

May 13, 2000: Perseverance

Thank you to everyone who has let us know that you are tuning in to the Mass being posted on YouTube. And thanks for persevering! Most of what we have been able to do so far has been the product of trial and error. Each time we try there are errors. We go back and make adjustments and hope for the best, given that once Mass starts we have to push through to the end “as is.”

Live streaming the Mass is going to be one component of the life of the parish going forward, that much is sure. It’s already apparent that many parishioners will not be able to return to Mass until the medical reality of the pandemic is addressed more completely. There is still simply too much risk involved at the moment, even with adherence to CDC guidelines. It’s likely that the return to Mass for some parishioners is still many months away. And so, our current arrangement will have to give way to a more permanent response to that need, with better equipment and probably more effort being made in the moment to adjust to how things are actually being transmitted.

Terran, Kurt and I had the help of Tom Dinkel and Wade Winston yesterday evening as we set about making adjustments in the wake of last weekend’s experience. We already know that the experience this coming weekend will be an improvement, so thanks for sticking with it with us. Longer term we are already working out the details of what live streaming 2.0 will look like. We have applied for a grant from the Center for Congregations designed to help faith communities with needed technology upgrades, and we have a list for what components will be needed. Stayed tuned for further developments on this front.

Also, a word of thanks for the ongoing financial support we have been receiving. There has been some drop off in the total level of giving to the Sunday collection—that much we expected, given that there’s not a physical passing of basket—but the amount of the drop off has been much less than we thought it would be. What a relief that is!