

March 23, 2020

Dear Families,

Well we all made it through our First Sunday having to watch Mass from our homes. I hope it went well for ALL of You.

To be completely honest, this past weekend I was really dreading Sunday all day Saturday. I really just wanted to go to Mass like usual and the thought of Mass together in front of the tv sounded bad. But I decided to take the advice I had given to all of you; and had received from Priests and make the best of it. I printed the daily readings and the Spiritual Communion Prayer for the 4 of us. I decided we would watch Fr. Mike Schmidt's Live Mass at 10 a.m. I knew he would deliver an awesome homily and I might as well get something out of it. (I know not a good attitude!). I told my daughter she could not wear pajama pants or sweats. (which she thought would be a bonus to watching Mass on the couch!) I lit a few candles and gathered everyone into our living room.

The outcome: To my surprise it went very well. Yes. Fr. Mike did deliver a great homily (that was the frosting on the cake - as a previous parish priest once said to me)

So many things to be grateful for had come to mind:

1. The Catholic Church and her members (my son noticed it said there were over 17,000 others watching with us!) I prayed for the day all the Churches would be opened back up for public Masses.
2. The fact that the Catholic Mass is so routine - we knew exactly what to do;and once we got going - kneeling, standing, responding etc.. it just happened pretty naturally. I prayed that those who have left the Church would come back.
3. How fortunate I was to do this with my family. I prayed for all those who made the commitment to watch Mass this Sunday alone.
4. How fortunate I have been for all the times I have been able to go to Mass each Sunday and receive Jesus truly present in the Eucharist. I prayed I would never take it for granted again!
5. I am thankful for the gift of Faith and for all the priests I have listened to over the past few days pumping me up for this Sunday. I prayed for them.
6. I am thankful for all our priests who are saying Masses for our intentions and trying to hold us together during this unusual time for our Church. I especially prayed for Fr. Tim, St. Catherine Laboure and our families.
7. I am grateful I don't have to make these big decisions for my country or the Church. I prayed for our President and government officials and all our Bishops especially Bishop Boyea.

My list could go on as my mind was filled with gratitude and thanksgiving during and after this broadcasted Mass.

I like you have no idea what the future holds right now; and I am still crossing the days off my calendar and praying that there will be public Masses for us all to attend soon! I know the one thing I can do is make the best of these days by praying more and especially together with my family. There are so many people to pray for right now and there are so many things to be grateful for as well.

Keeping you all in my prayers,

Leslie Reagle
Director of Faith Formation