

# **“I’m too busy...**

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**When Family Responsibilities Get in the Way of Going to Mass”**

*“Mom, my coach scheduled practice on Saturday afternoon this week, because we have a game in Marquette on Sunday morning.” “OK, just write it on the calendar so we can figure out rides.”*

It’s bewildering how those conversations go unchallenged in the homes of so many Catholic families these days. Our weekends have become loaded with sporting events, competitions, camping, and “trips to the city,” with little consideration for one’s Catholic faith. Not to mention, catching up on house work, yard work, and cleaning the garage. We spend all weekend, slaving under every variety of home care without much thought that it is getting in the way of something more important. If you’re asking, “what’s the problem?” then you’re probably part of the growing number of Catholics skipping Mass on the weekend.

You probably don’t realize this, but when you’re not at Mass, you are missed at All Saints! You might not think about it much, but we do. Have you ever been at a family gathering where a brother or sister couldn’t make it? Maybe you celebrated a Christmas or a birthday, and one of your children couldn’t take the weekend off to get home. You may have had a nice celebration in their absence... but something was missing. Same is true at Church. When you’re not there, we have beautiful Masses, but something is definitely missing. We feel it. But when we’re all together, and the Catholic community celebrates the Mass, the presence of the Holy Spirit is strong and truly changes lives!

Right now at All Saints Church, we’re making a huge effort to re-energize the Catholic community in Gladstone. It’s called *“All Saints, Every Sunday!”* You’ve probably heard that our parish has been growing, Mass attendance is up, we help shelter the homeless and care for those in need, religious education efforts have never been stronger, and activities for our youth are steadily increasing. We love our Catholic Faith and how it has changed our lives for the better, and we want to share it with others. It really is a great time to be part of All Saints.

It's true, our parish is growing. But we have to do our part in building up the Kingdom of God here in Gladstone. We have to cooperate with the movement of God's Spirit. **So if you haven't been coming to Mass, or if you are among the many people who get there only periodically, now is the time to join us in making a new effort. Come to Mass at All Saints. And make it every Sunday.**

Talk it over with your family. Make the commitment. It will be worth it. If family responsibilities have been a high priority on weekends, great! But now... trade-up for something even better. Do something good for your soul. Put a more important priority in its rightful place. It's a priority that will carry you beyond this life into eternity.

Let's face it... someone will come to Mass every weekend, only when they are convinced that it's the most important thing they must do on Sunday. You can be assured that nothing that happens on the face of the earth is more important than the Lord's passion and death, which is what we celebrate at Mass. You may need help making the changes. Just lean on the Lord, and know that you and your family are in our parish prayers every day.

