



**Fifth Sunday of Lent
April 3, 2022**

Tue.	Apr. 5 th	7:00pm	St. John
Communal Penance with Individual Reconciliation			
Wed.	Apr. 6 th	11:30am	St. John
Thur.	Apr. 7 th	7:00pm	St. Columbkille
Fri.	Apr. 8 th	9:00am	St. John
Sat.	Apr. 9 th	4:00pm	St. John
Sun.	Apr. 10 th	8:30am	St. Joseph
Sun.	Apr. 10 th	10:30am	St. Columbkille

Confessions for this Week

Wednesdays 11:00-11:25am St. John
Thursdays after 7:00pm Mass St Columbkille
Saturdays 3:15pm before Mass St. John

Readings for the Week

Monday, April 4th
Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30 John 8:12-20

Tuesday, April 5th
Numbers 21:4-9 John 8:21-30

Wednesday, April 6th
Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95 John 8:31-42

Thursday, April 7th
Genesis 17:3-9 John 8:51-59

Friday, April 8th
Jeremiah 20:10-13 John 10:31-42

Saturday, April 9th
Ezekiel 37:21-28 John 11: 45-56

Sunday, April 10th
Luke 19:28-40 Isaiah 50:4-7
Philippians 2:6-11 Luke 22: 14-23:56



Rosaries

At 3:30 @ St. John Church
At St. Joseph Church @ 8:10am before Mass and prior
to 10:30 Mass at St Columbkille on Sundays.

Let Us Give Thanks!

Weekend Collection - \$3856.00
Loose - \$250.00
Building Fund - \$250.00
Easter Flowers - \$195.00
Catholic Relief Services - \$1495.00
650 Parish Families
(297 Family envelope holders)
108 Envelopes used

Donations:

In loving memory of John Beaudin, 8th year anniversary,
by Carol & family

Mass Intentions for the Week of:
March 28-April 3, 2022

Friday St. John: ~ Kristopher Guza
Saturday St. John: + John Beaudin
Sunday St. Joseph: ~ Pastor Harris
Sunday St. Columbkille: Good Shepherd
Parishioners

Mass Intentions for the Week of:
April 4-10, 2022

Friday St. John: ~ Nate Guza
Saturday St. John: + Omar Hodgdon
Sunday St. Joseph: Good Shepherd Parishioners
Sunday St. Columbkille: + June Burns

In This Sunday's Readings:

...For his sake I have accepted the loss of all things
and I consider them so much rubbish, that I may
gain Christ..."-- Philippians 3:8

How do we "gain Christ" in our everyday lives? Do we
put other "gods" first? Generous sharing of our gifts
helps us to keep God first. Sharing our time and talent
in charitable works, spending intentional time in prayer
and monetarily supporting the Church and its ministries
are ways that we can use our gifts in ways that are
Christ-centered, rather than self-centered.

Please remember your parish when planning your estate

Faith Formation

We will be having our Family of Faith gathering April 6, 2022 at the Parish Center starting at 5:30pm with a meal.

Please pray for all who come together on Tuesday, Wednesdays and Sunday.

Kindergarten through 6th grade

Argyle: 6-7:30pm (April 12, 19, 26)

Ubly: 6-7:30pm (April 13, 20, 27)

Sheridan Corners: 6-7:30pm (April 13, 20, 27)

Youth Group

Youth group will be meeting in 2022.

April 24th, & May 15th.

We meet from 5pm-8pm & start with a shared meal.

Youth group is for all 7-12th grades & there is no cost.

Good Shepherd Christian Mothers is offering their college textbook fund. Applications are available to all parish high school graduating seniors by stopping by the parish office or by calling 658-8824 and getting it emailed to you! They offer one award of \$400.00! Deadline to return application is April 29th 2022 at 3p.m. Recipients will be announced at mass.

Knights of Columbus

Ubly/Sheridan Council #12850

Next Meeting: Wednesday we will meet at 7:00pm at the Parish Center on April 13. We are always looking for New Members - call Jeff Maurer @ 989-553-4224. Our food pantry is available for anyone in need, located in Ubly.

This is completely confidential and anonymous - call Jerry @989-550-9664. Jeff Maurer Grand Knight of Ubly/Sheridan Council-12850

Communal Penance Service with Individual Reconciliation

Our parish will be having a Communal Penance Service on Tuesday, April 5 at 7:00pm at our St. John church. After a short scripture service and examination of conscience, four priests will be available for individual reconciliation. Reminder: Fr. Nate is available for Reconciliation Wednesdays at 11:00am at St. John, Thursdays at 7:40pm at St. Columbkille, and Saturdays at 3:15pm at St. John.

VOLUNTEERS' SCHEDULE:

Counters:

Apr. 4: Ann Ypma, Rose Maikrzek, Shirley Piontkowski

Apr. 11: Judy Messing, Kathy Beaver, Charlotte Baker

Apr. 18: Carol Beaudin, Mary Jane Zurek, Jeanene Schmidt

4:00pm Saturday Mass April 9th St. John

Lector: Jerry Sorenson & Carol Beaudin

EMHC: Jerry Sorenson

Altar Server: Utah Gusa

Ushers: Bob Brahmer, John Guigar, Dennis Smalley, Richard Trepkowski

8:30am Sunday Mass April 10th St. Joseph

Lector: Paul Guza & Lynn Talaski

EMHC: Lynn Talaski

Greeter: Chuck Izydorek

Ushers: Bruce Uhl, Kevin Hessling, Gordon Farrelly

10:30am Sunday Mass April 10th St Columbkille

Lector: Amy & Branden Sweeney

EMHC: Karen Pichla & Dana Irion

Altar Servers: Luke Roth & Paige Sweeney

Greeters: Kempisty Family

Gift Bearers: Joel & Kenley McDonald

Ushers: Ronnie & Kendall Irion, Don McDonald

Listening Sessions

On behalf of Pope Francis, Fr. Nate urges every parishioner to participate in a Listening Session, and to invite others, especially those who don't attend Mass anymore. At these sessions, all will have a chance to be listened to without interruption, without judgment, without agendas. Questions will be asked to help us share our experiences of how the Church has journeyed with us. Summaries of comments will be forwarded on to the Bishops' Synod in 2023. For info, contact Kevin Romzek, our Parish Coordinator. The final session will be held at Good Shepherd Parish Center, Saturday April 9 at 2:00pm

RCIA Meetings

"Christian Initiation RCIA Meetings for children will be held on Sunday, April 3 at 4:00 pm at St. Columbkille church in the gathering room. If you have any questions, please call Dana Irion at 9895530585 or Fr. Nate at 9896588145.

Please remember your parish when planning your estate

*Thank
you!*

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Huron County Coalition Against Domestic Abuse and the staff of the Huron County SafePlace, I would like to thank you for your financial support. Your generosity will allow us to supply shelter, food, and counseling of survivors of domestic abuse in our community. Sincerely, Lori Swartzendruber, Executive Director

The Catholic Relief Services Annual Collection 2022 -

Thank you for your generous support of The Catholic Relief Services Collection and for **revealing Christ's love** to those who are poor and marginalized around the world. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give! Just visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections for more information on how to give.



Ruth K of C Euchre Party on Sunday, April 10th at 1pm at the Ruth K of C hall. There will be cash prizes and a hot lunch included in the \$6 admission. Come join us!

Bulletin Ads

If you are a business or an individual that would like to advertise in our bulletin, we have several openings. If interested please call the parish office for details.



Making a Difference

Hunger impacts millions of women, men and children around the world. Throughout Lent we have encountered communities in Guatemala, Bangladesh and Rwanda that are overcoming this problem so their members can have brighter futures. How is your community working to address hunger or other injustices locally and address hunger or other injustices locally and globally?
Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.

2022 Lenten Season Schedule

Stations of the Cross during Lent

St John – 6:45pm Thursdays
St Columbkille – 7:30pm Wednesdays

Communal Penance Service with Individual Reconciliation

Tuesday, April 5th – 7:00pm – St John, Ubyly

April 14th – Holy Thursday

7:00pm – St John, Ubyly

April 15th – Good Friday

2:00pm – St John, Ubyly

April 16th – Holy Saturday

9:00pm Vigil – St John, Ubyly

April 12th – Easter Sunday

8:00am – St Joseph, Argyle

9:30am – St Ignatius, Freiburg

11:00am – St Columbkille, Sheridan Corners

The St. Joseph-St. Ignatius Cemetery Spring Clean-up will take place during April. Please remove all decorations that you would like to keep by April 10th. All items remaining after April 10 will be disposed of during the clean-up. Thank you.

St. John Cemetery - St. Columbkille Cemetery Spring clean-up and removal of winter grave blankets will begin April 1st. Please do not put new flowers on grave before cemetery clean-up is completed.

Coffee, Donuts, & Fruit: Helpers Needed

Our Parish Envisioning Team suggested ways to build community and parish unity including coffee and donuts, then our Pastoral Council discussed and agreed. We'd like to have Coffee, Donuts, & Fruit after all Masses the second weekend of the month beginning May 7/8. Locations: St. John: back of church; St. Joseph: Hall; St. Columbkille: Addition. Each month, a local business would sponsor the refreshments, with a sign on the table reading "Refreshments sponsored by [name]". If you're interested in pickup, serving, or setup/cleanup, or finding local sponsors, contact the office.

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Let MI Kids Learn Petition Drive

The Let MI Kids Learn petition drive is underway to promote educational justice legislation.

Michigan children from low-income families would qualify for "Student Opportunity Scholarships" toward their out-of-pocket educational costs at public or nonpublic schools for tutoring, school supplies, computers, and tuition among other expenses. Donors to scholarship organizations would receive a state tax credit. Low-income parishioners and members of our community would benefit from this initiated legislation, regardless of where they send their children to school.

The petitions would place this proposal before the legislature, and, if approved, would not require the governor's signature to become law. As this is a nonpartisan effort, Catholic parishes and schools are allowed to circulate petitions. The Catholic Bishops of Michigan support this effort. Please prayerfully consider signing the two required petitions to create the scholarship program and tax credits to improve the education of Michigan's school children.

CONVENTION

The Detroit Province Council of Catholic Women invites all Catholic women to join them for a statewide convention, with the theme of *Beacons of Light*, to be held on Friday afternoon and Saturday, April 29-30, in Frankenmuth at the Bavarian Inn Lodge & Conference Center. The following speakers will be presenting to enrich our faith: Fr. Patrick Maher, Elizabeth Gengle, Sr. Janet Schaeffler, OP, Bill Richart, and Sheri Wohlfert. Three bishops will be presiding at the Eucharistic Liturgy at Blessed Trinity Church, Frankenmuth, with Bishop Gruss as the main celebrant. A banquet and entertainment will provide some fun "sister time." Emmaus House of Saginaw will be the featured charity effort. A poster is on display in the gathering space. For registration information, please email Rita Maher at rfmaher48453@yahoo.com or call her at 989-635-7072. Forms are also available at the parish office.

PONTIFICAL GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

Pope Francis has asked our parish to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in the Holy Land. Your support helps the church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools and offer religious education. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection also helps to preserve the sacred shrines. The pandemic hit particularly hard the Christians in the Holy Land. Most of them depend on pilgrimages to work. In these is of crisis, the Pontifical Good Friday Collection is also necessary to me basic needs of the People of God still living in this Land where the Church was born. When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you become an instrument of peace and join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land.

PLEASE BE GENEROUS!

For more information about Christians in the Holy Land, visit

www.myfranciscan.org/good-friday.

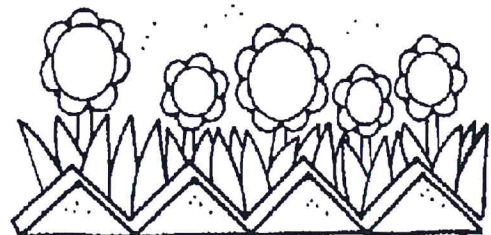


Good Shepherd Christian Mothers' News!!!

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 12th @ 7:00pm at the parish center.

We are looking for new members to join Christian Mothers. You do not need to be a "mother" to join. If interested call Debbie Sadro 989-658-8325.

Doing spring cleaning? Save all the treasures you're getting rid of and donate them to our upcoming Christian Mothers' garage sale in July. This is a fund raising project for Christian Mothers'. More information to come in May.

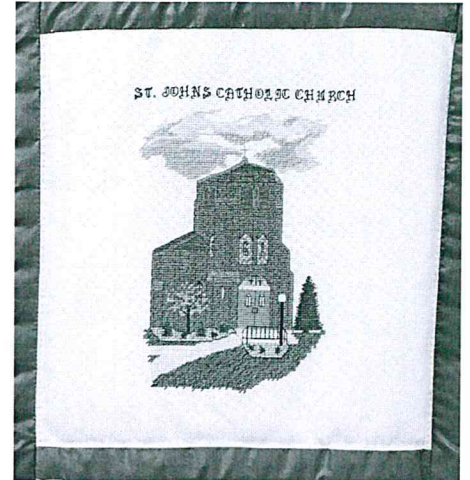


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Jesus Cries, "I Thirst!"

Will you quench His thirst for love?

--- Fr. Nate's Update ---



Fellow Saint-in-the-Making, Blessed **Lent!**

I found this quilted square of our St. John Church in the Ugly Public Library on a quilt with many other organizations. If anyone is able to give me a tour of the history of the other squares, let me know

Some holy humor: The Methodist church had a small congregation of very faithful people. One man quit coming to church. The pastor went to his farm, and asked him why he didn't attend anymore. "Gee, Pastor, I only have these coveralls and old boots, and I don't want to come to the Lord's house dressed like this." The pastor said, "I've got a spare shirt, sports coat, slacks and shoes I'll give you if you'll come back!" The man agreed, and the pastor came back that afternoon with the clothes. Next Sunday, the man didn't show up. Or the next. Or the next. The pastor went out to his farm and asked, "I gave you all those clothes, what's keeping you away from church?"

"Well, Pastor," the man said, "I got up and showered and shaved, and I put on those neat duds, and I looked in the mirror. I looked so darn good I went to the Roman Catholic church!"

Praise Report: On Friday, we had over 20 people gather to pray the (Scriptural) Rosary and the Act of Consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary written by Pope Francis, in the Presence of the Blessed Sacrament. It is a deep prayer for peace. [I encourage you to pray this prayer; find it at saginaw.org.](http://saginaw.org)

Sending-Forth Hymn: Please finish singing the Closing a.k.a. Sending-Forth hymn for Mass before leaving church, unless you have a reason to leave early (as some have shared with me). Thank you for your consideration.

From Book "God Acts-We React" by Msgr. Things Rowland

"...Through the power of the Holy Spirit and through Christ's own words, the bread and wine are changed into His Body and Blood. Christ becomes present on the altar, just as He is present on the altar before the throne of God in heaven [see Revelation]. Suddenly everything is transformed. The physical disappears and the reality of heaven becomes present. The chapel disappears, and we see **Christ**. The people disappear, and in each other we see **Christ**. The Book of the proclaimed Word disappears, and all we hear is **Christ**. The priest disappears, and all we see is Christ in him. The bread and wine disappear, and all we see is **Christ**. Christ, the victorious Lamb stands on the altar, and we are in the heavenly crowd that surrounds Him.

Like the apostles at the Transfiguration, we cry out, "Lord, it is good for us to be here!" You are the Christ who has died! You are the Christ who is risen! You are the Christ who will come again! We celebrate your death! We celebrate your Resurrection! We celebrate your Ascension! We are ready to greet you when you come again! We are ready because you are the center of our lives. You are everything to us. Without you, we are nothing!" [to be continued]

Our Calling as a Parish: to Pray for our Candidates and Catechumens! “Heavenly Father, please give the grace of deeper conversion to Jesus Christ to our *Candidates for Reception into Full Communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil: John Shetler; Christian Kish;* and for our *Catechumens preparing for Baptism, Confirmation, and First Holy Communion at the Easter Vigil: Kayla Spencer; Alex Baynton; Emma Baynton; Brett Kish; Stephanie Munandi.* In Jesus’ Name, Amen!”

Soup Scripture & Stations: You're invited to encounter Jesus on Thursdays during Lent:
5:30pm: Soup & bread (Parish Center)
6:00pm: 5-part video series called: **“A Biblical Walk Through the Mass”**
6:45pm: Stations of the Cross (St. John Church) (FYI Stations at St. Columbkille Wednesdays at 7:30pm)

Some attendees of the Huron County Right to Life Dinner in Bad Axe, including some guy wearing a winter hat indoors for some reason!

50 Ways to Talk to God by Meg Hunter-Kilmer:

piercedhands.com/50-ways-talk-god

[#21-30] “...Try one... You have nothing to lose. You have everything to gain....

---Memorize a Bible verse first thing in the morning. Make it your theme for the day.

---Every night, write down every sin you committed that day. Do it until you just can’t take the weight of all those sins, then go experience the sweet release of absolution.

After your confession, burn the list.

---Pray the Litany of Humility until you mean it. Ouch.

---Read Psalm 136, which describes everything God has ever done as being done because of his love. Go through your life from the very beginning and list everything that’s happened to you. Follow each event—good or bad— with “for his love endures forever.” Let him show you how he used every single thing for your good.

---Meditate on sacred art. [website has Jules Bastien-Lepage’s Joan of Arc]

---Talk to a friend about your relationship with Jesus. Sometimes talking about God becomes talking to God.

---Remember: “[God] will give us feelings of love [toward Him] if He pleases. We cannot create them for ourselves, and we must not demand them as a right. But the great thing to remember is that, though our feelings come and go, His love for us does not. It is not wearied by our sins, or our indifference; and, therefore, it is quite relentless in its determination that we shall be cured of those sins, at whatever cost to us, at whatever cost to Him.” -C.S. Lewis

---Read the day’s readings each day. Write down five things you learn.

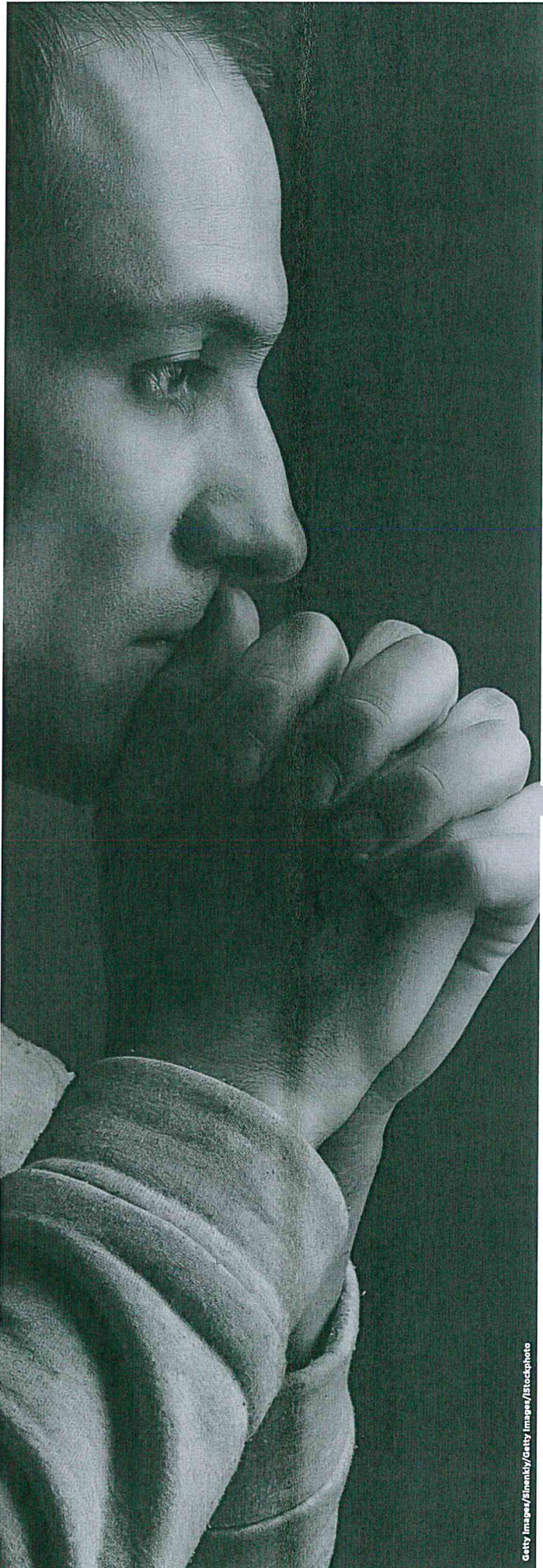
---Some time when you’re not tired, lie down in the sun and try to be still with the Lord. You may drift in and out of sleep but you may also surrender your mind and actually manage silence.

---Pray over pictures of starving children. Ache for them as Christ aches for you. [#31-40 next time]



Let Us Pray: (Pope's APRIL Intention): “...for health care workers who serve the sick and the elderly, especially in the poorest countries; may they be adequately supported by governments and local communities.”
(Ven. Sheen’s Spiritual Adoption Prayer): “Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of [name], the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion.”

God loves and thirsts for you. I love and pray for you. Pray for me! -Fr. Nate



April 3, 2022

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Is 43:16-21 | Phil 3:8-14 | Jn 8:1-11

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

During Lent, we hear familiar stories: the event of Jesus' transfiguration, the prodigal son, and today the woman caught in adultery. Each reveals an aspect of God's perfect love for us and a glimpse of how we can reflect that love toward others. In today's Gospel, the Pharisees once again are testing Jesus, saying the law demands that the woman caught in adultery be stoned. Jesus responds, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." What a perfect response to the Pharisees, and to each one of us when we focus on the faults of another. Jesus' words teach and challenge us to look more closely at the ways we judge others – by appearance, a social media post, political party, for example – and ask ourselves whether we are truly doing so out of love. Closer to home, we may be quick to point out our spouse or children's perceived faults, without acknowledging our own. Jesus invites us to look at others – and ourselves – with the eyes of mercy.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Every time we go out to dinner, my son makes fun of me for agonizing over the menu: "You always regret what you pick!" Indeed, regret can be a powerful emotion. Fortunately, the dinner dilemma requires only that I mooch off of my son's entrée. However, deeper regrets can bog us down and prevent us from moving forward in faith. Today's readings challenge us not to wallow in past mistakes, preconceptions, or bad habits. As we hear in Isaiah, "The things of long ago consider not; see, I am doing something new!" We hear this idea again from St. Paul, who writes of "forgetting what lies behind" and straining forward toward "the prize of God's upward calling, in Christ Jesus." In the Gospel, Jesus doesn't dwell on the past sins of the adulterous woman other than to say, "Go, and from now on do not sin any more." Fortunately, our Church offers an antidote to regret and sin in the sacrament of reconciliation. Whether it's been a month or a decade, what better time than Lent to return to this sacrament and experience God's mercy and forgiveness?

ACT Take advantage of the additional opportunities many churches offer for the sacrament of reconciliation during Lent. Rusty? Check out this excellent guide for adults and children: thelightison.org/guide-to-confession.



THUMB VETERANS ORGANIZATION



POST #1

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

APRIL 3, 2022

SERVING 8:00 – 12:00

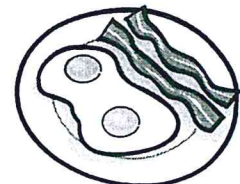
**T.V.O. HALL
2153 BINGHAM STREET
UBLY, MI**

**ADULTS - \$8.00
CHILDREN (6-12) - \$4.00
5 & UNDER – FREE**

TAKE OUTS AVAILABLE – CALL STEVE 989-315-1226

PROCEEDS TO SUPPORT AREA VETERANS

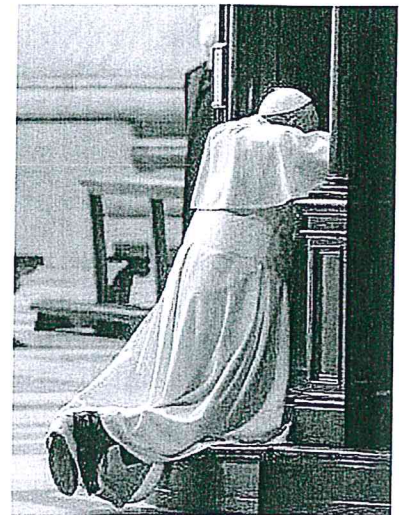
“HELP US HELP THEM”



The Sacrament of Joy

Scripture tells us, *“humble yourself in the sight of the Lord”* and *“confess your sins to one another”* (James 5:16). Jesus commissions his first priests, *“If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”* (John 20:23) Jesus had me and you in mind when he instituted the sacrament of Penance, a.k.a. Reconciliation or Confession. He not only forgives us, but also heals and strengthens us, through this powerful sacrament.

This sacrament is a sacrament of JOY, both for us, and for Jesus. Jesus gives us JOY and peace when we meet Him in Confession. We give Jesus the JOY of being our Savior each time we meet Him in Reconciliation! We quench His thirst for love, and His thirst to love us.



Jesus says to you and me, *“If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my JOY may be in you, and that your JOY may be full.”* (Jn. 15:10-11). The following truths can prepare us to receive His gift of joy in the sacrament of Reconciliation:

- God thirsts for our love, and thirsts to pour his mercy into our hearts (see St. Faustina's diary);
- Sin destroys joy; *“Sin is an utterance, a deed, or a desire contrary to the eternal law. It is an offense against God. It rises up against God in a disobedience contrary to the obedience of Christ”* (CCC¹ #1871);
- Only God can restore our joy through His mercy and forgiveness.

The Catechism puts it beautifully: *“Individual, integral confession and absolution remain the only ordinary way for the faithful to reconcile themselves with God and the Church, unless physical or moral impossibility excuses from this kind of confession.”* There are profound reasons for this. Christ is at work in each of the sacraments. He personally addresses every sinner: *“My son, your sins are forgiven.”* He is the physician tending each one of the sick who need him to cure them. He raises them up and reintegrates them into fraternal communion. Personal confession is thus the form most expressive of reconciliation with God and with the Church. (#1484)

Objections to Reconciliation

“I haven't gone for 40, 50, 60+ years, and I'm embarrassed!” Jesus says, *“Do not be afraid...”*

“Confession isn't for me: *“Christ instituted the sacrament of Penance for all sinful members of his Church: above all for those who, since Baptism, have fallen into grave sin...”* (#1446).

“Why confess to a priest? Doesn't God forgive me when I confess in my heart?”

Confession in our hearts is the first step. However, throughout salvation history, God has chosen to use human beings as mediators of mercy, such as Moses, the Jewish priests, etc. Jesus established this sacrament because He wants to use priests as His mediators of mercy. Simply confessing in our hearts does not allow us to meet Jesus in a personal way; it doesn't allow Jesus to forgive us through the priest's prayer of absolution (which removes the guilt and penalty due to sin); it doesn't reconcile us with the Church; it doesn't allow us to receive a medicinal penance or advice from a priest; it

¹ Catechism of the Catholic Church

doesn't allow us to experience the spiritual healing of confessing out loud to another person. Last but not least, confessing only in our hearts doesn't allow Jesus to personally address us, through the voice of His mediator, "your sins are forgiven."

"I'm worried the priest will look at me differently": Priests have "heard it all" in the confessional, and are given the grace to forget what people confess and not look at people differently afterwards. The "seal" is absolute; the priest cannot even mention your confession to anyone (including you) without your permission, not even under pain of imprisonment or execution.

"A priest was harsh with me one time": Priests are called to reflect God's love and mercy in the confessional. Psalm 103:13 says, *"As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on the faithful"* and priests are supposed to reveal the Father's compassion to us.

"I already went this year, isn't that enough?" Monthly or every other month confession brings many benefits and helps us to quickly become like Jesus and fight the battle. Here are some of the benefits: *"remission of the eternal punishment incurred by mortal sins; remission, at least in part, of temporal punishments resulting from sin; peace and serenity of conscience, and spiritual consolation; an increase of spiritual strength for the Christian battle"* (from Catechism #1496) etc.

How to Prepare

First, beg the Holy Spirit for the gift of true sorrow; next, examine your conscience. Fr. Saunders says, *"The examination of our conscience is like stepping back and looking at the picture of our life in comparison to the masterpiece of life revealed by God... [We] reflect on the progress we have made since our last confession in dealing with weaknesses, faults, temptations, and past sins... However, when we have gone out of kilter or gone out of bounds with God's masterpiece, we have sinned."*²

Mortal vs. Venial Sin

Mortal sin destroys our friendship with God; venial sin damages it. Picture a jar filled to the brim with water. Imagine dropping a rock into it. What happens to the water? If we drop in a rock (a venial sin), we lose a bit of water (sanctifying grace). If we dump out the jar (commit a mortal sin), we need to get it refilled as soon as possible, including before we approach Holy Communion! In Reconciliation, Jesus refills our jar with fresh water. *"All who are thirsty, let him come to me and drink"* (Jn 7:37)

Check out this teaching from the Catechism: *"To choose deliberately - that is, both knowing it and willing it - something gravely contrary to the divine law and to the ultimate end of man is to commit a mortal sin. This destroys in us the charity without which eternal beatitude is impossible. Unrepented, it brings eternal death"* (#1874). *"Venial sin weakens charity; it manifests a disordered affection for created goods; it impedes the soul's progress in the exercise of the virtues and the practice of the moral good; it merits temporal punishment. Deliberate and unrepented venial sin disposes us little by little to commit mortal sin..."*

St. Augustine says, *"While he is in the flesh, man cannot help but have at least some light sins. But do not despise these sins which we call "light": if you take them for light when you weigh them, tremble when you count them. A number of light objects makes a great mass; a number of drops fills a river; a number of grains makes a heap. What then is our hope? Above all, confession."* (1863)

"Thank you Jesus for this Sacrament of Joy. Help me to meet you face-to-face in this Sacrament on a regular basis. Give me the courage to make it a priority!"

² Learning to Confess, <http://catholiceducation.org/articles/religion/re0118.html>)