

November 12, 2021

Dear Parishioners,

This week, Archbishop Etienne reinstated the general obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation **starting December 8, 2021**, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. It has been almost two years since the pandemic started that many of us have not been able to attend Mass in person. I still remember when COVID-19 began, the governor restricted Masses to livestream with staff only. When we reopened with required reservations and limited capacity was reached, many of you really wanted to sign up to attend and even waited in the parking lot for a chance to get in. Your love for the Holy Mass and the reception of the Holy Eucharist truly touched me, and yet, our faith got stronger than ever. We need God, we need the sacraments, we need each other; we miss singing and praying together in the sacred worship space.

This week, the bishop states that it is time for us to come back, to receive the Eucharist, rebuild community life and renew your commitment to Sunday Mass, as he explains:

Receive The Eucharist: The Eucharist is the source and summit of our lives as Catholics, the “true food” that fuels our faith. In John 6:53, Jesus couldn't have said it any clearer: “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you.”

Rebuild community life — physical over virtual: We experience the presence of Christ in community, through physical gathering in a church building, the "house of God," dedicated to worship. We come together to receive the sacraments, which are physical signs of God's grace. Assembled physically and in community, we experience the presence of Christ in a much more tangible way than virtually.

Renew your commitment to Sunday Mass: Sunday has been kept holy as the Lord's Day since the Resurrection. As Catholics, Sunday is the day to celebrate Mass and receive the Eucharist in communion with the faithful. Take this opportunity to renew your commitment to attending Mass on Sunday and holy days of obligation.

As the bishop mentions in his letter, those who have a serious reason are exempt from attending Mass. Here at the communities of Our Lady of Sorrows and St. Anthony, livestreaming Mass on Sundays or on holy days of obligation will continue at 11:00 am on www.olos.org for those who have a serious impediment which prevents them from attending Mass. *Please stay home if you don't feel well; when gathering at church, wear masks, refrain from singing, and limit spending time together after Mass.*

For more information about this news and the bishop's video, please visit the diocese website: www.archseattle.org

Looking forward to seeing you all again. Welcome back.

In Christ,

Fr. Duc Nguyen
Pastor