



Vicar General
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November 24, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We write to you with difficult news. We regret to inform you that the festivities and pilgrimages to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Des Plaines in honor of Our Lady on Dec. 11 and 12, have been cancelled due to the ongoing pandemic. The Shrine will be closed for both public and private devotions on those days. It was only after consultation with archdiocesan and governmental officials that Cardinal Cupich reluctantly accepted their recommendation.

We convey this information since many devotees of Our Lady of Guadalupe travel from parishes all over the Archdiocese, the Midwest and beyond to pay their respects during this time. We ask that you not to travel to the Shrine this year.

With everyone's health and safety in mind, and aware that the Latino community has been particularly vulnerable to Covid-19, we ask parishes not to organize any pilgrimages or torch runs to the Shrine this year. There will be no parking on the grounds or in remote locations. We will again have the help of the local police to keep the Shrine secured and to direct traffic and individuals away from the Shrine during this time.

We are asking that parishioners consider celebrating the feast day in the safety of their own homes or parishes and to come to the Shrine at another time when conditions again permit.

The Shrine, for its part, will be livestreaming masses and rosaries during the 24-hour celebration. Although Cardinal Carlos Aguiar Retes has made a similar decision to cancel gatherings at the Shrine in Mexico, a live midnight Mass direct from the Basilica in Mexico City will also be transmitted. Please visit our Shrine's website for more details at www.solg.org.

Thank you for your understanding and your prayers. Know that we are praying for you and your families and we ask God and Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patroness of all America to keep you safe during these days of the pandemic and throughout the coming new year.

God Bless you,

Handwritten signature of Robert Casey in black ink.

Most Rev. Robert Casey
Vicar General
Archdiocese of Chicago

Handwritten signature of Esequiel Sanchez in black ink.

Very Rev. Esequiel Sanchez
Rector
Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Des Plaines, IL.