

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

From the desk of.....

I have had many different conversations growing up with other Catholics about the Sacrament of Confession. It was in my first year in university where some of those opinions were expressed to me. These opinions are common amongst us and they should be addressed.

1. If God forgives sins, why do I need a priest? Yes, you can confess your sins directly to God, I will not limit God's grace. But, God clearly gave us a sacrament for this to be done, a way in which we have the sure and certain hope that our sins are forgiven. To hear the words: "I absolve you from your sins" is certainty that our sins are forgiven, we cannot get that if we go directly to God. Secondly, as much as we like to think, no sin is private. It wounds our relationship with God and as a result it wounds our hearts and our relationships with others. In going to the priest, you are not only forgiven of your sins but are reconciled with the Church as well.
2. "Why bother? I am just gonna commit the same sins over again anyways." With an attitude like that, something in the heart is lacking, that full sorrow for sins. Yes, we might get caught up with those nagging habitual sins; but, we rely on God's grace which we receive in the Sacrament, to get us out of those nasty habits.
3. I don't want to be a hypocrite...I cannot make a promise not to sin...so I am not going to go to confession." We are all hypocrites; but, we make that promise to God, and he understands our weaknesses. This is the reason why he gave us the sacrament. In the Sacrament, we often forget it is not just forgiveness of our sins that we receive, we also receive God's grace to help us in our weakness. It is important to remember, the greatest of saints considered themselves the greatest of sinners. St. Theresa of Calcutta went to confession twice a week. St. John Paul the II also went twice a week.

This week you have the opportunity here and elsewhere throughout the Archdiocese to get to confession as Churches will offer confession throughout the week in a more generous way. It is the best way to prepare for Christmas and the coming of the Lord in all his glory. I will leave you a quote from our Holy Father, Pope Francis:

"The Priest, a man who, like us, is in need of mercy, truly becomes an instrument of mercy, bringing us the limitless love of God the Father... At times we hear of those who claim to confess directly to God...yes, as I said before, God always listens, but in the Sacrament of reconciliation, he sends a brother to bring forgiveness to you, the certainty of forgiveness, in the name of the Church."

Fr. Michael

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

Are You Interested in "Greening" Your Advent This Year?

Fr. Michael reminded us in his homily two weeks ago that consumerism can "consume" us, taking our attention away from this time of preparation before the birth of Our Lord.

For 12 practical ways to live Advent focused on our Creator and family traditions, stop by the Development and Peace Bulletin Board at the East parking lot doors of the church or visit <https://catholicclimatemovement.global/laudato-si-advent>.

SSVP - GIVING TREE

We met many of our Neighbours in Need last Sunday to give them their Christmas envelope. Everyone was grateful and wanted you to know how much your assistance means to them. Many left Christmas cards, which are in a basket under the tree. Please feel free to read them. Blessings to all of you!

PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING (PAG)

In response to changing lifestyles and demands on time, we are offering the Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG) program. If you would like to donate to the Church, or find out more about the program, please pick up a brochure from the tables at the side exits of the Church.

COMMUNITY MEAL

Every Friday at 5 pm in the Parish Hall. All are welcome

THANK YOU!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Fergus for organizing our Christmas concert last Sunday. Many thanks to the choir for all your hard work and the extra practices that you had to put in to make the concert a success

Fr. Michael

2020 ENVELOPE BOXES

The 2020 envelope boxes are arranged alphabetically, by last name, at the back of the Church. Please pick up your box but do not use it before January 1, 2020. Envelope boxes that are not picked up will be re-assigned to new parishioners.

If you are new to the parish, or have not yet registered, please pick up an unassigned box of envelopes from the tables at the side exits of the Church, fill in the Registration Form in the box, drop it in the Offertory basket at any weekend Mass, and use the envelopes for your contributions to the Church.

DANCING FOR THE COMPASS

returns for a 13th year to the Port Credit Legion (upstairs), 35 Front St. N., Sat. Jan. 25 2020. Doors open 7 pm, dancing 8 pm to midnight. Call Peter Toller 905-274-6131 for tickets \$25/person and \$30 at the door. 50s/60s music with the local 8-piece band, Little Peter & the Elegants. Light buffet & fabulous raffle prizes.

**CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S
MASS SCHEDULE**

DAY OF CONFESSIONS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2019

12:00 - 1:00 pm, 5:30 - 6:45 pm & 7:30 - 9:30 pm.

VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2019

05:00 pm - Mass
07:00 pm - Mass
08:30 pm - Carol Singing
09:00 pm - Mass

NATIVITY OF THE LORD/CHRISTMAS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2019

09:00 am - Mass
11:00 am - Mass

NO CONFESSIONS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2019

NO MASS

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD
(DAY OF OBLIGATION)**

NEW YEAR'S EVE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2019

05:00 pm - Mass

NEW YEAR'S DAY

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2020

09:00 am - Mass
11:00 am - Mass

NO CONFESSIONS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2020

NO MASS

**THIS WEEK AT
ST. MARY'S**

SATURDAY 14TH

10:00 am Mass - †Joseph, Teresa and Clinton Vaz Corera
Requested by Malcolm Vaz and family
Followed by Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
10:30 am Confessions
5:00 pm Mass - †Deceased members of the Tymoszuk,
Przedziek, Petryk, Wozniak and Kiewra families
Requested by Krystyna and Przemek Przedziek

SUNDAY 15TH

9:00 am Mass - †Ricardo, Mary and Ricky Barbisan
Requested by Luigi Barbisan and family
11:00 am Mass - For the People of the Parish

MONDAY 16TH

9:00 am Mass - †Eileen Holland
Requested by John Holland and family
7:30 pm Knights of Columbus General Meeting (Hall)

TUESDAY 17TH

7:00 pm Choir Practice (Church)
7:00 pm RCIA Meeting (SJR)

WEDNESDAY 18TH

DAY OF CONFESSIONS:
12:00 - 1:00 pm, 5:30 - 6:45 pm and 7:30 - 9:30 pm
10:00 am Craft Group Meeting (SJR)
7:00 pm Mass - †Violet Tillack
Requested by the family
7:45 pm Legion of Mary Meeting (SJR)

THURSDAY 19TH

9:00 am Mass - †Cyril Vedd
Requested by Huguette Vedd and family

FRIDAY 20TH

9:00 am Mass - †Deceased members of the Bosa family
Requested by the Battagin family
5:00 pm Community Meal (Hall)

SATURDAY 21ST

10:00 am Mass - †Anthony Lobo Sr.
Requested by the family
Followed by Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
10:30 am Confessions
5:00 pm Mass - †Anne De Sante
Requested by her family

SUNDAY 22ND

9:00 am Mass - †Alan del Puerto Jr.
Requested by the family
11:00 am Mass - For the People of the Parish
12:30 pm Bible Study (SJR)

LINKS TO FAITH - DEC. 15, 2019

**WEEK 50 - CATHOLIC MOM - MOST POPULAR
CATHOLIC CHURCH WEBSITES 2018 SITES**

"Catholic Mom is a site that was built to celebrate Catholic moms and their efforts in society building via raising responsible and catholic-minded individuals who pay attention to love, purity and family and fun from a Catholic point of view. Its goals: It encourages a closely-knit family relationship and relationship with others." This is the sixth and final link to a website from the list of popular Catholic Church websites in 2018.

To browse through the Catholic Mom website, click on Links to Faith at the bottom of the parish homepage: www.stmarystarofthesea.ca and select [Week 52 - Catholic Mom - Most Popular Catholic Church websites 2018 sites](#)