

# Virtual Ministry Engagement

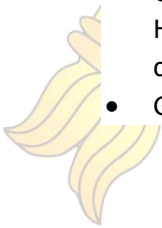


While social distancing prohibits us to congregate physically, as you know, technology has allowed us to congregate virtually through livestreamed Masses, etc. Why not take that one step further? We encourage the parishes to have their ministries, parish groups and leaders to stay engaged through the use of technology. See some ideas below:

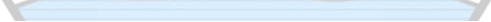
## 1) ENCOURAGE SMALL GROUP LEADERS TO USE FACEBOOK GROUPS, GOOGLE HANGOUT, ZOOM MEETING, SKYPE OR OTHER ONLINE MEETING TOOLS TO CONTINUE TO MEET.

Many people are already using these tools in professional settings, so it wouldn't be a stretch to use them for small group gatherings.

## 2) TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHOWCASE MINISTRIES

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- Livestream small group and parish meetings (such as a Bible study group, prayer group or small group)
  - Continue recurring parish meetings through a conference call or video calls (e.g. Google Hangouts, GoTo Meeting, Zoom). Even if events are canceled, personal and spiritual check-ins can continue.
  - Great time to reassess ministries and have the ministries meet virtually to discuss:
    - Review your mission and vision statements
    - How are you serving your parish community and/or the Church?
    - How can you better serve your parish community in this time of need?
    - Ministries submit their vision, goals, etc. to the pastor for approval
  - Offer a Livestream preset Ministry Hour showcasing the different ministries
    - Set a specific time, daily/weekly depending on how many ministries
    - Assign a set date and time for each ministry
    - Make sure to announce the Ministry Hour and the ministry being showcased at Mass, webpage, social media to encourage involvement

## 3) CREATE SPECIAL VIRTUAL EVENTS

- You could also host "streaming parties" to encourage them to gather and interact with others in the area.
  - Consider inviting them to join you virtually for coffee.
  - Schedule time to meet virtually outside of your regularly scheduled Masses and services. Be sure to announce the meeting date and time during Mass, on the website, social media, etc. to invite people to connect.
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I know everyone is doing what they can to engage their parishioners. The purpose of the weekly parish engagement tips is just to provide ideas on ways to further engage. Each parish is different and has different resources available; however, every parish has an opportunity to engage their parishioners in some way, if not many ways, during this time of pandemic. I pray the information we are sharing is helpful. If we can do anything to assist you, please feel free to contact me at any time.

