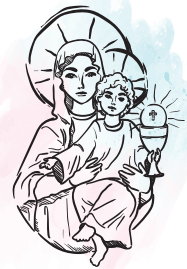


I want to invite the following person(s) to come home and will pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance.

---

---

---



**OUR LADY OF THE  
BLESSED SACRAMENT  
PARISH**



**OUR LADY OF THE  
BLESSED SACRAMENT  
PARISH**

## Welcome Home Conversation FAQs



### Worship Sites

Queen of the Rosary  
750 W. Elk Grove Blvd.  
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

St. Julian Eymard  
601 Biesterfield Road  
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

### School

Queen of the Rosary School  
690 Elk Grove Blvd.  
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007  
QRSchool.org



## God has a mission for you. Yes, you!

As we look around our parish and our community, we know that many of our Catholic brothers and sisters are not with us at Mass. There are many reasons for this (we'll get to that in a bit), but the truth is that before the COVID pandemic we used to be two communities with about 1800 people coming together each weekend to worship God at Mass. Now, we are a community of about 800 people each weekend.

We are always stronger together. And that's why God has a very particular mission for you. Yes, you! You see, Fr. Louis and I have only been here for two years. We started in July of 2020, and we don't know all the people who used to be here. We've never had the chance to greet them and see their smiling faces, to shake their hands or pray with them after Mass.

But maybe you have. Maybe you know someone who you used to see all the time at Church, or at other parish events and activities. And so God's mission for you is very simple.

### Invite someone.

Invite someone to join you for Mass. We'll be celebrating a **"Welcome Home Weekend"** for the **First Sunday of Advent, November 26/27**. Invite someone to one of our upcoming parish events and activities. We've got family movie nights, an Advent morning retreat, Lessons and Carols and more! Invite someone out for a meal or a coffee and catch them up about what's going on at the parish.

Maybe you're like me and Fr. Louis and you're also new here. Don't feel left out—God has the same mission for you, too! Maybe you know someone in your family or friends who hasn't been going to Mass or feels disconnected from God and their faith. Invite them! God wants us to gather together as many people as we can, so that together we can better come to know and experience His love for us.

Don't take my word for it. Here's what the Second Vatican Council had to say about it:

"The liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; at the same time it is the font from which all her power flows. For the aim and object of apostolic works is that all who are made children of God by faith and baptism should come together to praise God in the midst of His Church, to take part in the sacrifice, and to eat the Lord's supper."

You might think they were a little biased, though. Here's what Jesus Himself said:

### "Do this in remembrance of me."

Seems clear enough. So here's what we want to do. On the back of this pamphlet there's a little space where you can write in someone's name. Think about a person that you can extend an invitation to—whether that's to join you at Mass, one of our other events, or for a conversation about faith—and write their name in there. That way you won't forget it, and it will be a reminder to pray for them. Pray that God prepares their heart for your invitation. Pray that God shows you the right time and place to make the invitation. Pray that God gives the courage to ask and that they'll say yes! Let God do the heavy lifting here.

We know there's a lot of reasons that people aren't coming to Mass. We've compiled a few of them below, along with some conversation points that might help them say yes.

**Health Concerns:** Many people lost loved ones during the pandemic and might be a little nervous to gather in a larger crowd. Maybe you or a loved one is seriously ill or immuno-compromised and it's too risky because even catching a cold could have serious health repercussions. If you can't come to Mass because of health concerns, we are happy to connect you with one of our clergy or Ministers of Care to come and bring Holy Communion to you. That's what it means to be the Body of Christ.

I am proud to say, however, that over the last two years, we've had no cases in our parish of someone catching COVID from coming to Mass or other parish events. That should help people feel confident in our commitment to safety.

Health concerns about Mass are also an opportunity to examine our other habits. If I send my kids to school, if I go out to the store and to restaurants, if I have taken a trip or gotten on a plane, I might want to ask myself if it's also time to go back to Mass.

**Out of the Habit:** Research tells us that on average, it takes about two months to build a new habit. Well, we had almost two years of a pandemic. It's easy to see why people might have gotten out of the habit of going to Mass. But, if you want to build that habit back up, the best time to start is right now. We've got Advent coming up, and that's the start of the new Church year. Make it a New Year's Resolution and get a fresh start on your relationship with God!

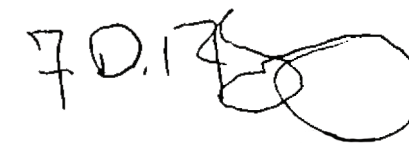
**Feel Less Connected to the Parish:** Not only did we have COVID to knock us out of the habit of coming to Mass, but we also had a parish merger! A new parish name, new Mass times, new priests, new staff members, a new website, a new phone number—there's a lot of reasons you might feel less connected. But even with all that's new, this is still your parish. You still belong here. You are still family. And we'd love to rebuild that connection with you.

**I watch Mass online or on TV:** There's nothing more convenient than being able to pick your own time for watching Mass. Want to sleep in? Got some other chores to accomplish or errands to run? Everything can be at your fingertips. But we know it's not the same thing. I can't receive Holy Communion from the TV screen. I can't feel the warmth in my neighbor's smile when we exchange the sign of peace. I can't feel the energy of the congregation when we all sing the Our Father together. Even if the homily isn't great one

weekend, or we don't like one of the hymns, or we get distracted by the toddler running down the aisle, Mass is always better in person.

**I grow in faith in other ways:** Awesome! All of us need to find ways to grow in our faith besides just coming to Mass. Whether it's praying the Rosary, spending time reading the Scriptures, contemplating the beauty of Creation, or serving God in the poor, there are so many ways for us to grow in our love for God and for one another. But Mass is something special for us as Catholics. It's where we come to receive the Eucharist, the Real Presence, the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ. When the minister holds up the host and says "The Body of Christ," they're not just telling us what it is, but reminding us of who we are called to be. There's two popular sayings that can help us understand our need for Mass. "You are what you eat," and "You can't give what you don't have." I need to receive the Body of Christ in the Eucharist so that I can be the Body of Christ out in the world.

Hopefully this little pamphlet will help you as you pray about how you can invite someone back to Mass or to another parish event this Advent season. Don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or need encouragement or advice. Let me close with these words from St. Paul: "We always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and powerfully bring to fulfillment every good purpose and every effort of faith, that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him."



—Fr. Dan