

## **PRAYER and suggested PETITIONS for this time:**

The following Prayer to be said aloud at the end of all public Masses up to and including Friday, October the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Invite every parishioner to join with us in the recitation of this prayer and encourage all individuals and families to say this prayer at home, perhaps before meals.

*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.*

<https://www.usccb.org/sites/default/files/2020-07/prayer-coronavirus-2020-card.pdf>

*Please consider including one or more of the following petitions in the Prayers of the Faithful at every Mass up to and including the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October.*

- For all who care for the elderly, sick, disabled, infirm, and most vulnerable that we may support them in their efforts to defend the dignity of every human life from conception to natural death.
- For an end to any form of racism or prejudice, around us or within us.
- For all those in the world who are not able to assemble for worship that we may be willing and able to help them.
- For first responders everywhere; firefighters, medics, police officers and so many others that the Lord will protect them as they protect us.
- For the unborn, the most vulnerable among us, that we may cherish them and protect them always.
- For seniors, the disabled, for prisoners and for the infirm who are denied the opportunity for visitors and those taking care of them, that we may offer the care and compassion they need.

- For children and for students of all ages whose education has been interrupted as well as for all teachers that we may be bold and courageous to continue supporting them.
- For all who have lost a business or employment, and for all who are looking for work that we may be willing to extend God's charity and care.
- For those who live with fear, anxiety, depression that we may reach out to them and offer healing and mercy.
- For those who have suffered deep and personal loss as a result of the wildfires throughout our State.
- For the immigrants and refugees that we may be the face of Jesus Christ to them.
- For our country, for peace and divine guidance especially in the year of a presidential election

## Arranging 40 Hours of Eucharistic Adoration in Your Parish:

All pastors and administrators as well as religious superiors within the Diocese of Fresno are asked to invite their congregation to offer one hour of adoration to make possible 40 Hours of Eucharistic Adoration in the parish. Those special hours of prayer can be completed at any time and in any way up to Friday, October the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Why 40 Hours?** We know that, biblically speaking, the number 40 signifies passage from suffering to liberation, from deprivation and even death to new life and rebirth. For example,  
 40 days of rain to wash the world clean of sin and start anew at the time of Noah  
 40 days of Moses' prayer on Mt. Sinai to prepare to receive the Commandments and the Law  
 40 years' journey of God's People from slavery to new life in the Holy Land  
 40 days of fasting and prayer in Nineveh to save the people from death  
 40 days of fasting and prayer of the Lord Jesus to prepare to announce the Good News and accept the Cross.

All of this finding its meaning and fulfilment in the 40 hours of transformation from 3pm on Good Friday to dawn on Easter Sunday – 40 hours from darkness, sin and death to the miracle of Risen Life.

Suggested Guidelines for 40 Hours of Eucharistic Adoration in your parish:

1. Eucharistic Adoration can take place outdoors if it is possible to arrange for a place that is safe, shaded in the day, illuminated at night, reverent and suitable for gatherings with the same guidelines in place for outdoor Masses (facemasks, social distancing, etc.) Obviously weather and other conditions are a factor. The monstrance must be on an altar and should be covered with a roof or temporary canopy.
2. Eucharistic Adoration can take place indoors if you can ensure that no more than 10 people will be present at any one time and if everyone is instructed to sanitize their pew when departing, with cleaning supplies provided. As with outdoor Mass, use of facemasks and social distancing is required.

3. If possible, the 40 hours of Adoration should be continuous. Where it is not possible to have adoration throughout the night or afternoon due to weather conditions or security concerns, the 40 hours can be spread out, for example, 10 hours a day for 4 days or one hour a day for 40 days. Be creative!
4. The Exposed Blessed Sacrament must never be left unattended. "Signups" for the various hours can help ensure that a minimum of 2-3 people will always be present. Where Adoration is offered indoors, signups can assist in limiting people to no more than 10. Signups are best done electronically, as many parishes have already been doing in these days however, they may certainly be conducted in any way that is safe and practical.
5. While maintaining social distancing and the maximum size gatherings in place for Mass indoors or out, families are encouraged to come together for an hour of prayer, as well as parish groups, such as Catechists, Prayer Groups, Knights of Columbus, Guadalupanas, etc. Groups may recite prayers together and are encouraged to use the **BOOKLET** for which a link is also provided in this mailing.
6. Here is the link for the **BOOKLET** with suggested Bible readings, petitions, reflections and prayers ("An Hour of Adoration in Time of Pandemic"): <https://dioceseoffresno.org/office-of-worship-and-christian-initiation/> (this is an example possible link for this draft not a real link) if the link is not working just copy & paste.  
You will see it is available in two formats:  
**Format A:** can be read on a cell phone or similar device or printed to be read from "top to bottom."  
**Format B:** Arranged to be folded and stapled as a 2page booklet. If paper copies are made available, it must be made clear they are to be taken home - the same booklets should not be touched and used by several people. It is formatted for 8.5x11" paper in landscape mode, .4" margins, 2 columns .7" spacing.
7. As this is a formal time of prayer in union with the Bishop and all parishes in the diocese, adoration should begin in a solemn way and end with solemn Benediction.
8. It is encouraged that **FASTING** be included along with our prayer during the 40 Hours. It is left to the discretion of the pastor as to how to encourage a time of fasting and prayer in his parish during this solemn time. Fasting can be done in various ways and is not imposed as an obligation but rather encouraged as an appeal to God.
9. Again, the Solemn Benediction to launch **LET US PRAY** will be live-streamed on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 12 noon at Saint John's Cathedral and conclude there with a 12 noon MASS on Friday, October 23, 2020.
10. **NOTE FROM BISHOP BRENNAN:** Fr. Gonzalo Siller and Fr. Greg Beaumont, among others, have worked diligently with me to put these prayers and program together. Should you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact either one of them.

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