

*Giving up chocolate would have been so much easier!*

A reflection on the article *Coronavirus, the Cup, and Cancellations* by Fr. John Christman, SSS

Never in my wildest imagination would I have ever thought I would give up Mass for Lent. And yet, that is in reality on what has happened. If we reflect on Lenten practices—whatever we choose—we are reminded that what is given up should be replaced by something good or better or that enhances our faith and commitment. How can that be possible if participating in the Eucharist is what has been given up?

Over the past two weeks I have not only contemplated—but experienced that possibility. In seeking ways of staying connected I explored a website: <https://mass-online.org/> Each day there are numerous choices for connecting to a live streamed Mass. I have been to several different places in the world. This has not only helped fill my thirst for Eucharist but it has also expanded my experience of Church as I join with others in their prayers for local as well as world-wide needs. This has enhanced my faith and commitment to prayer.

One of the homilies centered on the phrase: *where you are that is where God is*. Perhaps for this time of separation from the physical community we are being challenged to find church where we are. This stretching of our understanding of church is challenging. It also demands a much higher level of personal discipline and responsibility. So while we stay connected to our own parish community maybe the Lord is asking us to embrace a broader, world community. Giving up chocolate would have been so much easier!

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