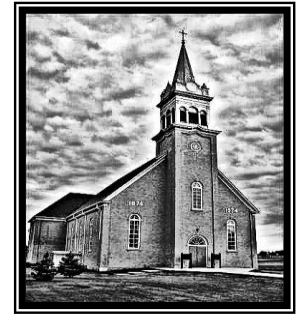


# Our Parish Bulletin

## Fourth Sunday of Lent

### March 15th, 2015



Blessed Sacrament Church

St. Eustache Church

**Fr. John Legitimas, Parochial Administrator** – phone: (204) 951-2469 email: [mjlegitz@yahoo.com](mailto:mjlegitz@yahoo.com)

**Elie Rectory Office** – phone: (204) 353-2516 fax: (204) 353-2229 email: [blesst@shaw.ca](mailto:blesst@shaw.ca)

**Parish Council Members** – Marcel Gauthier, Lucille Beaudin, Shelley Combot, Dean Combot, Louise Beaudin, Nicole Gillis, Linda Picard

**Finance Committee** – Nickole Bernardin, Doris Lavallee, Lorraine Bernardin, Bob Whitechurch

**Finance Secretary** – Cara Gillis

**Sharing God's Gifts** – Jeanine Whitechurch

**Infant Baptism /Baptism Preparation** – Please call the Parish rectory office.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation** – Before or after weekday Masses; half an hour before Sunday Masses or call when in need.

**For the Sacrament of Marriage** – Six months notice is required; Marriage Preparation Course is very necessary. Couples may be asked to go where the program is offered.

**Sacrament of the Sick / Needing to talk to someone** – Please call the Parish rectory office.

**Bulletin Announcements:** Contact Len Desilets – phone: (204) 353-2116 email: [lenmona@shaw.ca](mailto:lenmona@shaw.ca)

**Parish Website:** [www.blessedsacramentelie.com](http://www.blessedsacramentelie.com)

### This Week's Mass Schedule

- Sunday, March 15 - 11:00 a.m.** – Elie – Mass intention for Marcel Bernardin requested by the Bernardin family.
- Tuesday, March 17 - 5:00 p.m.** – St. Eustache – Mass intention for Garson Scott Paul requested by Martin and Doris Lavallee.
- Wednesday, March 18 - NO MASS**
- Thursday, March 19 - NO MASS**
- Friday, March 20 - 3:00 p.m.** – St. Eustache Church – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Novena of the Divine Mercy Chaplet  
**3:30 p.m.** – Celebration of the Holy Eucharist  
**7:00 p.m.** – Blessed Sacrament Church – The Way of the Cross led by the Manor seniors
- Saturday, March 21 - 9:30 a.m.** – Blessed Sacrament Church – Votive Mass to Our Blessed Virgin Mary
- Sunday, March 22 - 11:00 a.m.** – St. Eustache

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**Church Cleaners:** St. Eustache – (Mar 8 – Mar 21): Noella Ducharme and Alice Griffiths  
 Elie – (Mar 15 – Mar 28): Gerry & Dianne Senecal

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**- Fish Fry Dinner:** Come out and join us for our annual fish fry dinner. The dinner will take place at Elie Veterans Hall on Friday, March 20th between 5-7 PM. All are welcome... hope to see you there!

**- First Communion Celebrants:** We are pleased to have Ryland Dufresne, Elizabeth Bowland, Miguel Gauthier, Taylor McKenzie, Carson Legault and Malayna Deczycai preparing for Reconciliation and 1st Communion. Let's keep them in our prayers and wish them and their families well.

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# CATECHETICAL REVIEW ON THE SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

*Confession is one of the least understood of the sacraments of the Catholic Church. In reconciling us to God, it is a great source of grace, and Catholics are encouraged to take advantage of it often. But it is also the subject of many common misunderstandings, both among non-Catholics and among Catholics themselves.*

## **Confession Is a Sacrament**

The Sacrament of Penance, commonly called Confession, is one of the seven sacraments recognized by the Catholic Church. Catholics believe that all of the sacraments were instituted by Jesus Christ himself. In the case of Confession, that institution occurred on Easter Sunday, when Christ first appeared to the apostles after his Resurrection. Breathing on them, he said: “Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained” (John 20:22-23).

## **The Marks of the Sacrament**

Catholics also believe that the sacraments are an outward sign of an inward grace. In this case, the outward sign is the absolution, or forgiveness of sins, that the priest grants to the penitent (the person confessing his sins); the inward grace is the reconciliation of the penitent to God (which is why the sacrament is also sometimes called the Sacrament of Reconciliation).

## **The Purpose of Confession**

That reconciling of man to God is the purpose of Confession. When we sin, we deprive ourselves of God’s grace. And by doing so, we make it even easier to sin some more. The only way out of this downward cycle is to acknowledge our sins, to repent of them, and to ask God’s forgiveness. Then, in the Sacrament of Confession, grace can be restored to our souls, and we can once again resist sin.

## **Why Is Confession Necessary?**

Non-Catholics, and even many Catholics, often ask whether they can confess their sins directly to God, and whether God can forgive them without going through a priest. On the most basic level, of course, the answer is yes, and Catholics should make frequent acts of contrition, which are prayers in which we tell God that we are sorry for our sins and ask for His forgiveness.

But the question misses the point of the Sacrament of Confession. The sacrament, by its very nature, confers graces that help us to live a Christian life, which is why the Church requires us to receive it at least once per year. Moreover, it was instituted by Christ as the proper form for the forgiveness of our sins. Therefore, we should not only be willing to receive the sacrament, but should embrace it as a gift from a loving God.

## **What Is Required?**

Three things are required of a penitent in order to receive the sacrament worthily:

He must be **contrite**—or, in other words, sorry for his sins.

He must **confess** those sins fully, in kind and in number.

He must be willing to **do penance** and **make amends** for his sins.

## **How Often Should You Go to Confession?**

While Catholics are only required to go to Confession when they are aware that they have committed a mortal sin, the Church urges the faithful to take advantage of the sacrament often. A good rule of thumb is to go once per month. (The Church strongly recommends that, in preparation for fulfilling our Easter Duty to receive Communion, we go to Confession even if we are aware of venial sin only.)

The Church especially urges the faithful to receive the Sacrament of Confession frequently during Lent, to help them in their spiritual preparation for Easter.