



June 16, 2021

Dear Parish members of Holy Family (HF), McGregor, St. James (SJ) Aitkin and Our Lady of Fatima (OL) McGrath;

A very important message for all parishioners. The dispensation which removed your obligation to attend mass during Phase I and II of the Covid-19 pandemic has been lifted by the Church. Meaning that God's Commandment to "**Keep holy the Lord's Day**" now includes going faithfully to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass either to the Mass of anticipation on Saturday night at 5pm (SJ) or Sunday morning at 8am at (HF); Sunday morning at 10am at (SJ) or Sunday morning at 10am at (OL). As you know, breaking God's laws is a serious sin when and especially if it is done willfully. If it's through no fault of your own that you cannot attend mass (e.g. work, travel, sickness, hours of driving distance from a Catholic Church) then your moral obligation to keep the 3rd Commandment is changed and it is not a sin. This direction for lifting the dispensation goes into effect July 1st, 2021. I look forward to seeing you and yours back in Church. Please read the following from the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

*The Eucharist is the efficacious sign and sublime cause of that **communion** in the divine life and that **unity** of the People of God by which the Church is kept in being. It is the culmination both of God's action sanctifying the world in Christ and of the worship men offer to Christ and through Him to the Father in the Holy Spirit*

*Finally, by the Eucharistic celebration we already unite ourselves with the heavenly liturgy and **anticipate** eternal life, when God will be all in all*

*In brief, the Eucharist is the sum and summary of our faith: Our way of thinking is **attuned** to the Eucharist, and the Eucharist in turn **confirms** our way of thinking*

I do look forward to offering the Holy Sacrifice for you and celebrating with you. The Eucharist is the center-point of our Catholic faith and always has and always will be the most meaningful thing we can repeatedly do together and as individuals.

May God bless you and may Jesus Christ be praised!

Fr. David Forsman