Everyday Catholicism

Is Watching Mass Online the Same as Being There in Person?

Many Catholics ask whether watching Mass online counts the same as attending in church. Livestreamed Masses have been a blessing for the sick and the homebound. They keep people connected to their parish and praying with the Church.

Still, watching Mass on a screen is not the same as being there.

From the beginning, Christians gathered on the Lord's Day to celebrate the Eucharist. **The word "church" means more than the building. It means the assembly of God's people.** When we come together for Mass, we worship as the Body of Christ: we hear the Word of God proclaimed, offer our prayers, and take part in the Eucharistic sacrifice.

The Mass is not something we watch. It is the Church's highest act of worship, and we participate in it as members of Christ's Body. Our presence matters because Christ calls us to gather as His people and to celebrate the Eucharist together.

And when we are present, we can receive Holy Communion. In the Eucharist, Christ gives us His Body and Blood as our spiritual food. We can pray along with a livestreamed Mass at home, but a screen cannot give us that.

The Church encourages those who cannot attend Mass because of illness, advanced age, or another serious reason to follow a televised or livestreamed Mass and to make an act of Spiritual Communion. Spiritual Communion does not replace receiving the Eucharist sacramentally, but it expresses our desire to be united with Christ until we can receive Him again.

If we are healthy and able to attend, watching online is no substitute for gathering with the Church on the Lord's Day. We live our faith as members of Christ's Body, not as isolated individuals.

Whenever you are able, come to Mass. Hear God's Word, join in the prayers of the Church, and receive the Eucharist. There is no greater gift the Lord offers us each week.

Catechism Connection: Catechism of the Catholic Church, nos. 1322–1327, 1373–1375, 2180–2183.

Have a question about the Catholic faith? Submit it to the parish office for a future edition of Everyday Catholicism.



ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

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15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Because knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven has been granted to you, but to them it has not been granted.

To anyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away.
Matthew 13:1-23

Mass Intentions

Sat.	11	+Bill Lyons
Sun.	12	Eric Solum
Mon.	13	St. Joseph's Parishioners
Tues.	14	Bishop Bejarano's Intention
Wed.	15	+Ben Bradley
Thurs.	16	Pope Leo's Intention
Thurs. (Spanish)	16	+Dante Garcia
Fri.	17	+Seth Dunn
Sat.	18	+Barbara Sharp
Sun.	19	+Deacon Jim Cooper

July 12, 2026

Most Reverend Bishop
Ramón Bejarano

Rev. Martel Ramos, Pastor
Pastor@SaintJosephCayucos.org

Office Hours
Monday through Thursday
10:00AM-4:30PM
Friday—Office Closed

PARISH STAFF
Judy Ann Cross, Business Administrator
BusinessAdmin@SaintJosephCayucos.org

WEEKDAY MASSES
Monday through Friday 9:00AM
Thursday 6:30PM Spanish

WEEKEND MASSES
Saturday Vigil—5:00PM
Sunday— 10:00AM

Rosary: **Weekdays at 8:30AM**
Adoration: **Friday after 9:00AM Mass**
Confessions: **Friday after 9:00AM Mass**
First Saturdays: 4:00PM

Message from the Pastor

Most of us know that a good garden does not happen on its own. Before anything can grow, the soil has to be prepared. Weeds have to be pulled, rocks removed and the ground loosened so the seed can take root. Without that care even the best seed struggles to grow.

Jesus uses that same image in this Sunday's Gospel. The sower scatters the seed everywhere. He does not hold back or choose only the best ground. The seed is good. What makes the difference is whether the soil is ready to receive it.

The Lord continues to sow His word in our lives. He speaks to us whenever we hear the Scriptures, spend time in prayer, or quietly sense His invitation to do what is right. God has not stopped speaking. We are the ones who are often distracted. Our minds are occupied with family concerns, work, health problems, and the many responsibilities of daily life. It becomes easy to miss what the Lord is saying to us.

Yet the soil of our hearts is never beyond the Lord's care. He patiently works in us, often in ways we hardly notice. A sincere prayer, coming to Mass with an open heart, making an Adoration to the Blessed Sacrament, making a good confession, and choosing to forgive, these are some of the ways the Lord loosens the soil so His word can sink in more deeply.

When God's word begins to take root in our hearts, it changes us, often in quiet ways. We become patient, forgiving, and attentive to the people around us. Those changes may seem small, but they are the kind of fruit Jesus is looking for.

Every week I see this happening in our parish. A simple act of kindness, a quiet word of encouragement, or someone giving their time without expecting anything in return may not seem like much. These simple acts are signs that God's word is taking root and bearing fruit.

As we begin another week, let us ask the Lord to keep our hearts open to His word. May we not become so busy that we fail to hear His voice. May His word find good soil in our hearts.

Fr Martel

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)

St. Joseph Parish invites **adults 18 years of age and older** who have not been baptized and therefore have not received the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist, to begin their journey of faith through the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA.)

If you know someone who has not received these sacraments, please invite them to consider this opportunity. We would be honored to accompany them as they grow in faith and prepare to receive the sacraments.

For more information or register, please contact the parish office or speak with Father Martel after Mass.

Welcoming New Liturgical Ministers

On Sunday, July 19, 2026 at the 10AM Mass, Thomas Skelton will be commissioned as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and Jennifer Kautz will be commissioned as a Lector. Through their commissioning, our parish will welcome a new Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and a new Lector to server our liturgical ministry.

Both are answering a call to serve Christ and His Church: one bringing the Body of Christ to the faithful, the other proclaiming the Word of God at the liturgy. Please keep them in your prayers and join us on July 19 to witness their commissioning.

Farewell to Father Pedro

Father Pedro will be leaving our parish in early August. We invite everyone to join us as we thank him for his ministry and wish him well.

Farewell Dinner: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 at 6PM in the parish hall. There will be time during the evening to thank Father Pedro personally. Please RSVP on the sign-up sheets in the hall indicating the number in your party and the dish you plan to bring.

Father Pedro's Last Sunday Mass: Sunday, August 2, 2026 at 10AM.

Bingo Night: All adults are invited to our parish Bingo Night on **Wednesday, July 15, at 6PM** in the parish hall. Entry packs are $15 and hot dogs and popcorn will be provided at no charge.

Because players must be 18 years of age or older, this event is reserved for adults.
Come enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship with your fellow parishioners!

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND INJURED

We are refreshing our parish sick list. Many people were on our sick list for a very long time and we were not sure if they were still in need of prayer. Please let us know if you have a loved one you would like to add to the prayer list or would like a priest to visit you.
Thank you.

Steve Santi
Stan Piwowarski
Jim & Joanne Tobias
Innette Starkenburg
Steve Buller
Michael Shields
Mary Moloney
Mickey Bruno
Gary & Bonnie Nelson
Butch Rambaud
Marina Taverner
Eric Solum
Glen Bennett
Bonnie Bowman
Bill Mazzacane
Teresa Woodman