

PANDEMIC REPORT

This has been a year unlike one we've ever seen in our lifetimes with the pandemic forcing us to make many changes. Our parish was not immune to the shutdowns caused by COVID-19. But at Guardian Angels we have evolved and found new ways to connect during these unique times to keep our faith strong. In this report, you'll find many examples of how our faith community kept flourishing even when we could not be together in person. While our parish may have been physically closed, our staff never stopped working for you. GA is family! In times of a crisis, you need your family.

CELEBRATING MASS TOGETHER

Streaming Mass

The celebration of public Masses was suspended in March, when much of the country shutdown. Without knowing when we would be able to celebrate Mass in person together again, we were pushed to immediately make changes to connect with our GA families.

On Easter Sunday, we streamed our first ever live Mass. More than 1,000 households watched our live stream! We've continued to stream our Sunday 10am Mass each week on our YouTube Channel and Facebook page. We will continue to offer this until everyone feels safe returning to Mass. We regularly have hundreds of our GA households still joining us through this virtual option. You can find links to our social pages at the bottom of the parish website.



THANK YOU FOR CONTINUING TO GIVE!

Online Giving Became Crucial

We launched an online giving platform in October 2018. The move allowed our parishioners an easier way to set up one-time or recurring offertory gifts and to manage their own giving options themselves. This platform, called WeShare, was extremely useful when our parish was forced to shutdown. Our parish quickly moved to streaming platforms to make sure parishioners could still connect to Mass. WeShare allowed our parishioners to continue to financially support our parish community while we could not physically be together. We saw a dramatic increase in online donations, one-time and recurring, during March, April and May. Thank you! If you would like to setup an online donation, you can do so on our website: gaparish.org. Click on the popup that comes up on the homepage. If you have questions, or need help making changes to your account, please contact the business office at 513-624-8961.

KEEPING THE FAITH

First Holy Communion

Imagine our disappointment when our First Holy Communion, scheduled for May 2, 2020, was postponed! All of our 2nd grade students who had been preparing and eagerly waiting all year to receive our Lord were forced to wait a little longer. But then imagine our delight when our 53 angels received our Lord for the first time in June. It was a different celebration for sure, with only parents and siblings in attendance, but what a blessing for our children to finally join our parish at the table of the Lord for the first time and to be close to Him every time they receive Communion. Extended family and friends were able to watch our liturgy livestreamed and continued the celebration at home!



Confirmation

The Holy Spirit was not to be postponed this year and how blessed we are that 65 candidates received His gifts during the Sacrament of Confirmation! Because of social distancing guidelines, only parents and the candidate's sponsor could attend our liturgy. But we were lucky to be able to offer this Mass via livestreamed for those who could not join us in Church. May the Holy Spirit dwell in our hearts always and keep us strong in faith.

Camp GAudeo

We were thrilled to be able to still hold our middle school ministry camp June 22-26. New safety precautions were put in place, and field trips were cancelled, but we still had a meaningful spiritual week with 60 middle school students. Students met in small teams and engaged in fun activities such as powder paint wars, a giant slip-n-slide and other socially distanced activities. The week also include spiritual milestones including Scapular enrollment, a Eucharistic Procession, and more. We had 40 high school counselors volunteer throughout our camp week.



Virtual CCD Program

For the first time in decades, our on-campus CCD program was moved to a homeschool program. What a great opportunity to build up the Domestic Church and each family's faith! Families are provided with a textbook, weekly newsletter from the Religious Education office as well as monthly check-ins with a dedicated catechist. Even though we cannot meet in person this year, our CCD students are still active in learning more about their faith.

Easter Reflections

When the pandemic forced our churches to close, we were in the middle of Lent. Our staff quickly worked to find new ways to connect with families during this important time. We posted Easter Reflection videos on our Youth Ministry Instagram page and YouTube channel. Look for the return of at-home reflections during the coming Advent Season.



A SCHOOL YEAR LIKE NO OTHER



Virtual Schooling

When the pandemic forced schools to close, our students and teachers didn't miss a beat when it came to keeping our Angels learning. More online programs were put into place to connect families to the curriculum and created a virtual face-to-face connection between students and their teachers.



Drive Thru Graduation Parade & Ceremony

It wasn't exactly the ceremony we've had in previous years, but the 2020 graduates definitely had a memorable graduation like no GA grad before them! Since we couldn't gather as a large group in person, our school put together a graduation parade and drive-thru ceremony in our parking lot.



Guardian Angels School Parade

It was tough to tell who missed whom more - the teachers or their students! So on May 11th, all of the GA staff welcomed school families for a parade in the parking lot to see each other, even if for only a brief moment.

Social Media Outreach

We used our social media pages in ways we've never done in the past. This included honoring each 8th grade graduate individually on our Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter pages. Our teachers also created a Mystery Reader series to share stories with students when they could not be in class together. We even had a virtual Field Day on Instagram.



EVENTS CHANGE WITH THE TIMES



Guardian Angels Parish Festival

Our parish depends on the income from our annual festival to support many ministries on our campus. This year, that event - our largest fundraiser - had to be cancelled due to the restrictions on mass gatherings. However, all was not lost. Our Festival Committee managed to put together enough pieces of this annual tradition to pull off an amazing accomplishment. This years AngelsFest, with no physical event, raised more than \$71,000! That is almost the same profit we brought in last year with our regular event. The money raised comes from Bid-N-Buy, Major Awards, Sponsorships, and individual donations. Thank you to our festival committee members for all of their hard work and to our wonderful parishioners for their generosity!

Monster Mash on Wheels



Monster Mash has been an extremely popular parish event over the last few years. With restrictions in place on large events, our Monster Mash committee found a new way for our families to continue this tradition in 2020. They turned Monster Mash into a trunk-or-treat style event!

COMMUNICATIONS

Calls to Parishioners

This community is essential to the members within it so not being able to be together in person was such a huge loss. We know not everyone is connected virtually to us as a parish, either through our Mass streams, our social media pages, or are not on our email list. So we spent several weeks reaching out to parishioners not connected through electronic communication, we reach them by telephone. It's been a while since a good ole' fashion phone chain was used on campus! It was a great way for us to connect with our members to see if they needed anything during these unique times and ask for prayer intentions they could not request in person.

Email Communications Were Essential

We sent 16 emails from the beginning of March until the end of May to keep our parishioners informed of everything happening at GA during the pandemic. We've also added 360 people to our email list! If you are not on our email list, you will find a button to sign-up on the bottom of our parish website, gaparish.org. We email a parish newsletter each month.

We Managed To Stay Social

Social Media is a great way to find news, see pictures, and learn about upcoming events. You'll find Guardian Angels on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube. Links to all of those platforms are at the bottom of our parish website, gaparish.org.

OUTREACH

SVDP Pantry

We continued to serve our neighbors in Mt. Washington throughout the pandemic and continue to do so every Saturday morning here at GA, with some changes, of course. We are wearing masks, gloves and social distancing from our clients, but we are still able to serve their needs with food, toiletries and Kroger cards for perishable items. We are so blessed to have been the recipient of the parish's extreme generosity!

