

Dear Parish families:

I hope you are all well and enjoying your family time together however stressful it may be. I hope you all have received your registration forms – please return as soon as you can for Fall registration. We're planning now for the 2020/2021 year and your cooperation is essential. If you have a question please call the RE office at (708)460-0155 or email us. While we are not in the office, we are working from home and checking our emails.

I received an email from Sr. Gael about St. Corona who is the patron saint of epidemics. I'm including that here for those of you who might want to pray the novena. I have found great comfort and peace in being able to virtually connect with the parish through the Masses online and Fr. Jay's live stream (Fr. Jaystream on facebook). It has become part of my daily routine. Try it – you'll like it! Thank you for sending in your Mary photos. In this time of separation, seeing all of our families brings us closer together.

ST. CORONA

St. Corona (d. C. 170) is considered the patron saint of plagues and epidemics. St. Corona and St. Victor, a soldier who may have been her husband, were tortured and killed around 170 AD at the order of a Roman judge, according to an account that dates to the 4th century. Their feast day is May 14, according to the Roman Martyrology, the Catholic Church's official list of recognized saints and people who have been beatified. As Corona was dying, she "saw two crowns falling from Heaven, one for Victor, the other for herself," the martyrology says.

Coronaviruses are named for the crown-like spikes on their surface, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Corona means "crown" in Latin.

It's unclear when people began associating St. Corona with plagues, given limited first-hand records of early saints. Sts. Victor and Corona were recognized as saints before the Catholic Church standardized its canonization process in the 10th century. But St. Corona's name, the reference to crowns in the martyrology, and accounts of her suffering seem to provide reasonable justification to call on her intercession during today's unprecedented global health crisis.

Prayer to St. Corona in a Time of Epidemic: Lord Jesus Christ, You came into this world for our salvation. Look kindly on us now, we pray, that we, and all those who serve You, might be kept safe from this epidemic. Heal those who are sick, comfort the suffering, bring back those who have gone astray, and above all, increase our faith, O Lord. Give us the grace to follow You and, like the martyr St. Corona, who gave her life for love of You, to take up our crosses daily without fear or hesitation. Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on us and on the whole world. St. Corona, patroness of epidemic victims, pray for us.

If you would like to pray the novena that begins on May 5th and is completed on St. Corona's feast day May 14th - it is something we as a parish could do together.

<https://catholicnovenaapp.com/novenas/st-corona-novena/#>

Praying for you always! Please pray for us.

Mary Kay Burberry, Director of Religious Education