

PASTORAL MINISTRY TO THE FAITHFUL DURING COVID-19

Suggestions for Clergy and Parish Staff

Below are some suggestions for providing appropriate pastoral care to parishioners, especially to those who are homebound or feeling isolated. All recommendations follow CDC guidelines.

1. Communicate Personally with a Phone-a-Thon



- Team up with parish leaders to call every registered family in the parish, active and inactive. Start with those who live alone, are elderly, etc.
- Phone calls can be used to:
 - Check in on parishioners both physically and spiritually.
 - Collect prayer intentions to be included in the parish Mass.
 - Pray with parishioners one on one over the phone.

2. Communicate Consistently Online



- Ensure parishioners have regular contact with their spiritual family by regularly updating the bulletin and parish social media accounts as well as sending out a weekly newsletter with parish updates and information. ([Example 1](#), [Example 2](#))
- Flocknote allows parishes to quickly and easily send emails or texts to the entire parish or to groups in the parish. The Archdiocese provides free Flocknote accounts for ADW parishes. [Click here to sign up for an ADW account](#). If your parish already has a Flocknote account but needs assistance, visit digital.adw.org/email or email digitalmedia@adw.org.
- Other email platforms such as iContact, Hubspot, and MailChimp can be set up for free or a small fee, depending on the number of recipients.
- Make and share a short video summarizing all the ways Catholics can stay connected virtually with your parish. ([Example](#))

3. Host Virtual Clergy Office Hours



Consider setting aside at least an hour or two a day for parishioners to sign up for a 10-15 minute timeslot for a phone or video call for spiritual direction, pastoral counseling, etc.

4. Organize a Parish Prayer Chain (perpetual prayer)



- Invite parishioners to sign up for a prayer slot throughout a day or week to ensure someone from the parish is praying for the community all day long.
- Use a Google Form for parishioners to sign up for a timeslot to pray for part of that time every day or each weekend day. ([Example](#))

5. Livestream Parish Prayer



- Livestream Daily and/or Sunday Mass. ([Examples](#))
- Livestream parish prayer such as Liturgy of the Hours, Adoration, Rosary, Chaplet, Novena, popular piety, etc. ([Examples](#))
- Tips on creating a [Livestream](#) and setting up [Facebook Live](#).

6. Share a Weekly One Minute Homily Video



Send out a 1-2 minute video homily each week to your parishioners via email, Flocknote, social media, or the parish website. ([Example 1](#), [Example 2](#))

7. Livestream Small Group and Parish Meetings



- Whether it's a virtual book club, bible study, prayer group or small group, empower parishioners to coordinate with others who are involved in ministry groups or share various interests to meet weekly for a video call.
- Continue recurring parish meetings through a conference call or video calls (e.g. Google Hangouts, GoTo Meeting, Zoom). Even if events are cancelled, personal and spiritual check-ins can continue.

8. Creatively Offer the Sacraments Outside



- Host "Drive Thru Confessions" in the parking lot to offer the sacrament while maintaining the recommended 6 feet of safe social distancing. [Check out the setup at St. Edward the Confessor Church in Bowie!](#)
- Host a "Drive-In Adoration" by setting up an outdoor altar (or set up the monstrance in a well-lit, visible window) for parishioners to drive up in their cars and participate in adoration from their car.

9. Share Integral Formation Resources



Send out resources of websites, podcasts, videos, etc. that people can incorporate into their routines at home. Consider a diversity of resources that assist parishioners in an integral way, and also share resources with your parish staff regarding mental health. ([Example 1](#)) ([Example 2](#))

10. Encourage (or Set Up) Online Donations



Encourage parishioners to set up or update their weekly online tithing. Share about the need for regular donations, especially during these weeks when there is a greater need for charitable assistance. Point people to existing giving platforms like [FaithDirect](#) or platforms built into your [website](#).

Please visit adw.org/coronavirus for the latest updates

For questions, additional resources, or assistance implementing various recommendations, please contact Anthony Esser at EsserA@adw.org.



Archdiocese of Washington