



Ignite the F.I.R.E.

Families Involved in Religious Education



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FATHER CRAIG'S HOMILY MESSAGE

Father talked about 5 simple things that, if done by our parishes, would transform our Church. In previous newsletters, we went over #1 DAILY PRAYER, #2 MASS, and #3 GET INVOLVED. This time we will talk about #4 CONFESSION.

Reconciliation...Penance...Confession...Forgiveness...Conversion. All words to describe the Sacrament that Christ instituted to the Apostles so that they could carry on His mission of merciful love when He was gone from this earth. "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." John 20:22-23

Christ healed many people during His time on earth, physically and spiritually. His love and mercy touched people that they turned to Him in their weakness and asked for forgiveness and healing. Three things were necessary then, and still are today...Christ's merciful love, our conversion of heart toward a love of God and a desire to grow in that love, and absolution with direction of how to live from that point.

Every one of us has had to say "I'm sorry" at some point in our lives. We know how powerful those words are when we face someone we have hurt and look at them with a sincere heart and apologize. We see the power of forgiveness and how it heals all involved. If we see the Sacrament of Reconciliation as an opportunity to tell God we are sick, that we are sinful, and that we desire forgiveness and a way to be healed, God's mercy will be revealed to us through the priest, who stands "*in persona Christi*".

Here are some quote from the "Forgiven: The Transforming Power of Confession" series on FORMED.org (free subscription to parishioners):

"You may think, I'm not worthy of God's mercy. I know! That's why it's MERCY. If you weren't worthy, it would be JUSTICE."

"No matter what you've done, no matter how long you've been away, Jesus is waiting for you in the Sacrament of Reconciliation."

-OVER-

UPCOMING FEAST DAYS

Feast Days are days that we remember and celebrate the lives of those who have made a great difference in the life of the Church. *More Saint information can also be found on www.catholic.org.*

- 11/9 - Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome
- 11/10 - St. Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church
- 11/12 - St. Josaphat, Bishop and Martyr
- 11/17 - St. Elizabeth of Hungary

WHAT IS THE LATERAN BASILICA?

*The Lateran Basilica in Rome is the oldest and highest ranking of the four major basilicas in Rome. The Basilica of St. John Lateran is the cathedral of the diocese of Rome, the official ecclesiastical seat of the Holy Father, the Bishop of Rome, not St. Peter's Basilica as so many mistakenly believe. The Basilica is also called the Church of Holy Savior or the Church of St. John Baptist. In ancient Rome this was the church where everyone was baptized. It the oldest church in the West, built in the time of Constantine and was consecrated by Pope Sylvester in 324. This feast became a universal celebration in honor of the archbasilica, the ecclesiastical mother church, called "the mother and mistress of all churches of Rome and the world" as a sign of love for and union with the See of Peter.

*Info cited from <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2018-11-09>

MISSION STATEMENT

F.I.R.E. is a desire to involve more families in the investment of teaching our children to live and love the Catholic faith, through education, family events and opportunities to build up our relationship with Christ and His Church. This bi-monthly newsletter is an invite to all to be a part of F.I.R.E. in their own homes on a regular basis so that we can work up to more events as a community. If you have ideas, please contact the RE Coordinator.

“Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire!” ~ St. Catherine of Siena

