



Dear Friends,

You may already be aware of the recent decision by our Bishop, James V. Johnston, to lift the dispensation which has been in place for over one year. This dispensation has allowed Catholics to not attend Mass during our recent pandemic. Along with our Bishop, I am urging Catholics to return to church.

Many hundreds of our parishioners have returned to Mass, but many have not. It is time for us to make an examination of our conscience. If we are going to other places—supermarkets, pharmacies, big box stores and restaurants—but are not coming to Mass, it is time to get back to church. If our children have been going to school, participating in sporting events, and taking part in other activities but are not going to Mass, it is time to get back to church. No doubt, many of us have gotten out of the habit of attending Mass. Beginning this weekend, we recover our Catholic faith by coming to church every Sunday and, as it has always been, if we miss Mass, it is gravely sinful.

One of the passages which speaks to Catholics, maybe more than any other, is found in John's Gospel, chapter 6. "Unless you eat the Flesh of the Son of Man and drink his Blood, you have no life within you. But, the one who eats my Flesh and drinks my Blood has eternal life." The online "virtual body" and the "digital blood" will not do. In fact, it was never a substitute, it was simply a way to keep us connected in the midst of crisis. I pray that our absence has created a longing to be connected to Jesus in the Eucharist and to be connected to one another at Mass. We are a family, and some of our family members are absent.

This letter is a personal invitation to you to attend a banquet with unfathomable spiritual benefit for you and your families. Please come back to Mass and be with other believers around the Altar of God. We miss you.

With love and sincerity,



Father Rogers, Pastor

**(816) 453-2089 6415 NE Antioch Rd – Gladstone, MO 64119 [www.sataps.com](http://www.sataps.com)**