

Diocese of Beaumont

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My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Pope Francis is asking Christians of every denomination to stop to pray the Lord's Prayer at noon on Wednesday, March 25, the Feast of the Annunciation, as we face the challenges and sufferings created by COVID-19. I know that you, our Catholic faithful, will respond to this request and implore God to rid the world of the pandemic that is causing havoc everywhere.

Noon has always been a special time of prayer for Christians because that is the hour when our Lord and Savior began His suffering on the cross. It is also one of the times Catholics stop to pray the Angelus prayer. I suggest that our Catholics follow the Lord's Prayer with that special Angelus prayer asking for our Blessed Mother's intercession.

If you can, join with me in praying the Lord's Prayer online. I will be praying via live stream through our diocese's Facebook page.

Also in response to the pandemic, Pope Francis said today he will give an extraordinary blessing – "urbi et orbi" – to the world at 6 p.m. Rome time – and at noon Central time on Friday, March 27.

That formal blessing – usually given only immediately after a pope's election and on Christmas and Easter — carries with it a plenary indulgence for all who follow by television, internet or radio, are sorry for their sins, and promise to go to confession and to receive the Eucharist whenever that becomes possible. I ask you to avail yourself of this opportunity to receive this special blessing.

Again, I encourage you and all Southeast Texans to trust in the Providence and Grace of God as we face these challenges together.

You remain in my prayers,

Most Rev. Curtis Guillory, SVD
Bishop of Beaumont