

LENTEN PARISH RECONCILIATION SERVICE THURSDAY APRIL 7th at 7:00 p.m.

Our parish will celebrate a **Lenten Penitential Service on Thursday April 7th at 7:00 p.m.** Following a brief proclamation of the Word of God and reflection, several priests will be on hand to hear confessions and celebrate with us the love of Jesus Christ poured out upon us through His healing sacrament of forgiveness.

Has it been more than a year since your last confession? Has it been many years since you last heard the words "I absolve you of all your sins..."? Are you afraid of going to confession or worried about what the priest might think of you or what he might say? Don't let anything or any fear come between you and the necessary forgiveness that Christ wants to give you and for you to have. Courage! Confess your sins and leave them behind after you've gone, from the sacrament free of sin.

If you haven't been to the sacrament in some time and feel a bit rusty, by all means pick up one of the two pamphlets at the Welcome Table in the vestibule and read them over. The first one,

Making a Good Confession - Preparation, will help you to prepare to go to confession by reviewing the various forms of sin based on the Confiteor; "In my **thoughts**, and in my **words**; in **what I have done** and in what I have **failed to do**...". A well prepared conscience provides for a well celebrated Reconciliation. The second pamphlet, ***Making a Good Confession - Celebration***, will assist you with the formula or

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation**, otherwise known as *Confession*, should be seen as the sacrament where Christ sets us free. God already knows our sins before we confess them to a priest, yet Christ himself instituted this sacrament so that we could be restored in right-relationship with him and with the Body of Christ, the Church.

We know that the Christian resolution to sin is forgiveness (forgiving others and being forgiven and *even* forgiving ourselves). It is not only a good thing but is *essential* to our spiritual well-being that we seek to live in such a way that our relationship with God, others and ourselves is one that is holy and healthy.

Being reconciled to God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation is about the restoration of a

relationship that has been broken - a relationship *we* have broken through our own fault, by conscious choice and habit and through human weakness.

When we begin the Mass we recite together a prayer known as the **Confiteor**. In that prayer which is addressed to God and one another, after acknowledging the fact that we are sinners and that our sin is no one's fault but our own, we name aloud the four areas of sin we often find in ourselves; "in my **thoughts**, and in my **words**; in what I have done (**actions**) and in what I have failed to do", (**omissions**).

Sometimes people will say, largely due to fear rather than conviction, that they don't need a priest to forgive their sins, that they can go straight to God. Do we not think that it is possible for God - who can do all things - could create a priesthood and through this priesthood use them to convey His forgiveness through a sacrament He began and ordained? Of course God could... and did. Confessing ones sins to a priest also brings us the satisfaction of not only hearing ourselves admit to another, "I am a sinner", but also enables us to hear the words uttered by the priest that tells us our sins before God are forgiven.

PREPARATION

In preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, these four areas are useful in helping us to recall the various ways in which we have sinned as they bring to our minds an awareness of how we have willfully sinned against the Lord, ourselves and others. Of course, we always remember God's ten commandments as well as Jesus' greatest twofold commandment: to love God and to love ones neighbour as oneself. Reading the word of God also helps us prepare for the sacrament.

RECONCILIATION HOW OFTEN?

Many times the question arises about how often one should celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation. The Church states that "*after having attained the age of discretion, each of the faithful is bound by an obligation faithfully to confess serious sins at least once a year. Anyone who is aware of having committed a mortal sin must not receive Holy Communion, even if he experiences deep contrition, without having first received sacramental absolution.*" (**Catechism of the Catholic Church 1457**)

The Catechism also states that "*Without being strictly necessary, confession of everyday sins (venial sins) is nevertheless strongly recommended by the Church. Indeed, the regular confession of our venial sins helps us form our conscience, fight against evil tendencies, let ourselves be healed by Christ, and progress in the life of the Spirit.*" **CCC1458**

Pray to the Holy Spirit, that the Spirit may assist you in remembering and confessing your sins with true sorrow and

a desire to be freed by the Lord. Jesus paid the price for our sins when he shed his blood on the cross. We need but come to him and receive the gift of his forgiveness with a resolve to change our lives. He meets us there with his mercy and love and sets us out on a new road, sin-free and healed.

IN THE PARISH THIS WEEK:

- *ShareLife Sunday this Sunday*
- *Knights of Columbus General Meeting on Tuesday Apr. 5 at 8 pm in the Parish Hall*
- *Social Committee Meeting on Thursday Apr. 7 at 7:30 p.m. in Board Room 1*
- *Next Sunday Knights of Columbus Breakfast after the 9 & 11 am masses.*

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, Apr. 5 – 8:30 a.m. – Mass
 12:15 p.m. – St. Leo School Mass
 Wednesday, Apr. 6 – 7:00 p.m. - Mass
 Thursday, Apr. 7 - 8:30 a.m. - Mass
 Friday, Apr. 8 – 6:30 p.m. – Stations of the Cross
 7:00 p.m. - Mass
 Saturday, Apr. 9 - 5:00 p.m. – For the intentions of our Parish
 Community
 Sunday, Apr. 10 - 9:00 a.m. – Mass
 - 11:00 a.m. – Domenic Salvatore+

EASTER SUNDAY CHOIR – The 11 a.m. Sunday Choir is looking to pick up some extra people for Easter Sunday. No long-term commitment required, just attend 3 rehearsals – April 4, 11 and 18, all Mondays at 7:30 p.m. Leave your name and contact info. at the Parish Office or phone Bill Targett at (905) 294-3722.

THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE is planning a Spring Dinner, Dance and Auction for Saturday, April 30th in the Parish hall. Cocktails at 6 pm followed by Dinner at 7 pm and an evening of Dancing and Auction. Tickets at \$40 each are available in the church vestibule or by calling Karen (905) 655-4945 or Joan at (905) 655-2062. Please note: tickets will **NOT** be sold in the vestibule Palm Sunday weekend or Easter weekend. The Committee also requests your assistance in obtaining auction items. If you would like to donate an item, please call Barbara at (905) 404-2694 or Pat at the church office (905) 655-3286 ext. 101. We look forward to seeing you for an enjoyable evening.

FIRST COMMUNION CARDS ARE AVAILABLE FROM MEMBERS OF THE C.W.L.

LIFT JESUS HIGHER RALLY 2011 – Saturday, April 9th – 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, North Building, 255 Front St., West, Toronto. This event gathers between 4,000 and 5,000 faithful who are hungry to hear the Word of God. Cost \$18 – Adults, \$9 – Youth (12-20). For tickets and more information please call (416) 251-4255, Sadie at (905) 270-2510, www.lift-jesus-higher-rally.org. Please see flyer on the Church bulletin board for schedule of speakers.

NEW BEGINNINGS – For those who are Separated, Divorced or Widowed. Friday evenings at 7:30 pm – March 4th to April 15, 2011. Location: St. Louis de France Church, 1415 Don Mills South of York Mills. Call to register (416) 921-1163 Ext. 2246. Please see the Church bulletin board for detailed information.

The Office of Vocations is extremely pleased to welcome St. Luke Productions to our archdiocese for the presentation of Vianney to be held in St. Isaac Jogues Parish, Pickering on May 6th at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 each and will go on sale April 1st at the parish and will go quickly. Those interested in attending are encouraged to get their tickets early by contacting the parish at (905) 831-3353.

Working Wonders in our community...

“You don’t have to look far to see the wonders being worked by ShareLife... in your neighbourhood, in the homes on your street, in the pews of your parish. Last year, the network of ShareLife funded agencies reached out to over 250,000 people in our region and assisted countless more in developing countries around the world. They fed the hungry, sheltered the homeless, protected the meek and cared for the sick. In 42 municipalities, in 225 parishes, and in more than 20 languages, people received professional, faith-informed and compassionate care as a result of our generosity. *Most Rev. Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto*

Today is ShareLife Sunday

Please give generously. You can work WONDERS!

W.C. Town Funeral Chapel hosts Eight-Week Bereavement Support Group in Whitby

2011 Spring Group - Wednesdays 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
 April 6, 13, 20, 27, May 4, 11, 18, 25.
 Pre-registration is required and space is limited.

Marriage Enrichment - Refresh and rekindle your love for each other by treating yourselves to a marriage enrichment weekend at Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre or give a weekend as a gift to family or friends. The Centre offers comfort, excellent cuisine and an inspiring program. The next weekend is April 15th – 17th, 2011. For information telephone (905) 278-8879; (416) 694-1742 or register at Queen of Apostles: (905) 278-5229.

