

Maria Vose

College Sophomore

I am a lifelong parishioner at the Church of Annunciation in Cranston, RI. I graduated from Cranston High School West in 2019, and now attend Quinnipiac University in Hamden, CT. I plan to graduate in 2025 with my Doctorate in Physical Therapy. I am currently working as a Physical Therapy Aide which has given me a start in the physical therapy environment.



The Covid-19 Pandemic has been a true test to my faith. While viewing church services from home, there are many more distractions around you rather than the peace we feel while in our church. Recently, I have been tempted to stay in bed on Sunday mornings, go on my phone, or play with my dog instead of watching services. I have learned to overcome these temptations by telling myself that I should be attentive, and that all of those temptations will still be there after the service. While in church, there are not many distractions around us, so it is much easier to stay focused. Viewing services from home is just the opposite because rather than being in an environment that is peaceful, we are in an environment that is typically chaotic. Overcoming these distractions is difficult, but it has also shown me that my faith has grown stronger during this time.

Although many of us have struggled with staying connected to our faith throughout the pandemic, I do believe some good has come from it. Knowing that so many people watch the services from home, I believe many parishes will continue to stream services online for numerous reasons. One reason being that some parishioners may not be able to attend church. For example, some parishioners may not feel comfortable driving to church in harsh weather conditions such as during, or after a snow-storm. Rather than taking the risk to drive to church, they may feel safer watching the service from home. Other parishioners may not be able to attend services due to work obligations. This is especially true during this time for the front line workers. They may have to work on Sunday mornings, but if the services are streamed, they can visit the Facebook page later and watch the service when they get home.

In my own experience as a college student, there have been times when I wanted to go to church but I did not always have a ride. Under these circumstances, I would watch services that were live streamed. I would love to stream services from our own church in the future. While these conditions are not ideal and we have all been waiting to go back to church, I believe the Covid-19 Pandemic has had some positive impacts on the way we can worship in the future.