

My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! With the last full week of Lent now here, a word about doing the one thing that Lent requires, namely, **repenting**. And this for us Catholic Christians means going to Confession. So a few thoughts in that regard:

1) **Confession is a very common practice.** In fact, if you listen carefully in conversation, people are always confessing. That is, talking about themselves or others, telling stories of others, even telling other's sins/failings. Yes, this is confession. It's what we do as human beings. What is **uncommon** and a bit different is **repentance**. Repentance is the healing power of confession. It's the sorrow in the heart. And when confession and repentance come together, that's where the healing is found. That's what the Sacrament of Confession is about.

2) Now, a word about the Sacrament itself. Why is it so important? Because it is the **only way** after Baptism that we know of, for Mortal Sins to be forgiven. **Yes, God can forgive apart from the Sacrament, but we can't be sure that He has.** So what if we could be 100% sure that our sins have been forgiven? Well, we can be...How? Simply: be sorry for one's sins, confess them to a priest, receive absolution and do your penance. No matter the sin, it can be forgiven. The only sin that cannot be forgiven is the sin that we don't want forgiven. God desires so much for us to experience His mercy, but we refuse, resist or write-it-off. Please do not do this! Without His Mercy, we risk the fire of Hell.

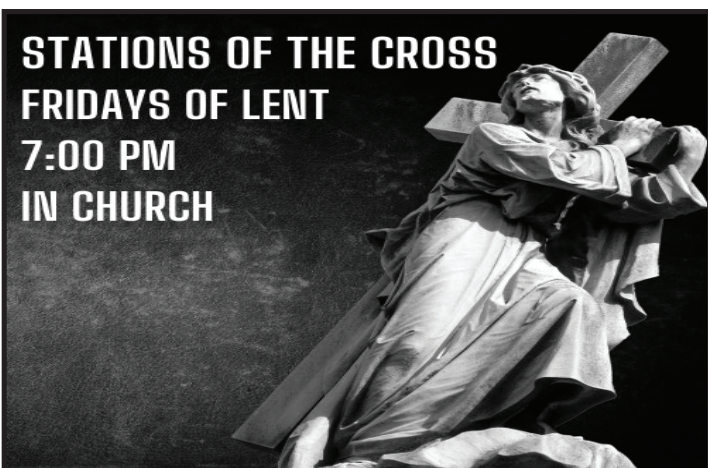
3) Many people refuse Confession because they think of it as a "spiritual car wash". They think why go, if "the car" is only going to get back on "the dirty road" and the cycle of sin begins again. Trust me, I know the frustration of that cycle. BUT DID YOU KNOW....the Sacrament is **NOT** a Spiritual Car Wash! When you go to confession, sins are "washed away" but something else happens...God's grace, His Life is poured into your soul! So unlike the car, **you go forth in and with the Lord, with new power, strength and healing.** And that makes all the difference in the world: Living in the grace of God, His life in us restored!

4) For many adults, there can be difficulty in making **a good examination of conscience.** Most of us were taught to confess as a 2nd grader: i.e. I fight with my brothers and sisters, don't listen to mom and dad, etc. What do we say as adults?? Good question! And I would point to some good online resources. The **Laudate app or IConfess app** are handy resources that can help an adult do a good examen. Another handy tool is 1 Corinthians 13: The Hymn to Love. Read that descriptive of Love and let it convict you in regards to the many ways that your love has failed. Then go and be loved by the Mercy of Jesus in the Sacrament.

Suffice it to say, The Sacrament of Confession is a necessary sacrament. Let me now to cut to the chase and ask each of you to schedule your appointment and GO TO THE SACRAMENT. Now is the time.

Peace, Fr. Rogers

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LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE

St. Patrick Church
Tuesday, April 12, 2022
7:00 PM

Additional Opportunities:
 Tuesday, April 5, 7:00 PM - St. Gabriel
 Wednesday, April 6, 11:00 AM & 7:00 PM - St. Cornelius

*"A clean heart create for me, God;
 renew within me a steadfast spirit." ~ Psalm 51: 12*