



Lady of Lourdes Parish

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Dear Parishioners,

I am truly understanding that you not only miss attending Mass but missing Holy Communion is truly hard for you. Here is a thought that I am borrowing from Bishop Johnston who borrowed it from someone else.

Consider this that Jesus went into the desert or wilderness for 40 days and there he fasted. In some way perhaps our fast from the Eucharist is a way of uniting with Jesus in a significant way.

In the history of the Church similar situations have made it necessary to curtail the celebration of Mass and reception of the Eucharist. As recently as the worldwide spread of the flu (called the Spanish flu but which most likely really started at an Army training camp near Fort Riley in our neighborhood). Mass in many places around the world didn't take place.

Before I went to the Seminary, I spent 4 years as an enlisted Sailor in the Navy. During that time, I spent many days at sea without being able to attend Mass. There are several places in the world where mass is only celebrated once or twice a year.

Canon Law allows the Bishop to dispense from the obligation to attend Mass which most of the World's Bishops have done and for the Bishops to limit participation at Mass. Still I understand the ache to attend.

As a reminder this is the prayer for Spiritual Communion:

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

God Bless,

Fr. Dave