a faith community of St. Catherine of Alexandria. We thirst for the continued support of fellow parishioners and our clergy. Our parish is immediately working on developing a procedure for live streamed Masses on our parish website with links to Diocesan and other Masses on-line. Please check in regularly at [www.stcofa.org](http://www.stcofa.org) for up to date information on this fast evolving situation.

Many parishioners for years have been regular attendees at a particular Mass and consider those who attend as their faith community. To support each other during this time, we invite all parishioners, besides watching a Mass on a computer or television, to take a few minutes in prayer with “their Mass community” each Sunday. For example, if you normally attend 8:30 am Sunday Mass, then at 8:30am each Sunday stop and pray, by yourself or with your family surrounding you, knowing that all those whom you are used to seeing at that time each Sunday are praying with you and for you. In this way we strive to stay connected with fellow parishioners and support each other.

We will continue to seek out ways to support each other in our faith journey through these difficult times. On behalf of the clergy and staff of St. Catherine of Alexandria, we will be praying for you and ask that you pray for us. In this way, we can truly be “one people in Christ, one community of love guided by the Holy Spirit.” Keep safe, and may the blessing of God and the protection of our and our Patroness, St. Catherine of Alexandria be with you and your family...always.

In the Sacred Heart of Jesus,

Gene Sabio, MSC  
Pastor