

# St. John's Newsletter



## CONFESSION: ITS ESSENCE

For those who have no understanding of the Catholic faith, we sometimes hear some statement as this: "I never could believe confession. If I do wrong, I'll tell God I'm sorry in the secrecy of my own heart and God will forgive me. I don't have to tell my sins to any mere man in order to obtain forgiveness."

First of all, the question is not whether we like confession or whether we would prefer to have our sins forgiven in some other way. The question is, *how does God want it done?*

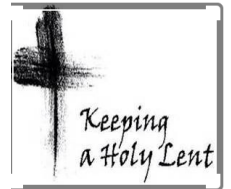
By requiring us to explicitly confess our sins, God protects us against the universal human weakness of self-justification. It is very well to say that in the secrecy of our heart, we will tell God that we are sorry, and God will forgive us. If that were all that is required of us, it would be so easy for us to fool ourselves into thinking that we were sorry, while we blithely forth to sin again and again. But when we have to drag our evil out into light, to get on our knees and put our wrongdoing into words, then we have to face the facts. It is no longer easy to deceive ourselves.

Lifted from 'The Faith Explained' by Leo Trese



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## Lent 2023



The 40 Days of Lent are a season of repentance – a chance to review our lives, renew our faith, and prepare our hearts to remember the death and resurrection of our Lord. Lent is about more than giving up chocolate for 40 days. The three pillars of Lent are fasting, prayer, and almsgiving.

Lent is the perfect time to focus on the power of the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**, particularly if it has been a while since we have experienced this beautiful sacrament of grace and healing.

Confession is a place of never ending mercy and forgiveness, and is one of the most beautiful parts of our Catholic faith. But for many, it can also be a very daunting experience, especially if it's been a long time since our last confession.

Whether it's the first time we've gone in a year, or it's the first time we've gone in our life, God is ready and willing to forgive our sins. All we have to do is let him into our hearts.

At St. John's **Reconciliation** is available every Saturday at 5 p.m., after morning Mass on Thursdays, or by appointment. As a part of the parish's Lenten tradition, there will be a **Reconciliation Penance Service, Thursday, March 30 at 6 p.m. in the Church**. Several priests from the area will be available to hear confessions so more people can receive the sacrament.

### The Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross are prayed each Friday of Lent at 6 p.m. in the Chapel. Please join as the various organizations of the parish host the hour of prayer as we remember the Passion of our Lord.

### The Jesus Tree

As a followup to the Advent Jesse Tree, St. John's parish will mark Lent with the new devotion called the **Jesus Tree**. We will have reflections and prayer on symbols that represent events in the life of Jesus. It is a devotion that encourages families to get to know Jesus through the study of the Gospel. We will be focusing on the Gospel of John in church this Lent. Jesus teaches us so much by his life and story.

Search online for more information about daily devotion of a Jesus Tree in your home.



Sources;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfZkg7BABJM>

<https://media.ascensionpress.com/video/making-a-good-confession/>

*Volume 14 -March 2023 -- St. John's Newsletter is a once-a-month publication aimed at providing you with items of interest about our Catholic faith. If there is a topic you are interested in, please contact the parish office and we will try to address it in future issues. – Submitted by Mary Jo Peters*