



## NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC AIRPORT CHAPLAINS

P.O. Box 66353 \* Chicago, IL 60666  
Phone (773) 686 2636 \* Fax (773) 280 5288  
[www.nccac.us](http://www.nccac.us)

December 10, 2023

Dear Chaplain,

“Hic Verbum caro factum est.” Here the Word became flesh. These are the words inscribed over the altar in the Basilica of the Holy House of Loreto. This sanctuary is the actual house that Jesus, Mary, and Joseph lived in at Nazareth, and it was transported to Loreto in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. It is one of the oldest Marian shrines and since 1920, when Benedict XV proclaimed the Blessed Virgin Mary as Patroness of Air Travelers, has been a place where air travelers have sought her intercession and protection.

At our particular time in history we find that air travel is a necessity for people, resulting in large plane loads despite shortages of staff. In my ministry at O’Hare and Midway I encounter worried or nervous travelers daily. People flying under difficult conditions (grieving, mourning, or to visit a dying person). Airport workers and travelers under stress and jammed together in a place that may be a terrorism target.

Prayer, especially the Eucharist, is the most important part of our ministry as airport chaplains. Enclosed is a copy of the Mass in Honor of Our Lady of Loreto. Even though the feast day of Our Lady of Loreto is December 10, I found that it is a good idea to have this Mass celebrated at least once per month on a non-feast or obligatory memorial day. If you or the priest you schedule are to preside at the airport chapel on one of the dates listed on the reverse side of this letter, I ask that you celebrate this Liturgy.

I also ask that you occasionally have this Mass celebrated in your parish or privately, perhaps on the first Saturday of the month. This would also serve as a way to raise the awareness of people about our ministry and unite people in prayer for those who are traveling.

Thank you for your ministry among the “people on the move.” If you have any questions please feel free to contact me. Know that you are in my prayers and, through the intercession of Our Lady of Loreto, may God bless you always.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Fr. Michael G. Zaniolo  
President



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### Calendar for celebrations of Mass in honor of Our Lady of Loreto

Dec. 5, 2023

Jan. 10, 2024	Jul. 10, 2024
Feb. 7, 2024	Aug. 26, 2024
Mar. 11, 2024	Sep. 10, 2024
Apr. 10, 2024	Oct. 10, 2024
May 7, 2024	Nov. 5, 2024
Jun. 10, 2024	Dec. 10, 2024

Jan. 10, 2025	Aug. 26, 2025
Feb. 7, 2025	Sep. 10, 2025
Mar. 11, 2025	Oct. 10, 2025
May 7, 2025	Nov. 5, 2025
Jun. 10, 2025	Dec. 10, 2025
Jul. 10, 2025	Jan. 10, 2026

These weekday dates were chosen by their proximity to the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the month. They also are not feast days or obligatory memorial days (in Chicago).