



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE *of* ORANGE



# 50 CREATIVE IDEAS

FOR PARISHES DURING THE COVID-19

PARISH "LIFE" AND THE COMMUNITY ARE IMPORTANT AND NEEDED MORE THAN EVER.

## WE NEED SOCIAL DISTANCING BUT NOT SOCIAL ISOLATION

- CHURCHES NEED TO ENSURE TO BE PRESENT FOR EVERY PERSON IN THEIR PARISH ESPECIALLY THE MOST VULNERABLE. BELOW IS A LIST OF SOME PRACTICAL IDEAS FOR PARISHES TO ENGAGE FAMILIES AND PARISHIONERS DURING THE ABSENCE OF LIVE MASSES AND IN-PERSON CATHOLIC EVENTS AT PARISHES.

THE HIGHLIGHTED IDEAS HAVE BEEN THE MOST POPULAR.



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# CALLING/MESSAGING/ TEXTING

## CALL/TEXT

1. Specific parishioners asking people to call other parishioners
2. Every parishioner asking them for prayer requests - and write down all these prayer requests on a prayer wall in the vestibule
3. **Every parishioner and ask them for a picture of their families (you can update emails AND get a picture to put in your vestibule or your pews)**
4. Every parishioner and ask them (help them) to set up online giving.
5. Parishioners whom are elderly and may need someone to talk to them
6. Parishioners to ask if they need something, or if they can help with something.
7. Parishioners who are young families (check baptisms records) and ask if they need formula, diapers, etc...
8. Through calling, phone tree, flocknote, phone app or text message
9. Share a message from the pastor for the day, the week etc.
10. Share a prayer request of your parishioners (especially if anyone is affected by COVID-19)
11. Give updates on confession times, live adoration online or when mass will resume at your parish



### i. Practical Considerations

- a. Consider messaging/calling at various times throughout the day to find the sweet spot for specific families with kids, seniors, teenager etc.
- b. When possible include a comment about tithing and giving to your parish so that ministry efforts can continue





# MODELING OF IN HOME FAITH PRACTICES

## THROUGH VIDEO OR A WRITTEN EMAILED RESOURCE

### 11. How to create prayer space in your home

12. How to make time to pray as a family around a meal

13. How to pray as a family at various times (ie. Morning, noon, 3 o'clock prayer to the divine mercy, Evening or at Night etc.)

14. How to pray the Rosary, Litanies, Divine Mercy Chaplet

15. How to receive spiritual communion

### 16. How to prepare to attend mass virtually

17. How to read Scripture (ie. readings of the day, liturgy of the hours, lectio divina)

18. How to share about faith when watching online videos, movies etc.

19. How to worship as a family using online music, having worship/cantor lead worship

20. How to discover the in-depth story of the saint of the day (ie. learn everything about their lives through digging online and working as a family to find more prayers, images, stories)

### Practical Considerations

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- When possible resources should be offered in both written and video format
  - Consider finding parishioners who can translate to various languages or have an interpreter for ASL
  - You can ask families who are already doing this well to model and showcase, so you don't have to do it yourselves and families are sharing and witnessing to their faith





# ONLINE/VIRTUAL GATHERING

21. Lead online/virtual Bible Studies & Bible Reflections
22. Lead online/virtual Stations of the Cross
23. Gather to discuss topics of faith or for an open forum discussion
24. Host a movie night with some discussion afterwards (host a Netflix party)
25. Gather online for Liturgy of the Word or Liturgy of the Hours
26. Gather to play catholic trivia or faith jeopardy
27. Gather to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet or the Rosary together
28. Gathering to spend some time singing and praying in front of the Blessed Sacrament
29. Gathering to worship and pray with music and song
30. Gathering to hear a reflection from Pastor/Parochial Vicar or Deacon of the Parish

## Practical Consideration

- o When possible resources should be offered in both written and video format to support the various families, different ages needs
  - o Consider and discern the various age groups that exist and for some of these - you may need to be selective and specific
  - o Consider finding leaders, speakers who can translate or speak in various languages or have an interpreter for ASL
  - o Consider creating a prayer challenge - 10,000 Rosaries, Hail Mary's or Our Father's
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# ONLINE VIRTUAL SHARING

## 31. Share testimonies of priests, deacons, lay leaders and parishioners - put them online for people to see

32. Share your favorite Saint quote or favorite saint story.

33. Sharing prayers, litanies, reflections, commentaries about your patron Saint/parish Saint

34. Share your favorite worship song or catholic song, etc.

35. Share prayers needs, concerns, fears or worries

36. Share blessings of your day, your family, your situation

37. Share favorite movie with good message (catholic or non-Catholic movies)

38. Create a co-op forum for parishioners and your local community and allow people to share or trade goods and possibly even services (with all and as many precautionary and preventative measure in place)

39. Create some baskets with prayer cards, tissue box, wipes and have the priests drop it off at some families' homes - the sharing and dropping off at people's doorsteps can be shared online.

40. Utilizing your electronic bulletin could be a great way to share these last point, request the bulletin company to print fewer copies and focus on hopeful, catechetical and evangelizing content.



## Practical Considerations

- When doing this sharing, discern and consider when to share in "real time" or do a "prerecorded material"
- You can ask the community to assist you with extra things or have them send you money to buy extra materials and serve the most vulnerable. (Most important needs in families lives - food, medicine and basic necessities)
- Consider creating a "sharing your testimony page" and as clergy and staff share their testimonies, families, young adults and teens can share, too





# OUTREACH IDEAS

41. Create a page on your website or using social media to support needs and those who can help
42. As all the other connections are being made, calls, check ins, etc., be sure to capture the needs and respond...and be sure to respond in some way, even with a follow up call if you're still figuring it out!
43. Coordinate volunteer groups at parish level: St Vincent de Paul Conference (or other parish service outreach group), Knights of Columbus Council, Movimientos apostólicos, prayer groups, etc. Consider forming a team at your parish who can coordinate receiving calls, documenting needs, and then responding/connecting to resources (those 65+ can do connection online, via phones, coordinate and those under 65 can do the same, plus do some of the ground outreach within CDC drop off guidelines, etc.
44. Young Adults: This is a time to put out a call to those who are under 65 healthy and able, within the **CDC and local guidelines**, to do outreach, connect with current parish ministry leaders for mentoring and training (E.g., one parish's SVDP is moving from pick up food distribution to package and hand out to cars, having young adults assist)
45. Redeploy staff and volunteers no longer needed in other areas that are 'paused'/'suspended' to reach out and connect to those isolated and in need.
46. Invite new volunteers to reach out to St Vincent de Paul Chapter or other parish Service/Outreach to be trained and geared up to assist with the increased needs.
47. Parish food pantries are an excellent supply line to parishioners in need. Keep these open and functioning - again, within CDC/Drop Off guidelines, etc. - so your parish can help meet the guidelines
48. Please remember those who were vulnerable before this outbreak are now even more so, especially those already isolated, shut ins, those who are homeless, migrants, hungry, in prison, trafficked, victims of violence, etc.
49. Demand for help for home-bound parishioners each with services, particularly food delivered safely by Knights of Columbus and other volunteers.
50. Remind and encourage all parishioners to fill out Census 2020 online and by mail. Go to [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov) to start today! The public is welcome to telephone Census Questionnaire Assistance for support in multiple languages. Please find the telephone numbers here: [Click here](#). For more on how the Diocese of Orange is participating, go to [rcbo.org/census2020](https://rcbo.org/census2020)





# QUICK RESOURCE LIST

- Check out video resources - [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org) | [www.odbfilms.org](http://www.odbfilms.org)
- Visit [www.Savior.org](http://www.Savior.org) for livestream of Eucharistic Adoration
- [Hallow](#) - Prayer App
- [M3 Catholic Website](#) - daily reflections, podcast, print resources
- Article - [The One thing every catholic should do \(besides pray\)](#).
- Online Faith Formation from Ignatius Press and Midwest Theological Forum
- Here is a link to free MAGNIFICAT missals to follow the Mass from home: They have made their online version of MAGNIFICAT temporarily available for free: [www.magnificat.com/free](http://www.magnificat.com/free). Free temporary access is also available in Spanish: [www.magnificat.com/gratis](http://www.magnificat.com/gratis).
- [Adaptation of the Ignatian EXAMEN for Life During COVID-19](#)
- YouTube Channels to follow, watch, learn:
  - [Bishop Robert Barron](#)
  - [Catholic Answers](#)
  - [Ascension Presents](#)
  - [EWTN](#)
  - [Ave Maria Press](#)
  - [OCP Music](#)
  - [Magis Center](#)
  - [Catholic Relief Services](#)
  - [Augustine Institute](#)
  - [The Skit Guys](#)
- Resources for Parents and Students at Home
  - [What to do with Kids at home!](#) (Holly Taylor Coolman and Anna Cate Keating)
  - Article - [List from Catholic Mom](#) to survive and thrive during being quarantined
  - [Weekly Mass Resources for Kids](#) (When Attending Mass Isn't Possible)
  - [CRS Lenten Rice Bowls](#) - Videos, Topical Discussions, Questions to reflect and pray
  - Here are [450 Ivy League courses](#) you can take online right now for free
  - Entire [NASA Media Library](#) publicly accessible and copyright free
  - [Google 360-degree virtual tours of US National Parks](#)
  - [15 Broadways Plays and Musicals](#) you can watch on stage from home
  - [12 Museums who offer virtual tours](#) from the comfort of your home
  - [30 Virtual Field Trips](#) you can today



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