Renew & Reconnect in Person

Parish Resources
God our Father, in your loving providence you have brought us into being to find joy in communion with one another and to know you in our joy.

We give you praise and thanks for this communion we share as members of the Body of Christ, your Son. We give thanks for each member of the Body particularly in our own parish communities, for friend and stranger, for the lucky and the unlucky, for the ones on the fringes and for those near the center.

Fill us, we pray, with the Spirit of your Son. Give us confidence as you call us to build up the Body of Christ. Help us to see in our everyday lives the moments and opportunities for caring and confirming and reconciling. Bless us with the patience to overcome frustration and with hope as we journey together.

We ask this with confidence in the love you have shown us through Christ our Lord. Amen.
Introduction
Parish Life During the year of COVID-19

A year of

- Disruptions
- Loss
- Social Isolation
Re-engaging from Digital to In Person Attendance

Mass Attendance in the Diocese of Saginaw

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Mass Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>27,599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>26,397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>13,533</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Question: What is the estimated mass attendance for 2021?
We understand that you have been attentive to the needs of your parishioners throughout this difficult time, so please use only what is helpful in the materials that follow.
Points to Consider

- People won’t all just come back on their own. Frequent, reassuring invitations are necessary.

- Take time to prayerfully & intentionally plan, building on the good from the past year.

- Recognize and communicate that plans are fluid & flexible.
It’s okay to make adjustments as we go
Setting the Foundation for Parish Renewal Post-COVID

- Get People back to Mass
- Grow your Parish
  - Reach more young people
- Build Stronger Community
- Start a new ministry program
- Inspire vocations
- Renovate your facilities
- Increase School Enrollment
- Increase Volunteers
- ?
- ?
- ?

**What we will talk about**
## BIG PICTURE TIMELINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pre-COVID</th>
<th>Making the best of it</th>
<th>Vision</th>
<th>Plan</th>
<th>Commemorate &amp; Celebrate</th>
<th>New Normal</th>
<th>Renewal and Growth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- **Pre-COVID**
- **Making the best of it**
- **Vision**
- **Plan**
- **Commemorate & Celebrate**
- **New Normal**
- ** Renewal and Growth**
Critical Communications between you and your parishioners

● Touching base asking how people are doing? (e.g., phone calls)
  ○ What are the concerns about returning to Mass?
  ○ What “loss” have you experienced? (e.g., death of a loved one, not attending a funeral, delayed sacraments, lost a job, new physical impairments)

● All communications (homilies, letters, phone calls, bulletins, etc.) need to welcome parishioners back to Mass and parish activities in person

● “Sneak Peek” letter, Remembrance letter, Parish Update letter, State of the Parish letter
## Develop a Multiphase Plan

### PARISH RENEW AND RECONNECT IN PERSON

#### Sample Parish Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phases</th>
<th>PARISH MINISTRIES</th>
<th>COMMUNICATION FOCUS</th>
<th>KEY ACTIVITY/EVENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phase 1</strong></td>
<td>Continue live streaming Mass, continue pandemic protocols as discussed by your diocese &amp; local health officials</td>
<td>• Year-in-review (possibly Pastor state of the parish letter and mass letter), thank peeks at Renew and Reconnect in Person &amp; post-COVID, stewardship renewal message asking people to think about how gifts are being used.</td>
<td>Pastor and staff begin thinking about renew and reconnect in person, a mass celebration event. EVENT: Identify a meaningful time frame to serve as a grand celebration event e.g., Parish Saint’s Feast Day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phase 2</strong></td>
<td>Contact parish volunteers leaders to begin planning for reopening of the ministries</td>
<td>• Identify volunteers and ask them to reach out and welcome other parishioners to help. • Pastor handwritten notes to top supporters and volunteers, not forgetting those who have stepped forward during events. • Introduce the Renew and Reconnect in Person plan, timelines &amp; key activities flyer to parish. • Phone calls to every household to connect with and invite personally to the grand opening, to see the video or other resources. IDEAS: Video preparing parishioners for what Mass/activities may look like (e.g., no holy water or paschal not distributed).</td>
<td>Develop the parish’s Renew and Reconnect in Person plan (a series of events/activities to help parishioners celebrate, grieve, and reconnect with the parish community). EVENT: Ministry volunteer brainstorm on Renew and Reconnect in Person activities (e.g., candles for deceased, remembrance wall, book club, outdoor movie night, wedding rosary, nature walk, household projects for pickup, etc.) EVENTS IDEAS: Parish cleanup, campus maintenance, flower planting, cleanup of parish cemetery for memorial day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phase 3</strong></td>
<td>Various Ministries Resume in-Person</td>
<td>We’re back to normal. Events ideas:�� New capsule home or remembrance activity item drop-off.</td>
<td>Grand re-opening MAIN EVENT EVENTS of community: Hosting events of celebration such as: petting a child’s pet, scavenger hunt, outdoor movie night, turn in Holy Water font, procession with monstrance blessed Sacramento, Blessing of the Renewers/Priests. EVENTS of celebration: Parents night out, senior lunch, parish day of service: Thrus night, parish leadership &amp; volunteer dinner; events of remembrance: Rite of passage ceremony, bless a new statue, planting or memorial wall, lighting a candle to remember deceased, speaker about grief: Night of reflection with adaptation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phase 4</strong></td>
<td>Continue with regular parish liturgical events and mass.</td>
<td>Pastor state of the parish letter. Stewardship renewal (lens, Helen, awesome).</td>
<td>EVENTS IDEAS: Bring a friend to Mass = Saturday night social EVENTS IDEAS: Reconnection, Stewardship Activity fair, gifts inventory</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Phase 1

## PARISH RENEW AND RECONNECT IN PERSON

### Sample Parish Timeline

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</table>
| Phase 1                              | Continue live streaming Masses, continue pandemic protocols as directed by your diocese & local health officials | • Year in review (possibly Pastor state of the parish letter aka messy letter), sneak peek at Renew and Reconnect in Person & post-COVID, Stewardship renewal message asking people to think about how gifts are being used.  
• Lay testimonial message focusing on stewardship | Pastor and staff begin thinking about Renew and Reconnect in Person, a main celebration event.  
EVENT: Identify a meaningful time frame to serve as a grand celebration e.g. Parish Saint’s Feast Day |
## Phase 2

### PARISH RENEW AND RECONNECT IN PERSON

**Sample Parish Timeline**

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</table>
| Phase 2 | Contact parish ministry leaders to begin planning for reopening of the ministries | Identify volunteers and ask them to reach out and welcome other parishioners to help  
Pastor handwritten notes to top supporters and volunteers, not forgetting those who have stepped forward during COVID  
Introduce the Renew and Reconnect in Person plan, timeline & key activities flyer to parish  
Phone calls to every household to connect with and invite personally to the Grand-opening, to see the video or other resources  
IDEA: Video preparing parishioners for what Mass/activities may look like (e.g., no holy water or pews not separated) | Develop the parish's Renew and Reconnect in Person plan  
(A series of events/activities to help parishioners celebrate, grieve, and reconnect with the parish community)  
EVENT: Ministry volunteer brainstorm on Renew and Reconnect in Person activities (e.g., candles for deceased, remembrance wall, book club, outdoor movie night, walking rosary, nature walk, household packets for pickup, etc.)  
EVENTS IDEAS: Parish clean-up, campus maintenance, flower planting, cleanup of parish cemetery for memorial day |
## Phase 3

### PARISH RENEW AND RECONNECT IN PERSON

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<tr>
<td>Phase 3</td>
<td>Various Ministries Resume In Person</td>
<td>We’re back</td>
<td>Grand re-opening MAIN EVENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More comfortable than Phase 2</td>
<td></td>
<td>EVENTS IDEAS: time capsule item or remembrance activity item drop off</td>
<td>EVENTS of Community: Hosting events of celebration such as or combining a children’s fair, scavenger hunt, outdoor movie night, turning on holy water font, procession with monstrance Blessed Sacrament, Blessing of the Harvesters/ Harvest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mid-way update on the Renew and Reconnect, upcoming activities EVENTS IDEAS: Follow-up about the time capsule or remembrance memorial</td>
<td>EVENTS of Celebration: Parents night out, senior brunch, parish day of service, Trivia night, parish leadership &amp; volunteer dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>EVENTS of Remembrance: Time capsule ceremony, bless a new statue, painting or memorial wall, lighting a candle to remember deceased, Speaker about grief, Night of reflection with adoration,</td>
</tr>
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</table>
With COVID, gradual return no big momentous “victory”

Create that moment for parishioners that moment that is unique to your parish
## Phase 4

### PARISH RENEW AND RECONNECT IN PERSON

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</table>
| Phase 4                                | Continue with regular parish liturgical events and ministries | Pastor state of the parish letter  
Stewardship renewal (time, talent, treasure) | EVENTS IDEAS: Bring a friend to Mass + Saturday night social  
EVENTS IDEAS: Reconciliation, Stewardship Activity fair, Gifts Inventory |
The events AND prep/build-up should bring your community together

Participation Activities - Building Engagement (come to parish)

- Household Candles
- Gathering materials for Time Capsule of Household Experiences, Prayers
- Prepare household contributions to Remembrance Wall
- Decorate a tile for a Parish Mosaic
- Household Picture Digital Collage
- Seeds for a Parish Garden

Remembrance Events - Acknowledge & Process Loss

- Candles for the deceased
- Dedication ceremony for Time Capsule of Household Experiences, Prayers
- Dedicate Painting or Remembrance Wall
- Bless a New Statue
- Speaker about Grief
- Night of Reflection with Adoration
Big Celebrations Events Ideas
Additional Resources available

- DOS Sample Plan
- DOS Points to Consider - This lists the initial contacts for questions or help.
- Additional Resources list
- Calling for Prayers - Phone Script
- Stay tuned for:
  - Pastoral Letter - 2 templates
  - “Events in a box”
Thanks to Bishop Gruss, the cabinet, the diocesan staff, members of the Renew and Reconnect planning committee ... and YOU for helping us to make this better.
Please share any plans you may already have in place and any comments or questions.

What else do you need?