

Dear Parishioners,

I never thought that I would ever be using the phrase “fasting from Mass”

One of the true beauties of our faith is that it can provide a certain value to suffering. There is no doubt that many of us are truly suffering without being part of a community presence at Mass. We were made to be in communion with each other - and with Him.

**This hurts!**

At this particular moment in history, we look at why we are suffering. We suffer, we fast, for the sake of others. We suffer not being in the church and possibly spreading something we may not even be aware that we have been in contact with. We suffer not being in church because we love the most vulnerable among us. The last thing we want, the last thing Jesus wants, is there to be pain caused by my belief that my worship is more important than “the least of my brothers.”

We suffer the loss of the physical community but remember that it is for the sake of our community.

Jesus suffered on the cross for the sake of others (US!) That is real value. We tie our suffering to the suffering He endured and now our suffering has value.

My grandmother was fond of the expression to “offer it up.”

Jesus, I accept this suffering if You please alleviate the suffering of my child.

Jesus, I accept this suffering if You please alleviate the suffering of my spouse.

Jesus, I accept this suffering if You please alleviate the suffering of my parent.

Jesus, I accept this suffering if You please alleviate the suffering of my parish.

As always, even when we are not in the same building,

**WE ARE IN IT TOGETHER.**

God bless,

Fr. Holz

Please watch Mass on tv or on the internet – the Mass makes us who we are.

In my next communication I hope to focus not on what we can’t do, but rather what is still available to us.

Please hang in there.