

## 5 Reasons to go to Confession

### 1. Cleanse Your Soul

Attending confession at church can purify your soul and allow you to seek and receive forgiveness from God. After confession, you can complete the penance the priest gives you and go back to your daily life, knowing you have been forgiven. There is almost no feeling better than realizing God has heard you and forgiven you. Confession is like a way to clear your mind, take the emotional weight off your shoulders, and strengthen yourself for the journey ahead.

### 2. Grow Your Relationship With the Lord

Confession allows you to strengthen your relationship with God. By continually attending this sacrament and working to avoid sin, you learn to rely on His guidance and be more open to His will for your life. It is imperative to remember that you will never be as close to God as you should be; meaning to continue working on your relationship with God is of the utmost importance.

### 3. Experience Divine Forgiveness

Confession allows you to confess your sins and experience true forgiveness from the Lord. Fortunately, there is no question of whether you are forgiven when it comes to a valid confession. If you confess all of your mortal sins and are truly sorry for them, your soul is cleansed when the priest recites the words of absolution. During a confession, Christ is sacramentally present via the priest's person.

### 4. Relinquish Your Guilt

Talking to God through a trusted priest allows you to experience emotional, physical, and spiritual benefits:

Openly and truthfully admitting your sins helps remove the guilt and emotional burden they cause.

Acknowledging your guilt lets you come to terms with your sins and actions, helping you to avoid these behaviors in the future.

Hearing the words, "I absolve you from your sins," can offer relief.

### 5. Acknowledge Your Sinful Ways

Even if you may not have committed mortal or grave sins, recognizing any sinful behavior is important to grow in holiness. When you recognize your immoral actions, you can take a deep look into your soul and see how you can improve. Going to confession allows you to rid yourself of these sins, to move forward in life, and to live in God's light.

From: <https://catholicworldmission.org/reasons-to-attend-confession/>

---

## Lenten Project Update

We have broken the \$9,000 mark for our Lenten Project! Thank you for your amazing generosity!

I want to thank those who have added to our check to Malawi. We are now planning to send a check for \$5,320 to Malawi, thanks to your generosity. If you would like your gift to go specifically to Malawi, please indicate that on your envelope.

Our Lenten Project has also raised \$3,790 for our parish school. Any general gifts to the Lenten Project will go to assist our own school.

We are so grateful for your generosity in helping to pass along our Catholic faith to the next generation through the gift of Catholic Education.

## Holy Week 2023 Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 1-2	Regular Mass Schedule
Monday, April 3	Mass 7:00 and 8:00am, Fr. John's Prayer Group 2:00pm, Eucharistic Adoration 3:00-9:00pm
Tuesday, April 4	Mass 7:00 and 8:00am, Pam Hager's Prayer Group 9:30am, Confessions 6:15-6:45pm, Mass 7:00pm, Rosary with Reflections 7:30pm
Spy Wednesday, April 5	Mass 7:00 and 8:00am, Eucharistic Adoration 3:00-9:00pm, Last Call Confessions 6:00-8:00pm
Holy Thursday, April 6	Morning Prayer 7:00am, Chrism Mass at the New Cathedral 10:00am, Mass of the Lord's Super 7:00pm at SRA, Night Prayer 10:00pm (Church open for prayer from after Mass-12:00am)
Good Friday, April 7	Morning Prayer 7:00am, Traditional Stations of the Cross 12:00pm, Celebration of the Lord's Passion 3:00pm, "Were You There" Stations led by our Choir, 7:00pm (Church open all day from 6:00am for private prayer-"Were You There")
Holy Saturday, April 8	Morning prayer 7:00am, "Last, Last Call" Confessions 11:00-1:00pm, <b><u>No Confessions 3:45-4:20pm, No 4:30pm Mass</u></b> , Easter Vigil 8:00pm
Easter Sunday, April 9	Holy Mass 8:00 and 10:00am, Easter Egg Hunt after 10:00am Mass

### *Chaplet of Divine Mercy Novena*

As we have in past years, we will offer the opportunity to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy as a community, beginning on Good Friday.

Here is the schedule for our praying of the Divine Mercy Novena:

- Good Friday and Holy Saturday: Chaplet and prayers prayed immediately following 7:00am Morning Prayer
- Easter: Chaplet and prayers prayed privately
- Easter Monday-Easter Saturday: Chaplet and prayers prayed immediately following 7:00am Mass

### *Parish Rosary Program*

Thank you to those who have turned in intention cards to pray the Rosary. There are now 30 people offering 83 Rosaries and 123 Decades each week for the intention listed in the bulletin.

This Holy Week, our prayer intention will be for an abundance of blessings on the St. Raphael community.

Would you like to pray with us and see that number of Rosaries increase? If so, please fill out this intention card and return it in the Offertory.

I will see you online or in church! - Fr. John #SRAstrong

I commit to participating in the Parish Rosary Program	I will pray...	Every:
(Name Optional)	_____ Decade(s)	_____ Day
_____	_____ Rosary(ies)	_____ Week