

Dear Friends,

This morning after the 8:30 Mass, a bunch of us went to breakfast, as we usually do on Tuesdays. Before Mass ended, though, I announced that I was going to ask everyone a question and record their answers. I did this because I wanted them to help me write my bulletin letter.

Daily Mass attendance has gone down a lot lately. I know a couple of people have gotten sick, and one parishioner moved away. But attendance is way down. So, this was the question I asked everyone at the breakfast table: "Why do you enjoy going to daily mass?" Here is how they answered:

*"I think it's a nice way to start the day and it sets the tone for the rest of the day for me... a prayerful tone, you're quiet, you're thinking about our Lord, it's a quiet time to put yourself together."*

*"I enjoy receiving the Eucharist in the morning, it's not only satisfying and nurturing, it gives me a strength and a courage to get through my day. It makes me feel better capable to handle whatever comes up that day."*

*"I enjoy going to Mass in the morning because I need to, and I need the Lord in my life, and I thank him for that. We can be there for each other and it's been very uplifting for me, and hopefully for Him too."*

*"I enjoy it because it makes me a better person. I think I can get through a day better because I think about what you say in the morning, Father. Your little sermons in the morning sometimes stick with me all day. I think it makes me a better person, I think if I don't get up and go I don't do what I should be during the day. I need a lot of patience during the day and it really helps me that way. I have a lot of reasons to go because I have a lot of people to pray for, and I don't think about it during the day if I don't go in the morning."*

*"I love going to church too because it refreshes my soul and I feel joy. And if I don't go to church, I feel like I'm not complete that day, and I miss it spiritually."*

*"I like to go to daily Mass when it's being offered for somebody I know."*

*I enjoy it because there is a powerful intimacy, and a relationship about it. I love the daily Mass chapel, we've made it a worthy place to pray and to celebrate the Eucharist and I just love the intimacy of it.*

The last comment was mine, but I promised everyone else that I would keep their comments anonymous. Clearly, though, daily Mass is an important part of the life of this parish and it does a lot of good for those who attend. At the same time, those who attend do a lot of good for the parish.

In joyful hope,  
Fr. Tim Seigel