



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

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Archdiocese of St. Louis to Host Weekend of Reconciliation

ST. LOUIS – Catholic churches across the Archdiocese of St. Louis will take part in a “Reconciliation Initiative” this weekend, March 4-5, in conjunction with the Year of Mercy and the season of Lent. More than 50 parishes will offer 75 scheduled opportunities throughout the weekend for Catholics to participate in the sacrament of reconciliation, also known as confession.

In 2014, during a regular audience with Vatican pilgrims, Pope Francis encouraged the assembled crowds to “Be courageous, and go to confession.” For Catholics, the basic requirement for a good confession is to have the intention of returning to God, to list our sins with true sorrow before the priest, and to desire forgiveness.

“Forgiveness is not something we can give ourselves,” added Pope Francis. “One asks it of another person, and in confession, we ask forgiveness from Jesus.”

The Gospels demonstrate the importance of the forgiveness of our sins. Lives of saints prove that the person who grows in holiness has a stronger sense of sin, sorrow for sins, and a need for the sacrament of reconciliation. The consequences of Original Sin leave within us an inclination towards evil, and we often commit actual sins, both mortal and venial.

Catholics who need help, especially who have been away from the sacrament for some time, can simply ask the priest to help guide them through steps to make a good confession.

A complete list of parishes and more information about the sacrament of reconciliation can be found at archstl.org/confession. More information about the Year of Mercy can be found at archstl.org/mercy.

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