Hi everyone,

We are entering the 3rd Sunday of Easter. You may be shocked to know that Holy Week was as much work as ever for us at the parish. Much of it was done remotely, of course. Although there were no people in the church, there was a great deal of virtual attendance and activity. The good thing about being behind the scenes and only on audio is none of you can tell that I’m wearing Yoga pants to Easter Mass! Although, there was a reported sighting via webcam of one cleric shutting off the lights of the church late at night in his pyjamas.

Now that this busy time is over it is time for us to touch base again.

Keeping you in Prayer

First of all, we want you to know that we as a pastoral team are keeping you in our prayers daily. We have even written a special prayer to say before we begin our work serving you in the new and creative ways demanded by this most extraordinary of circumstances. (I’m also praying that all the additional snacking and sitting on my butt all day will not result in me gaining 20 lbs… but I know there are limits to how much God is willing to break the laws of physics & biology.)

Communication & Connection

Secondly, to facilitate communication as well as connection with the parish, I encourage you to do some of the following:

- Check the Parish Website frequently. We post new material on the NEWS section and the QUICK LINKS for Covid19 page at least weekly, but typically more often. The website, I must confess is not user friendly and is full of bugs which are frustrating to us, to you and to the tech people at the Archdiocese (who know me by name now, btw.) For instance, if you want to view a news item, you need to click on the button on the upper right hand corner of the news section that says “view all.” Otherwise, when you click on the news item you get a blank page. Jennifer Jeffries, our Co-ordinator of Children’s Liturgy, prepares the short video every week as a YouTube post. It’s a great way to engage your children with the readings: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EORDVmbaJSU&t=41s
- Subscribe to receive the Bulletin by email automatically by clicking on the red “sign-up” button underneath MASS TIMES. (For this week, I have attached the last two weeks worth.)
- Visit our parish Facebook Page where you will find information and inspiration. The link is clearly marked on the front of our website.
- Follow us on Twitter. Sorry… I haven’t set up an Instagram account.

Sacrament Specific Information
Third, regarding the celebration of the sacraments, we cannot predict any more than the rest of society when this pandemic will end. As soon as we have approval to return to some sort of normal life, we will establish dates and communicate these to you.

In the meantime, we will continue with a virtual preparation. Many of you have submitted your work and it has really made my day to see your children’s smiling faces and beautiful artwork. For those of you who have not (and there are quite a few of you), please complete the work assigned within the next week and send me a picture so I can mark you as having completed it. Completion of the homework is the bare minimum requirement.

Here are other ways to continue with the preparation:

- Though you may still work on your passport. Give your children stamps for attendance of even part of a virtual live-stream mass. We realize that this is not as engaging as a physical gathering for Eucharist, but tuning in will help your children understand how central this is to Christian life.
- Find creative ways to pray and give your children stamps for this.
- Find ways to serve the community… (e.g. sending notes, leaving inspirational messages on your driveway or (as I’ve seen on FB) on painted stones in the park praying for people who are serving or suffering, sewing, delivering food, etc.)

Finally, I will send you the next lesson which you would have been doing this week within the next couple of days. I am preparing a little YouTube video for you to watch with your children but it is taking me some time.

Peace in the pandemic,
Christine

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