

Dear Parishioners,

We have poured a lot of time into planning a Drive-in Mass for this weekend, but it appears those plans may not come to fruition. While we have permission from the governor to do drive thru spiritual services, and guidelines on how to do so, the Archdiocese has released a letter (this afternoon) expressing their concern that it presents “many obstacles that could compromise the integrity, sacredness, and reverence of our Catholic worship.”

Apparently, we need to wait yet a little while longer to be able to attend Mass. The most important thing for us as Christians, as Catholics, is to be present at the Mass. As Vatican II says, the celebration of the Mass is “the source and the summit of the Christian Life.” It is not even to receive Holy Communion, although obviously receiving Jesus is a tremendous gift. We see this in two of the five precepts of the Church. One precept is to attend Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation while another is to receive Holy Communion at least once a year during the Easter Season (CCC #2042). I think during this time, it is important to highlight that reality. When we attend Mass, we return to the foot of the cross where we recall Jesus death, that is, the pouring out of His great love for us! To do so every Sunday is to follow the 3rd Commandment, but also to place ourselves under the love God has for us. During this time, Archbishop Etienne and bishops all over the world, have dispensed the faithful from fulfilling that obligation.

Obviously, being present at the Mass and the reception of Holy Communion extend to us the strength we need, but I also know that the overabundance of God’s grace is open to us in many ways. There have been centuries where the faith has been passed down in countries where the Mass was not available to the people. Clearly this is not ideal, but it also created a great hunger within the hearts of those people for their participation in the celebration of the Mass and all the other Sacraments.

My desire is to be courageous and to give you access to the most important gift we have on the face of the earth. But I also must be obedient. I know that the Archbishop’s office is working with the governor’s office to try and open up freedoms for us in the Church, “especially the ability to gather (with appropriate safeguards) in the sacred space of the church.” Please pray for that to happen. I assure you we will take every precaution we can when it does happen.

For this weekend, Masses will continue to be offered livestream on Facebook and then later on YouTube. The links are found again on our parish website. <https://parish.saintbrendan.org/>

The Bishops of Washington State have also encouraged us to **collect signatures for referendum 90**. This referendum is an attempt on the part of members of our government to indoctrinate children from the age of Kindergarten with teachings which directly contradict our Catholic faith and the dignity of the human person. We are collecting signatures during the hours the church is open for private prayer. You can click on the link below to get more information about that referendum. It is a letter that was released by the Bishops of Washington State. <https://ststephenslife.com/documents/2020/4/r90CSHE042320Letter.pdf>

I am also providing a link to a homily which was given by Fr. Nagel at Holy Family in Kirkland. <https://www.hfkparish.com/media/1/21/knhom050320b.pdf>

Please know of my constant prayers for you, and the longing in my heart to be with you all once again!

In the peace of Christ,

Fr. Wichert