

Fr Ben's Weekly Reflection

27th Sunday Ordinary Time

Oct 4, 2026

Season Tickets to… Mass

I grew up watching a lot of Cubs baseball on TV or listening on the radio. I've only been to one game at the "holy land" of Wrigley Field, but I remember that game clearly. While it's fun to watch games on TV, there is something more special and memorable of going to a game in person. The people, the atmosphere, the weather, are great and best of all, no commercials!

With the ever increasing screens and technology "haze," I think more of us are realizing that real life matters. Real conversations, in person, face to face are better than a zoom meeting where half the time is spent trying to help Yuri to get his camera to work and Yolanda to find the "unmute" button.

This makes sense because we are made of physical bodies in a physical world. Our senses crave things to touch, see, taste, smell, and feel. Screens are things to see and hear, but hurt our eyes and ears. We can spend hours watching a ball game, but we won't cheer with the crowd, feel the sun or breeze, watch what we want to watch of the game, or taste the ballpark food.

Surprise! Jesus knew this long before we "rediscovered" the importance of real. The seven Sacraments all use real, tangible, physical things to communicate God's grace to us. Can we just ask Jesus in our heart to come to us and give us grace? Yes, and we should do that. But He gave us the Sacraments as ways that we can **know for sure** something happened.

That's why priests sound like a broken record talking about the importance of coming to Mass. After Covid, I still think a lot of people think that Mass online "counts" for "going to church" on Sunday. Unfortunately, it does not. It is a wonderful tool for people who are truly homebound or sick or parents with sick kids to help keep Sunday holy, but if we are well and are able…we have to go to Mass.

Here's a key difference between a Cubs game and Mass. At a game, I go to be entertained. If I buy a ticket, but don't show up, no one is going to care at Wrigley. But through Baptism, we have a season ticket to come to Mass. However, each of us has a vital role to play by bringing and offering our life and ourselves at Mass. If we miss because, "I'm tired. I didn't feel like it. I had chores. We were on vacation," the Body of Christ is incomplete. You are missed. We miss you.

Mass is a vital, real, tangible, sense-able experience that connects us with God and He with us. No screen can replace the Real thing.