



Homecoming

**With the pandemic continuing to wane
and availability of boosters for adults and vaccinations for children 5-11,
we hope to see more and more people making their way
back to worship in person.**

Here are some strategies for parish leaders to help welcome everyone back to church for Christmas and in the New Year:

- **Be as hospitable and welcoming as you can be.** Greet those returning after a long absence with warmth and sincerity, without questioning their motives or timing.
 - Work with ushers, greeters, parish staff, and anyone else who greets parishioners in person so they present a welcoming face.
 - Make sure your website and all public communication conveys warmth and welcome.
- **Ensure that Mass times, office hours, and other important information is accurate** online, in email communications, and everywhere people may look. It's possible that Mass times have changed since last they came to Mass in the church building.
- If you suspended **Children's Liturgy of the Word** due to Covid-19, consider restoring it for one or more Sunday Masses. Communicate this broadly, inviting families with young children to join.
- Post a **video message from the pastor**, before or after the livestreams of Sunday liturgies, inviting people back to in-person worship (or at least an image).
 - Resist any urge to diminish the value of participation via livestreaming. Virtual participation has been important to many people during the pandemic and should be seen as a step towards physical participation. Livestreaming will remain a valuable pastoral tool for the sick, those unable to be in town for weddings and funerals, etc.
- Utilize the resources of the [TOGETHER initiative](https://www.catholicaoc.org/together) in your catechesis, preaching, communication, faith formation, and other parish efforts to help parishioners understand the importance of in-person worship, the centrality of the Eucharist in our lives, the importance of Sunday, and other important topics.

www.catholicaoc.org/together



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