



# St. Joseph Catholic Church

720 W. 13th Street • Newton, NC 28658 • 828-464-9207

March 20, 2020

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am writing this letter to express my empathy with each of you who have been denied the reception of the Eucharist physically during this unfortunate time of denial in trying to hold back the spread of the coronavirus.

In this time of great sacrifice and prayer we are reminded of the 40 days of Jesus' time in the desert. There he fasted and experienced the temptations of the evil one but remained diligent and obedient to God the Father's will. It was also there that Jesus was strengthened to carry out his ministry of redemption. We are in a time of suffering and disappointment in not being able to physically receive Christ in the Eucharist. We can offer this sacrificial suffering as a prayer for the protection of our family, parishioners, and community members, and for the healing of those infected with the coronavirus or any other sickness.

As we go through this time of separation and pain I encourage you to reflect on your relationship with Jesus and one another. We can all use this time to reconcile relationships and experience the healing graces of Jesus through our prayerful desire for communion with Him.

If we do this I think God through the suffering Christ in each of us will reward us on the day when we join together again to celebrate this glorious Gift of the Eucharist.

In closing, I want you to know as I said above I share in your pain and I am remembering you and your loved ones in my morning and evening prayers, my nonpublic Masses and offering my own pain and suffering for your protection and wellbeing.

Your Pastor and Brother in Christ,

*Father Jim*

Father Jim Collins

*Do this in memory of me*