

[Background: Thomas Merchlewicz is a member of St. Anthony's in his mid-20s. He was diagnosed with cancer a few years ago and his courage, faith, and humor inspire many. The video was made by family members from all over the United States. As his mother Char says: "It made us smile, laugh, and cry ... faith in action for supporting Thomas."]

Click the link below to view the video:

[https://youtu.be/CxV\\_zV15tSw](https://youtu.be/CxV_zV15tSw)

Thank you for your email from the parish. It certain is unusual times for everyone on so many levels. Thomas is doing ok but certainly not feeling great. We are trying to find ways to bring happiness and surround him with what he loves. He loves family and needs them now but the pandemic has kept grandparents, aunts , uncles and cousins at a distance.

After Christmas I prayed so hard to have more time with our family together. The scans right after Christmas showed that could be challenging. Thomas has fought such a brave and courageous battle with patience and perseverance. He has been an inspiration to so many people including myself. He takes things in stride and does not complain or worry. I have learned so much from him.

While the pandemic is an awful unprecedented event in history it has given our family time together that wouldn't have been possible without it. Mark and I have been blessed to work from home right now while Thomas is at his greatest needs with cancer. Nicole would have struggled being in grand forks while her heart is here with Thomas and the sisters while the cancer is raging. In a strange way God has answered so many of our prayers with the gift of time together.

We are thankful for blessings at every turn and truly live as we are called with celebrating each day we are given. God has put the exact people and events into play for our son and family. We have very grateful hearts even the the pain and suffering.

Thanks for the opportunity to share our story of hope and look forward to hearing yours as well.

Love,  
Charlotte and Team Merk