Dear [Family Member's Name],

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my heartfelt regret for not being able to attend the family gathering on [date]. It truly saddens me to miss out on the joy of being with everyone.

Unfortunately, due to [brief explanation of the reason, e.g., a prior commitment, health issues], I was unable to make it. I want you to know that I missed you all and thought of you during the gathering.

I would love to catch up and hear all about the wonderful moments shared. Please extend my regards to everyone, and I hope to see you soon.

Warm wishes,

[Your Name]