

CHURCH AT HOME



Intention

We recognize that these are difficult and uncertain times.

Some parishioners are not comfortable attend Mass in person and miss the gift of gathering as a faith community. But we take consolation in that “God is in all things,” including in our homes, from the dirty dishes in the sink to the fancy plates in the cupboard, God is with us!

We know that Christ is found not only in tradition, but in innovation and most especially in places where we need him most. Right now, this means right in your own home.

We hope that you can imagine the holiness of church within your home.



Sacred Space

We join a long history of worship and reverence that takes place within the home.

Consider the holiness of the manger as the place where Jesus entered the world or recall the long history of the Mexican “ofrenda” - a home altar to commemorate ancestors. Remember that our Jewish brothers and sisters celebrate the Seder not in the temple or in the synagogue but at home, sharing a meal and prayers around the kitchen or dining room table.

Take a moment to select and create a sacred space within your home.

This can be as simple as a windowsill or corner of a kitchen table.

Remember, Jesus saying, “For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

If you would like, add holy pictures or icons, cross or crucifix, a plant or flower.

Maybe a candle to remind you that God is dwelling in this space and your home.

If you have children, ask them to help create this sacred space with drawings, creations from nature, or consider a container for prayer intentions from the whole family.



Connection

Know of our prayers for you and your family!

Remember that Christ connects in many ways through hope, faith and love. While it may be isolating to be at home, can you imagine members of your church community and send a prayer to them?

Can you check in on a neighbor, elder or friend?

Send a text message, email, phone call, or card. Remember to also accept help when offered to you.

Take your group online! Use zoom or skype creatively to connect with our parish and church community. Reach out to others and watch mass together with a few other parish members.

Can you think of new ways of connecting during this time, like sharing resources in some new way? Generosity is a great antidote to anxiety.



Liturgy

As the time for Mass draws near, take time to prepare your sacred space and livestreaming device.

Consider printing the readings or worship aid.

To save paper you might follow along on a smart phone or tablet.

If there are others joining you, call them together.

Is there someone on your mind who you would like to dedicate this liturgy?

Remember those in our community who continue to provide essential services such as sanitation workers, grocery store staff, safety officers, healthcare workers and many more.

As Mass begins, don't be afraid to sing aloud and reverently sit, kneel or stand as you are able.

Let the word of God enter into your Home!

Do you have other prayer intentions? Mention them aloud during the Prayers of the Faithful or use that time to drop a prayer intention into a sacred container.

For the eucharistic prayer, we suggest placing a candle, a cross or crucifix, a bible, a bowl of water etc. on or near your sacred space. Be creative.

You might also have some bread, water or wine on the table already or nearby before the start of Mass.

If you have children, they might present "the gifts" by placing them on the table prior to the Eucharistic Prayer.

Pray the Lord's prayer together and imagine your parish community joining with you in prayer.

Use gestures to pray the Lord's Prayer.

At the sign of peace, perhaps text message a friend a greeting of peace, or use the chat on the Livestream to offer your peace.

During communion, reverently consume the "Gifts" of bread and wine you prepared.

Imagine being at table with Jesus. You might act as a minister to other members of your family.

At the final blessing you might bless yourself or even one another from the water in the bowl prepared beforehand.

All is Holy! Thanks be to God!



Gratitude

It is with a full heart that we give thanks for all the gifts in our lives including the gift of our homes, our church, our community, and so many more.

Finally, we remember the words of the Psalm 23:

"Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over."

Be Well for All Will Be Well



St Ignatius Liturgy Commission

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