



St. Steven's Roman Catholic Church

*is faith-filled and welcoming, sharing the love of the Eucharist
in celebration of the Glory of God*

www.saintstevensparish.org

January 5, 2021

Dear Parishioners,

After prayerful consideration in light of the enormous leap in COVID-19 cases over Christmas and New Years and with Arizona now having the greatest number of COVID cases in the USA **and** in the world, we are again **suspending** public attendance at mass and closing the parish buildings. We will reevaluate the closing and provide an update by Monday, January 18th. **All daily and weekend masses will be streamed on YouTube® at their regularly scheduled times.**

The church is not exempt from the science of a pandemic. We exercise charity in acknowledging that, while Catholics are spiritually hardwired to seek the sacraments, especially in anxious times, what serves the common good is to consider the welfare of the whole community. Yes, I want access to sacraments; and I want the support of the community in faith. But there are other ways to do this besides gathering in a church building in these weeks when special caution benefits the world that God so loves.

Charity recommends we do what the saints did: enjoy "spiritual communion" until we have the privilege of the real thing. Mother Francis Cabrini took 37 sea voyages back and forth across the Atlantic during her missionary years. During those voyages, she and her sisters were without Mass or the sacraments for weeks or even months. She wrote often about this deprivation: "We believed we would arrive in time to celebrate the Feast of the Patronage of Saint Joseph; instead we have to spend it at sea, without Mass, without Communion.... Meanwhile, the view continually before our eyes, the work of the One whom we so much desire to receive into the small sanctuary of our souls, serves as preparation for a worthy Communion." (Alice Camille © 2020 - TrueQuest Communications, LLC. All rights reserved.)

We are reminded by our Bishop that during this Pandemic, those who make a Spiritual Communion at home while attending the mass virtually and uniting their hearts, minds and voices to the prayers of the mass, **truly receive the Eucharist.**

Be Healthy, Be Smart, Be Holy!

Blessings and Prayers,

480-865-9266 (phone)
480-895-9304 (fax)
24827 S. Dobson Road
Sun Lakes, AZ 85248

**ACT OF
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 into 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.

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