

WELCOME IDEAS (while in pandemic mode) (updated July 1, 2020)

Since gathering is different for each parish, the ideas below may apply to all members. If you are creating videos or doing online streaming, how will the clergy welcome new people?

- Build a one-stop-shop of digital church resources. Consider things like pledging, coffee hour, worship, prayer requests, and the bulletin.
- Now that communities rely on the internet to reach people, ensure your welcome portion of your website is very clear.
 - Highlight an online guest card at the top of your website, and follow up on guests in a timely manner.
 - Publish specific details about how people can get to know others virtually.
 - Ex: Zoom small groups, pastoral care over the phone, etc.
 - Provide contact information on church leadership and clergy.
 - Feature pictures of parishioners that capture your congregation's vitality and character. And when appropriate, do so in your online service. (Example: photos of parishioners for the passing of the peace or the processional).
 - Provide digital resources and virtual worship in all commonly used languages used in your community. For example, Spanish and English virtual worship and online visitor cards).
- Partner with community organizations to utilize the church building to offer social services or other aid.
 - If the church building is being used for social services by community partners, use digital greetings from church members and staff to welcome them.
- Create lighthearted yet vulnerable music experiences. For example, the rector singing a song during the musical prelude.
- Provide, by delivery or mail, any supplies necessary for virtual Sunday School lessons.
- Identify leadership to follow up with all newcomers in the past year to make sure they feel welcome and able to access online services.

Liturgy: When planning for online worship, remember you may have visitors worshipping with you.

- Maintain or build your greeter ministry online, welcoming people as they join a live feed.
- Consider using more straightforward content in the liturgies (familiar hymns, common prayers that can be found in the BCP).
- Reference the page numbers where prayers/readings can be found throughout worship or split the screen and post the readings/prayers on-screen; have a bulletin available for print & reference it orally during the welcome and announcements.
- If the services includes multiple clergy or other service participants in the same space, model CDC distancing recommendations (spacing, number of people, etc.).
- Save live-streamed worship services to your Facebook page, Youtube channel, or website for later viewing.