

ENGAGING THE SPIRIT

Live streaming Mass expands reach of God’s message



BY VANESSA NEGRETE
Northwest Indiana Catholic

My eyes were closed as I listened to the second reading during Mass at the Pastoral Center a couple of weeks ago. A few sentences in, a ruckus interrupted the lector.

My focus was shattered by the sound of heavy objects hitting the ground and the ripping apart of Velcro straps. People gasped. Even though I didn’t see any of it, I knew what those sounds were and could picture how the drama unfolded.

I buried my face in my hands. After what felt like 10 minutes, but was more like 10 seconds, I opened my eyes. Yep. My live streaming equipment had collapsed. A co-worker was holding my phone, still in its tripod. A microphone cord was dangling and swaying from the ceiling like a jungle vine.

I walked over, took the phone and tripod and muttered, “This is a nightmare, right? I’m going to wake up soon, right?” as I sat back down. I could feel people staring sympathetically at me.

I closed my eyes again, knowing that if I looked up and saw the remains of the wreckage, I would either cry or laugh. Mass didn’t need another interruption.

Having said all that, I want to encourage you to live stream Mass at your parish.

Are you done laughing? Let me explain.

Actually, let me explain what live streaming is. Essentially, it is the process of recording a video, but the video plays live

and unedited. So everyone watching – whether that is on Facebook, YouTube, Twitter or one of the other platforms—can see what is happening as it happens.

We started live streaming weekly Mass semi-regularly about two years ago. The first video was recorded May 23, 2017. It lasted 12 minutes and 34 seconds before the Internet connection broke. I remember leaning my iPhone against a stack of song books on top of the piano in the chapel at the Pastoral Center. I tinkered with the angle to find the best shot.

After Mass, I reviewed the recording. I was blown away by the data. The number of views grew by the minute, eventually tallying more than 400. Our tiny chapel has room for 33, including the pianist and the Mass celebrant. Because of technology, we were able to reach more than 10 times as many people with that one video.

Over the months, we experimented with the filming location in the chapel and added a microphone. Someone even modified a small shelf so we can attach it to the wall when it is time to live stream. That way, the camera doesn’t record the back of a person’s head for a half hour.

We found our niche. Except for the one time when everything came crashing to the ground, the live stream has been pretty successful. Looking back, the failure was my fault. I was rushing and did not brace the phone properly and did not double check to see that the cords were secure.


We’ll return to live streaming the Masses on Facebook soon because I know how valuable it is to people who are physically unable to leave their home and to those who are on their lunch break and even to people who watch the recording later in the day.

A handful of Diocese of Gary parishes already stream Mass. Some have

been doing it for years. As we continue down this synod path and your focus turns to communication and evangelization, consider live streaming Mass at your parish. Call or email me and we can talk about the technical parts of making it happen. I have some advice on how to properly brace your equipment.


To tell us how your parish is following the Holy Spirit’s lead in this synod process, contact Vanessa Negrete at vnegrete@dcgary.org or 769-9292, ext. 246.






Katie,
Congratulations on your Bachelor of Science degree in music education from Ball State. We're so proud of you!

Love,
Mom and Dad




Class of 2019



Niko,
Congratulations on your graduation from BNI. We are all proud of you!

With love,
Mom, Tata, Gino,
& the Arredondo
& Alavanja families



Let Them Know How Proud You Are!

Preschool, elementary school, high school, trade school, military, college – someone you know is graduating this year.

Honor him/her with a “Great work, Graduate” ad in the May 26 issue of the Northwest Indiana Catholic. Included in this price, all congratulatory ads will also appear online at nwcatholic.com. For only \$28, we’ll publish your graduate’s photo and a short message – just like in the sample ads above.

Deadline is Noon, Tuesday, May 14

Enclose your graduate’s photo, name, and a message in the form provided below. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Send this, along with a check for \$28 to the Northwest Indiana Catholic, c/o Grads ’18, 9292 Broadway, Merrillville IN 46410.

Be Sure To Include Graduate’s Photo!

Your Message:

Enclose check for \$28, payable to NWI Catholic newspaper.
Please include self-addressed, stamped envelope so that we can return your photo!

Deadline: Noon, Tuesday, May 14

Email information and photo to: eciszczon@dcgary.org
Need more details or help? Call Erin Ciszczon at (219) 769-9292, x251

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