

YOUTH NEWS

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My Side of the Confessional: What Is It Like for a Priest? by FR. MIKE SCHMITZ

"I was once riding in a shuttle-bus with a number of older folks on the way from an airport. They noticed that I was a priest and started asking questions about it. "Do you do all of the priest stuff?" "Yep." "Even the Confession thing?" "Yeah. All the time." One older lady gasped, "Well, I think that that would be the *worst*. It would be so depressing; hearing all about people's sins." I told them that it was the exact opposite. There is almost no greater place to be than with someone when they are coming back to God. I said, "It would be depressing if I had to watch someone leave God; I get to be with them when they come back to Him." The Confessional is a place where people let God's love win. The Confessional is the most joyful, humbling, and inspiring place in the world. What do I see during confession? I think there are three things. First, I see the costly mercy of God in action. I get to regularly come face to face with the overwhelming, life-transforming power of God's love. I get to see God's love up-close and it reminds me of how good God is. Not many folks get to see the way in which God's sacrifice on the Cross is constantly breaking into people's lives and melting the hardest hearts. Jesus consoles those who are grieving their sins... and strengthens those who find themselves wanting to give up on God or on life. As a priest, I get to see this thing happen *every day*. I see a saint in the making. The second thing I see is a person who is still trying — a saint in the making. I don't care if this is the person's third Confession this week; if they are seeking the Sacrament of Reconciliation, it means that they are trying. That's all that I care about. This thought is worth considering: going to Confession is a sign that you haven't given up on Jesus. This is one of the reasons why pride is so deadly. I have talked with people who tell me that they don't want to go to Confession to their priest because their priest really likes them and thinks that

A HUGE thank you for all of your prayers and support for our Vacation Bible School!! This year's theme was: Tracking Mary: Mysteries and Messages. We had 85 Young people who participated in this year's camp and many adults from the Parish who helped with Lessons, Snacks, and/or donations. I can't thank you all enough!! By the end of the week 85 Rosaries had been said, and all the young people had time in Adoration... amazing! I would like to especially thank our 7th through 12th grade counselors. These amazing young people were so dedicated to the kids and in helping to make sure the Camp ran smoothly... they are the ones that deserve all the praise.

☺ So many of the little ones look up to and can't wait till they get to be a Counselor!

Can't wait till next year!



WHAT'S COMING UP:

SEPTEMBER

- 9th ~ Fall Fest (Youth Night Clean Up with Pizza!!) Check out our Teen Section!
- 12th ~ **Sign Up for Religious Ed Classes 5pm-7pm in the Gathering Area of Church**
- 17th ~ Coffee Chat at Denny's for our High School Students 3:30pm-5pm
- 19th ~ RE Classes Start! ☺ 4pm to 5pm for Grades 1st through 5th and 6:30pm to 7:45pm 6th through Confirmation II
- 19th ~ Confirmation II Meeting with the Parents in Reardon Hall at 7pm .

OCTOBER

- 6th ~ Saint John Bosco Youth Day **REQUIRED** Confirmation Retreat Bus leaves at 6:15am
- 22nd ~ Coffee Chat at Denny's 3:30pm -5pm (High School Students)
- 28th ~ Youth Night ☺ 6-7:30pm

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they are a good kid." I have two things to say to this. He will not be disappointed! What your priest will see is a person who is trying! I dare you to find a saint who didn't need God's mercy! (Even Mary needed God's mercy; she received the mercy of God in a dramatic and powerful way at her conception. Boom. Lawyered.) We try to be so impressive with so much of our lives. Confession is a place where we don't get to be impressive. Confession is a place where the desire to impress goes to die. Think about it: all other sins have the potential to cause us to race to the confessional, but pride is the one that causes us to hide from the God who could heal us. Do I Remember Your Sins? No! So often, people will ask if I remember people's sin from Confession. As a priest, I rarely, if ever, remember sins from the confessional. That might seem impossible, but the truth is, sins aren't all that impressive. They aren't like memorable sunsets or meteor showers or super-intriguing movies... they are more like the garbage. And if sins are like garbage, then the priest is like God's garbage-man. If you ask a garbage-man about the grossest thing he's ever had to haul to the dump, *maaaaaay* he could remember it. But the fact is, once you get used to taking out the trash, it ceases to be noteworthy, it ceases to stand out. Remember, Confession is always a place of victory. Whether you have confessed a particular sin for the first time, or if this is the 12,001st time, every Confession is a win for Jesus. And I, a priest, get to be there. That's what it's like... I get to sit and watch Jesus win His children back all day. It's flippin' *awesome*. ~ taken from <https://lifeteen.com/blog/my-side-of-the-confessional-what-is-it-like-for-a-priest/>



THANKS FOR THE CHEERS AND SMILES ALONG THE PARADE ROUTE! THE KIDS (AND PARENTS!) HAD A BLAST 😊



For Parents, Young Adults, and Adults who are still Young at heart... 😊

At a recent Conference that I attended we were given a stat that stated: "Nationwide, only 24 percent of Catholics go to Mass on an average Sunday, down from 55 percent in 1965." (<http://cara.georgetown.edu>) Now there were many different reasons that were presented as to why Catholic adults do not go to Mass, but what I want to choose to focus on is what our Diocese has presented as a way to move forward. This year our focus in Religious Ed is to provide opportunities and ways that not just our young people, but YOU as well can "go deeper in prayer." Some opportunities that we already have in place are:

1. Mass, and not just Sunday (or Saturday night 😊). One of the coolest things that I got to witness in our Vacation Bible School week were the Young People that went to daily Mass before the Camp started each day. Our Daily Mass times are: Tuesday 5:30pm, Wednesday—Friday 8am. Please join! The daily Mass only lasts about 35 minutes and is a great way to refocus your prayer life.
2. Adoration. On Monday there is a Holy Hour that is from 2pm-3pm (great way to spend sometime with the Lord before picking up the kiddos from school...), Friday we have Adoration from 3pm to 4pm and on First Friday there is Adoration from 9am—4pm. There is no need to commit to an hour, just stop by whenever you have time and say a quick prayer for your family, our Parish, your sanity trying to juggle all of those back to school schedules... 😊

NEW OPPORTUNITIES:

1. Adult Faith Formation: We will be offering Adult Faith Formation starting Tuesday, September 18th after the 5:30pm Mass in Reardon Hall. These gatherings will be a way for us to strengthen our faith. No need to sign up, drop ins are encouraged! 😊
2. Holy Happy Hour will be continuing! Please join us the last Tuesday of the month 6:30pm to 7:30pm at State Street Tap for discussions about our faith, socializing, and great happy hour specials! 😊 Again no need to sign up, just stop on by... we had a great turnout over the summer and look forward to continuing that this Fall and beyond.

If ever you have questions or suggestions I would LOVE to hear them! Please call me at the Rectory, send me an email re@stpatricksmasuton.com or stop in and see me!

"We have received baptism, entrance into the Church, and the honor of being called Christians. Yet what good will this do us if we are Christians in name only and not in fact?" ~St. Andrew Kim Taegon

St. Andrew Kim Taegon, St. Paul Chong Hasang, and Companions Pray for Us!
Feast Day September 20th Patron Saints of Korea