

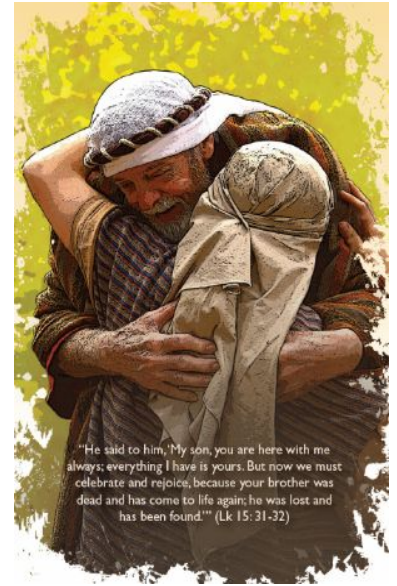
Saint Boniface Parish

Faith Formation Handout – Sunday, September 13th

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Matthew 18:21-35

Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times. That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount. Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt. At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.' Moved with compassion the master of that servant let him go and forgave him the loan. When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a much smaller amount. He seized him and started to choke him, demanding, 'Pay back what you owe.' Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' But he refused. Instead, he had the fellow servant put in prison until he paid back the debt. Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master and reported the whole affair. His master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?' Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt. So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart."



Why is the Sacrament of Confession important in my life?

First Grade

What does it mean to forgive someone? What are the things that you can say to them? How does it feel when you forgive someone? Also, how does it feel when you do something wrong and someone forgives you? Is it easy to apologize and ask for forgiveness? Why is it important that we do apologize and ask for forgiveness?

Second Grade

In a December you will be receiving the Sacrament of Confession for the first time! What do you think it will be like? How are you feeling about going to Confession? What have other people told you about their first time going to Confession? If you are nervous or afraid, you can start praying now, asking God to give you the strength to talk with Him in the Sacrament.

Third and Fourth Grades

Jesus tells us in the Gospel that we need to forgive one another from our heart. What do you think that means? When was a time that you forgave someone from your heart? Do you usually truly forgive people or simply say that you do, but really stay mad at them? What is the difference between forgiving someone from your heart and just saying that you forgive them?

Fifth and Sixth Grades

What is something that you want to be very good at? Are you perfect at it already? When you make mistakes as you get better, what do you do? Do you give up or keep trying to fix your mistake? Being a disciple is similar. You will not be perfect at it, but as you keep living and practicing, you will be able to fix your mistakes by going to Confession and growing in virtue.

Seventh and Eighth Grades

When was the last time that you went to Confession with a priest? Why do you think we need to go to a priest to confess our sins? Why can we not just be sorry and apologize to God in our hearts? How would you feel if someone hurt you, and instead of apologizing to you just said sorry in their head? Why would that not be the same?

High School and Adults

In today's Gospel we hear the parable of the servant who was forgiven a lot but would not forgive others even a little. Have you considered how much you have been forgiven for during your life? Have you forgiven others for as much? Who is the person(s) that you need to be more forgiving with? What can you do for that person this week?

For this Week...

We are Catholic always and in everything we do. Throughout the week bring your faith into your school, your work, your play and your family. Here are some ideas for you.

Monday

It can be easy to start thinking that we can solve all of our problems on our own. When we start thinking this way, we forget how much we need God. Going to Confession helps us to realize that we are not perfect and do need God every day! Today, in your prayer time, ask God to help you to see the many ways that you need His help.

Tuesday

Going to Confession helps us to see the parts of ourselves that are not perfect in order to work on them with God's help. Today, look for an examination of conscience online and go through the questions. If you search online, be sure to search for a Catholic one. The questions will help you to think about what sins you have and where you can be perfected.

Wednesday

Do you know why we need to confess our sins to a priest? Why can we not simply be sorry for sins and confess them silently in our hearts? There are important reasons why! Today, either talk with someone about the Sacrament of Confession or look up info about it online. Take time today to learn more about this opportunity to receive Jesus' mercy.

Thursday

Going to Confession restores us to a right relationship with God. When we sin it is us who turns from God. He never turns from us! Today, make a list of the ways that your sins pull you out of relationship with God. How can going to Confession bring you back into relationship with Him? While there are some big ways sin affects us, it is also in many small ways.

Friday

Going to Confession also restores us into a right relationship with the Church, which means all of the other people in our life. When we sin, we not only reject God but also the people that we love. Today, make a list of the ways that your sins have hurt other people, people that you love. What are ways that you can apologize and fix your relationship with others?

Saturday

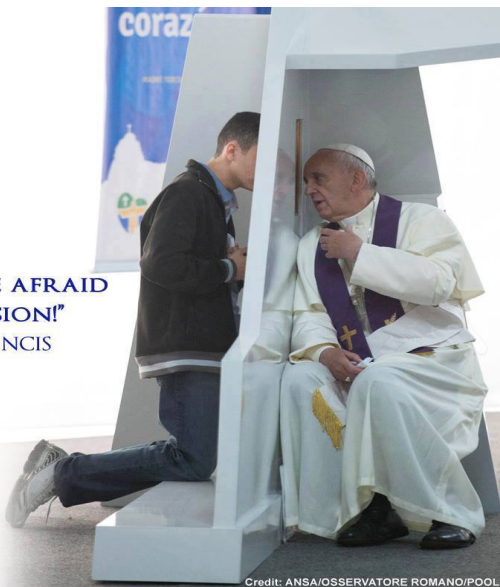
Fear often keeps people from going to Confession – fear that God will be mad or that they will be uncomfortable saying their sins out loud. Fear I show the devil works as he tries to keep you from God's grace. Today, go to Confession at 3pm at Sacred Heart of St. Mary's. If you cannot go today, make a plan for when you will go.

FROM THE CATECHISM...

Those who approach the Sacrament of Penance obtain pardon from God's mercy for the offense committed against Him, and are, at the same time, reconciled with the Church which they have wounded by their sins and which by charity, by example, and by prayer labors for their conversion.

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1422

**"DO NOT BE AFRAID
OF CONFESSION!"**
-POPE FRANCIS



Next Week's Readings

Here are the readings for next Sunday so that on Saturday you can read through them. If you take a few minutes to read them and prepare, you will get a lot more from Mass. They are available online at www.usccb.org. Use the calendar on the right.

Isaiah 55:6-9 Psalm 145:2-3,8-9,17-18 Philipians 1:20c-24,27a Matthew 20:1-16a

This handout was created by the Lynn Catholic Collaborative. For more info on how to use at your parish please email admin@lynnatholic.org