

ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH

St. Thomas More Church

St. Veronica Chapel

INVITE JESUS INTO YOUR
HOME AND HEART

worship with us
remotely
stthomasmoreri.org

MASS SCHEDULE

Daily Mass - 9am

Sunday Mass - 10am

*From our website homepage, click the blue button "watch live"
to watch mass live or archived.*



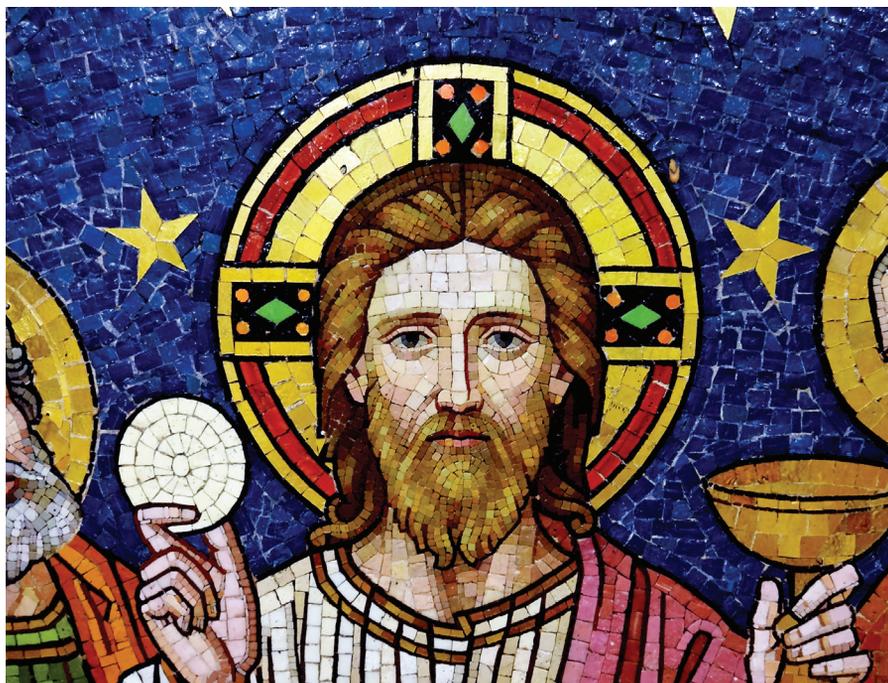
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Print this page to have at home.

What should Catholics do when they cannot attend Holy Mass?

Catholics are encouraged to make a 'spiritual communion'.



Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

How do I make a Spiritual Communion?

Below are recommendations for how to make a 'spiritual communion' when unable to participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. These are only recommendations and can always be adapted based upon personal needs.

- Gather with others in your household and begin a time of prayer with the sign of the cross.
- Take time to read and reflect upon the readings from Sunday Mass. The readings are available at uscgb.org and a Sunday Gospel reflection can be found at the same website or during Lent at dioceseofprovidence.org
- Share prayer intentions quietly or aloud.
- Pray the Lord's Prayer.
- Pray one of the following prayers of spiritual communion (see below).
- Close with the sign of the cross.

Act of Spiritual Communion by St. Alphonsus Liguori (A.D. 1696-1787)

My Jesus, I believe that Thou art present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love Thee above all things and I desire Thee in my soul. Since I cannot now receive Thee sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though thou wert already there, I embrace Thee and unite myself wholly to Thee; permit not that I should ever be separated from Thee.

Act of Spiritual Communion

O Immaculate Queen of Heaven and Earth, Mother of God and Mediatrix of every grace: I believe that Thy dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, is truly, really, and substantially contained in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love Him above all things and I long to receive Him into my heart. Since I cannot now receive Him sacramentally, be so good as to place Him spiritually in my soul.

O my Jesus, I embrace Thee as One who has already come, and I unite myself entirely to Thee. Never permit me to be separated from Thee. Amen.

Act of Spiritual Communion

As I cannot this day enjoy the happiness of assisting at the holy Mysteries, O my God! I transport myself in spirit at the foot of Thine altar; I unite with the Church, which by the hands of the priest, offers Thee Thine adorable Son in the Holy Sacrifice; I offer myself with Him, by Him, and in His Name. I adore, I praise, and thank Thee, imploring Thy mercy, invoking Thine assistance, and presenting Thee the homage I owe Thee as my Creator, the love due to Thee as my Savior.

Apply to my soul, I beseech Thee, O merciful Jesus, Thine infinite merits; apply them also to those for whom I particularly wish to pray. I desire to communicate spiritually, that Thy Blood may purify, Thy Flesh strengthen, and Thy Spirit sanctify me. May I never forget that Thou, my divine Redeemer, hast died for me; may I die to all that is not Thee, that hereafter I may live eternally with Thee. Amen.



Prayer to the Most Holy Redeemer (Anima Christi)

Soul of Christ, sanctify me. Body of Christ, save me. Blood of Christ, embolden me. Water from the side of Christ, wash me. Passion of Christ, strengthen me. O good Jesus, hear me. Within thy wounds hide me. Never permit me to be parted from you. From the evil Enemy defend me. In the hour of my death call me. And bid me come to thee, that with your saints I may praise thee for age upon age. Amen.

Prayer to our Lord Jesus Christ Crucified

Behold, O good and loving Jesus, that I cast myself on my knees before you and, with the greatest fervor of spirit, I pray and beseech you to instill into my heart ardent sentiments of faith, hope and charity, with true repentance for my sins and a most firm purpose of amendment. With deep affection and sorrow I ponder intimately and contemplate in my mind your five wounds, having before my eyes what the prophet David had already put in your mouth about yourself, O good Jesus: They have pierced my hands and my feet; they have numbered all my bones (Ps. 21: 17-18).

**Roman Catholic Diocese of Providence - Office of Divine Worship -
One Cathedral Square - Providence**

Links to additional resources are available on our website under Spiritual Communion.



St. Thomas More Parish counts on your prayers and support and we truly appreciate your continued generosity during this difficult time.

Giving is easy:

1. visit faithdirect.net
2. create a free account
3. use parish code: RI147
4. choose how you want to give

Your donations can be one-time, weekly or monthly and can be easily monitored by you any time at faithdirect.net.

Live streaming the Mass more vital than ever

R.I. parishes 'go LIVE' as pastors stream Mass to homebound during coronavirus crisis



Many parishes throughout the Diocese of Providence are offering live streaming Masses in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, following Bishop Thomas J. Tobin's directive that all public Masses be suspended in the Diocese of Providence until further notice. Pictured is a screenshot from LIVE Mass this past weekend: Father John C. Halloran at St. Thomas More Church, Narragansett.

BY LAURA KILGUS, ASSISTANT EDITOR

PROVIDENCE — In the midst of growing concerns over the coronavirus (COVID-19), locally and around the world, and now following Bishop Thomas J. Tobin's directive that all public Masses be suspended in the Diocese of Providence until further notice, pastors are proving that technology will assist in bringing people spiritually closer to each other and to God as members of the same Body of Christ during this unchartered time in the Church.

This past weekend, many pastors throughout the state made preparations so that Catholics could connect with their parish through high speed connections at home — live streaming the celebration of Mass over the internet and onto the screens of the faithful.

Many parishes have offered this important service for years for the homebound, for those in the military wishing to join their family for Mass from across the world, and even in the case of dangerous blizzard conditions. Now, as the faithful are asked not to gather in person in order to prevent the spread of the virus, live streaming the Mass is more vital than ever.

On Sunday, Father Adam Young, pastor of St. Paul Church in Cranston, set up a live stream of a Mass he offered via the parish Facebook page that logged close to 200 viewers throughout the Mass. "It was moving for me to know that we still prayed together as a parish family even though we were separated physically," Father Young said. "People were typing their responses to the Mass in the comment section of the livestream. Our bond with Jesus in the Eucharist and each other was very tangible. People desire to glorify God, especially through the Mass. I am happy that in the midst of this time of sacrifice, Mass online can give at least a little comfort. Many parishioners sent me pictures afterward of their family gathered around the computer screen to pray along with us at church. I will continue to livestream a private Mass at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday until the quarantine is lifted so that our parishioners and anyone who wishes will be able to pray along."

In Tiverton, Father Jay Finelli, pastor of Holy Ghost Church, celebrated Mass for those at the parish, but saved a virtual seat for those watching from home. His live stream, now archived, has since seen close to 600 views. Many grateful for the opportunity to watch from home wrote comments including, "Thank you, Father. A great gift;" "Thank you so much for thinking of the home bound." "Truly a blessing!"

At St. Patrick Church in Providence, Masses in both Spanish and English were offered on the web as well as in person last weekend. Father Nicholas P. Smith, senior priest, offered many comforting words and offered up the Mass for all those who are fearful.

"It's amazing to me that in a world that seemingly cannot agree on anything, it is so united on its reaction to the coronavirus presently sweeping its way through all of the nations including ours — We are united worldwide in fear. But because we are united we are able to deal with that fear so much better. The pandemic like we are experiencing can scare us at our very roots. We are forced to live without things that we take very much for granted and never thought that we could live without. Things like sports, entertainment, maybe even household goods that are no longer available. We all have adjustments to make for the absence of those things. I'm confident we will manage that well. The deeper issue is that we are all social beings. We need one another for life to go on with any measure of peace and harmony."

Father John Codega, pastor of St. Brendan Church said that on a normal weekend, the parish may have about 30 viewers. This past weekend, there were about 300 total of the three Masses livestreamed online. "I know a number of families that brought computers or other devices to their elderly parents, so they could watch our live Masses," said Father Codega. "And I made sure to reference the 'viewers at home' a couple of times during the Mass to make them know that they were part of our community. Just before the distribution of Holy Communion, I reminded them that it was not a time to get up and go to the refrigerator for a snack, but perhaps a time to make a spiritual communion with their families at home — to stay in their living rooms and pray together in silence for a few minutes." Given Bishop Tobin's latest directive, Father Codega will celebrate the 5 p.m. Mass live.

St. Thomas More Church and St. Veronica Chapel Masses from this past weekend received nearly 1,300 total views. Father Marcel Taillon, pastor, said that his professional streaming service "has changed everything." The Narragansett parish will continue to offer a streamed Mass on the weekend as well as weekday celebrations at 9 a.m. "It's a virtual family of liturgy," said Father Taillon. "It helps people not feel so isolated. It's an amazing gift we have to connect with people. They watch their own priest, they see their friends and family members. It's very, very personal. We have a funeral at the parish and just the family will come, but friends will be able to watch online." Father Taillon said that he and Father John C. Halloran, pastor emeritus, have been receiving emails from people watching their parish live stream from around the country, even as far as Alabama. He shared that he received a touching email from a woman living in Vermont, who due to many health issues, cannot attend Mass in person. "She found out that we were live streaming and said she didn't know she could do this. It was very moving. We've received lots of positive feedback."

Father Taillon said that now is a time for spiritual charity — to pray for those who are ill and for those who care for the sick. He also encouraged people to not watch the news 24-7, but instead seek spiritual resources, such as the parish mission available online. As stressful as the current pandemic may feel, Father Taillon says the world should not give up hope, and he is confident that a lot of good will come from this situation, especially during this season of Lent. "I think this could be the best Lent we have ever had. We just have to not be afraid. It's a time for prayer. We are all on this cross with coronavirus. It is about not leaving Jesus at the cross. There is a virtual community out there, but we need God. He can use technology to bring about some kind communion. I am so grateful that people can still pray with us."