

**The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John
Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ,
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COME TO ME

How we shop has radically changed. Online shopping continues to take an ever-larger share of the marketplace. This change in the way we purchase items has been accelerated by the current pandemic.

The practice of having things brought to us has even entered our spiritual lives. When the order was given to shelter in place to slow the spread of the coronavirus, our churches were closed. Parishes then began to live stream their Sunday and weekday Masses. We might say that Masses began to be “delivered” to Catholics courtesy of the Internet or local television.

This Sunday’s scriptures speak not about having things delivered but rather about our coming to receive what we need in our spiritual lives.

In our First Reading (Isaiah 55:1-3) we read, “Thus says the LORD: All you who are thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat; come, without paying and without cost,

drink wine and milk!... Come to me heedfully, listen, that you may have life.” Speaking through the Prophet Isaiah, God tells us that we need to come to him if we want to receive his life-giving gifts.

Then in our Gospel Reading the people came to Jesus. “His heart was moved with pity for them, and he cured their sick.” When it was evening Jesus showed his concern for the thousands of people who had come to him by feeding them. He miraculously multiplied the loaves and fish brought to him by his disciples.

If we are to grow in our spiritual lives, we cannot just sit at home and have God’s mercy and love delivered to our doors like some kind of purchase. While we may need to do that for a time because of this extraordinary situation, we cannot make “home delivery” our usual practice.

Let us not forget to pray for each other,

Father John Carlos