



My Dear Parishioners,

Greetings Everyone! Praised be Jesus Christ! This Weekend, we arrive at **“Laetare Sunday”**—Rejoice Sunday! Indeed it is a time of rejoicing –particularly for our parish -- as we open our new Church Narthex! Praise the Lord! **A word of great thanks to all who made it possible; And a word of “mindful adjustment” as we navigate our entrance, exit and our use of the new space!**

Such themes of **“mindful adjustment” and “rejoicing”** fit well into the point of Lent as we heed the call of Jesus to REPENT. For the Catholic Christian, among other things, this means making a good Confession. So a few thought on the Sacrament of Confession for your reflection and a strong encouragement: Go to Confession before Easter – it’s the Way to encounter Easter!

- 1) Confession is way more popular than one might think. In fact, if you listen carefully in conversation, people are always confessing. In fact, they love to confess...i.e. talking about themselves or others, telling stories of others, even confessing other’s sins/failings. Yes, confession is not uncommon. What IS uncommon and a bit different is repentance. And repentance is the healing power of confession. Confession let’s out the burden, Repentance, sorrow in the heart, brings healing. When combined together in the Sacrament, freedom is found!
- 2) Why is the Sacrament itself, 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. Do not resist. 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. BUT DID YOU KNOW....the Sacrament is NOT a Spiritual Car Wash! When you go to confession, yes 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. This 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. 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 you have failed to love. Then go and be loved by the Mercy of Jesus in the Sacrament. Peace, Fr. Rogers

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ST. PATRICK CONNECTING CORNERSTONES PROJECT
St. Patrick welcomes Bishop John McIntyre
Saturday, March 16, 2024
5:00 PM Vigil Mass &
Blessing of new Narthex
ALL ARE WELCOME

**St. Patrick Parish, Kennett Square
 Novena Prayer
 March 8 – March 16**



Lord Jesus, Great Living Stone of the Church,
 with praise and thanksgiving I come before you.

I thank you for the heroic witness of St. Patrick,
 great Missionary of the Gospel.

With humility and trust,
 he discovered your call for his life.

With zeal and courage,
 he embraced it to the full.

With those dispositions, I come before you
 and ask your blessing upon my life
 and the life of our parish family.

(PAUSE AND MENTION YOUR INTENTIONS)

Through the intercession of St. Patrick,
 I ask you to hear this prayer and build me up
 as a witness of your great love;
 for the praise of your glory and the
 salvation of souls.
 AMEN.

CONNECTING THE CORNERSTONES 2023–2024