



NEWSLETTER



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April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 GOOD FRIDAY	4 HOLY SATURDAY
5 EASTER SUNDAY	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 SUNDAY OF DEVINE MERCY	13 MEETING ROCKDALE 7:00 PM	14	15	16	17	18 TURKEY SHOOT PREP.
19 TURKEY SHOOT BARROW PLACE	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 FALLOUT SOMERVILLE	27	28	29	30		

NEWS

Our next meeting is in Rockdale. Meal at 7:00 PM, meeting to follow.

Our Turkey Shoot is upon us. We will meet on Saturday to prepare for the shoot. We need to meet no later than 11 AM on Sunday, so we can make any last minute preparations, have our lunch, and be ready to start the shoot by 12:30. You can still get raffle tickets from Hubert at our meeting. We have not sold them all.

Our next fallout will be in Somerville on April 26. Mass is at 9:00 AM. We need to be there at 8:30.

Mark your calendar for the St. Ann Parish Festival to be held on May 16th. More on this in the next newsletter.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

As this Lent comes to an end this week, most of us have made our perfunctory yearly confession, and breathe a sigh of relief that we can mark that off our list for another year. It's too bad that sometimes we think that going to confession is like having a root canal, and we wait until the last minute to get it done in anticipation of how uncomfortable it is going to be, instead on concentrating on how much better we feel and how much better we can chew with the repaired tooth. The back side of our newsletter this month gives us some good reasons to increase our efforts to get on the right track. As we see the new beginning of the church year marked by the Resurrection of our Lord, maybe we can rise up and make a new beginning in our efforts to avail ourselves of this sacrament, and maybe by our example as Knights, we might get others to do the same.

May God's blessings be upon you during this Holy Season of Easter.

God's Gift of Forgiveness

A Pastoral Exhortation on the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

"Peace be with you!" With these words, the Risen Lord greeted his frightened Apostles in the Upper Room on the day of his Resurrection. They were troubled, anxious, and fearful—much like each one of us at some point in our lives. Christ repeated the words, "Peace be with you." But then he added, "Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them" (Jn 20:19-23).

What an extraordinary gift! The Risen Lord was proclaiming that all the suffering he had just endured was in order to make available the gifts of salvation and forgiveness. He wanted the Apostles to receive these gifts. He wanted them to become apostles of this forgiveness to others.

In the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, also called confession, we meet the Lord, who wants to grant forgiveness and the grace to live a renewed life in him. In this sacrament, he prepares us to receive him free from serious sin, with a lively faith, earnest hope, and sacrificial love in the Eucharist. The Church sees confession as so important that she requires that every Catholic go at least once a year.¹ The Church also encourages frequent confession in order to grow closer to Christ Jesus and his Body, the Church. By the grace of the Holy Spirit, we seek forgiveness and repentance, let go of patterns of sin, grow in the life of virtue, and witness to a joyful conversion. Since the graces of the sacrament are so similar to the purpose of the New Evangelization, Pope Benedict XVI has said, "The New Evangelization . . . begins in the confessional!"²

We bishops and priests are eager to help you if you experience difficulty, hesitation, or uncertainty about approaching the Lord in this sacrament. If you have not received this healing sacrament in a long time, we are ready to welcome you. We, whom Christ has ordained to minister this forgiveness in his name, are also approaching this sacrament, as both penitents and ministers, throughout our lives and at this special moment of grace during Lent. We want to offer ourselves to you as forgiven sinners seeking to serve in the Lord's name.

During Lent—in addition to the various penitential services during which individual confession takes place—we bishops and priests will be making ourselves available often for the individual celebration of this sacrament. We pray that through the work of the Holy Spirit, all Catholics—clergy and laity—will respond to the call of the New Evangelization to encounter Christ in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. Come to the Lord and experience the extraordinary grace of his forgiveness!

¹ Catechism of the Catholic Church, nos. 1457-1458.

² Pope Benedict XVI, Address to the Annual Course on the Internal Forum Organized by the Apostolic Penitentiary, www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/speeches/2012/march/documents/hf_ben-xvi_spe_20120309_penitenzieria-apostolica_en.html.

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