

EVANGELIZATION & DISCIPLESHIP

HELPING MOVE YOUR PARISH TO MISSION

10 TIPS FOR PARISH ENGAGEMENT

"The sacred liturgy does not exhaust the entire activity of the Church: it must be preceded by evangelization, faith, and conversion." - CCC 1072

1. PRAY INTENTIONALLY AND SPECIFICALLY

- ✠ Prayer is always our first step (we all need this reminder sometimes)
- ✠ Pray specifically for the conversion or (re-version) of any parishioners who might be re-engaging with your parish for the first time in a while
- ✠ Pray for those parishioners who are now disconnected from us because of the suspension of mass

2. KEEP IT PERSONAL

- ✠ Set up a phone-a-thon to have parish staff or volunteers call every parishioner to check in and see how they are doing. Ask if they have any immediate needs, ask them for prayer intentions (and pray on the phone with them)
- ✠ Let parishioners know about your digital presence and schedules
- ✠ Validate parishioner contact information. (Email, address, household members, etc...)

3. LEVERAGE TECHNOLOGY BEYOND STREAMING MASS

- ✠ Send Daily or Weekly messages of hope on Social Media
- ✠ Preach the Kerygma! Let's get back to the basics - Do your parishioners know the core Gospel message. For training and resources on presenting the Kerygma - email brianmiller@archstl.org
- ✠ Livestream Prayer services, Stations of the cross, adoration, praise and worship and more
- ✠ Host a "Bother the Father" facebook/youtube live - answering questions from parishioners

4. CREATIVELY OFFER THE SACRAMENTS

- ✠ Following the recommendations of the Office of Worship, find ways to bring Christ to your people such as: drive-thru confessions, neighborhood eucharistic processions (on foot or in a vehicle), drive-up parking lot adoration and more!

5. OFFER COMMUNAL FAITH FORMATION ONLINE

- ✠ Pick one series or program and ask the parish to go through it together. Formed.org is offering a free subscription for at least the next 30 days for the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Visit <https://leaders.formed.org/stlouis/> to sign up
- ✠ Additional free faith formation opportunities can be found at archstl.org/missionary-discipleship

6. ONLINE SMALL GROUPS

- ✠ Encourage parishioners to use zoom, or google hangouts to continue to meet online, to share the faith, and walk together through this time. They can reflect on the Sunday Readings,
- ✠ Invite Parish leaders and staff to participate in REVIVE leadership formation. They have made their online learning modules free for three months. <https://reviveparishes.com/3monthsfree/>

7. THE DOMESTIC CHURCH

- ✠ Encourage and empower parents as teachers of the faith (Not just the math & science homework)
- ✠ Invite parents to set up a daily prayer routine at home (Rosary, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Intercessory prayer etc..)

8. DONT' FORGET THE KIDS

- ✠ Kids have lots of fears and anxieties during this time too. A video message just to the children of your parish can help comfort them and give them hope. Kids love their priests!
- ✠ If you offer something for kids, the parents will often watch too. It's a great opportunity to re-propose the basics of the faith.

9. RE-PURPOSE THE BULLETIN

- ✠ Our weekly bulletins are full of events. If you're still offering a bulletin at your parish for pickup or online viewing, fill it with faith formation articles or creative ways to help educate your flock on the Catholic faith.

10. ESTABLISH ONLINE OFFERTORY

- ✠ FaithDirect and LPI are offering free services for new and existing parishes. Other approved vendors may soon be doing the same.
- ✠ If you're not yet set up for online offertory, please contact Dave Baranowski for assistance and approved vendors - davidbaranowski@archstl.org
- ✠ If you would like assistance in crafting sensitive and appropriate language to help demonstrate your need in this time, we'd love to help.

Don't walk alone! The staff of the Evangelization & Discipleship Department is here to help. Reach out for assistance with these ideas or any other area.

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