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**Archdiocese of Los Angeles**

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March 17, 2021  
Feast Day of St. Patrick  
Secondary Patron of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Lenten season invites us to enter a special time of preparation to commemorate our Lord's passion and death during Holy Week and to celebrate our Lord's resurrection and victory over death at Easter.

During certain days of Lent, in particular Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and the Fridays of Lent, the faithful are obliged to abstain from eating meat. This noble practice of self-sacrifice focuses our hearts and minds on our reliance on God's grace, encourages us to be thankful for the gifts we have, and brings us into solidarity with the universal Church.

On Friday, March 19, 2021, the Church will celebrate the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Husband of Blessed Virgin Mary. Since this day ranks as a Solemnity in the Church liturgical calendar, I wish to remind the people of the Archdiocese that they are not obliged to observe the practice of abstinence on March 19, 2021 (cf. can. 1251).

This year's Solemnity is an even more remarkable celebration as the Holy Father has declared December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021 the Year of St. Joseph. The Archdiocese will mark this festive day with a Mass offered at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels.

The Mass will be livestreamed for all to celebrate virtually on the [United States Conference of Catholic Bishops](#) (@USCCB), [Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels](#) (@OLACathedral) and [Archdiocesan](#) (@LACatholics) digital and social platforms. For more resources and information on the Year of St. Joseph, visit [lacatholics.org/st-joseph](https://lacatholics.org/st-joseph).

St. Joseph, pray for us!

May Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, bless our communities with good health and peace,

+ José H. Gomez

Most Reverend Jose H. Gomez  
Archbishop of Los Angeles