



Make Opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation this Lent:

Last weekend I had the wonderful honor to facilitate a retreat for sophomores at the Saint Thomas More Center. At a certain key moment in the retreat the sophomores, the retreat team and the adults have the opportunity to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Almost everyone participated and when we were near the end of the retreat and were processing, the participants shared how important it was that they had this sacramental moment with Jesus. Life is tough for all of us, but especially our teens and they find great consolation and love from God through this sacrament.

- How have you, working with your pastor, helped prepare for this opportunity during Lent?
- How have you and your catechists/youth ministry volunteers helped prepare the soil to prepare for this sacramental experience?

Attached you will find two prayer services that can be adapted for a variety of ministry settings with teens. Their original intent is during the preparation for Confirmation. This year there are also extra opportunities to participate because of Pope Francis Jubilee of Mercy initiative called “24 Hours for the Lord.” Below are the dates and times that you can provide to adults, teens and families.

Des Moines Region

St. Augustin Church

545 42nd St., Des Moines

Friday, March 4, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Our Lady of the Americas Church

1271 E. 9th St., Des Moines

Wednesday, March 16 beginning at 5:30 p.m., concluding March 17 at 5:30 p.m.

Reconciliation available in Spanish and English

Red Oak Region

St. Patrick Church

304 Third St., Imogene

Tuesday, March 8, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Portsmouth Region

St. Joseph Church

212 Second St., Earling

Tuesday, March 8, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Saturday, March 12, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Sunday, March 13, 2 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Osceola Region

Holy Spirit Church
107 W. Howard St., Creston
Wednesday, March 9, Noon to midnight

Adair Region

St. Mary Church
603 Main St., Guthrie Center
Wednesday, March 16, Noon to 8 p.m.

Council Bluffs Region

St. Patrick Church
223 Harmony St., Council Bluffs
April 3, Noon to midnight
April 4, Noon to midnight

**Ministry Training Day March 3 – Your Spiritual Backpack with Loyola Press author
Julianne Stanz:**

Watch this video to see Julianne in action (video is from a presentation that was titled “The Church is a Mystery to be embraced, not a problem to be solved.”) – Link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rMC9KgbN5QA>

This is a day you will not want to miss.

Julianne, through the imagery of items needed in a backpack for a journey, will provide each of us the opportunity to have an enhanced understanding of how the spiritual life of the parish leader provides an apprenticeship in faith for all we serve. She is also a lot of fun!

This ministry training day is ideal for those whose work is in religious education, sacramental prep, youth ministry, campus ministry, adult formation, Catholic schools, RCIA and retreat ministry. Attached please find the flyer for this wonderful event sponsored entirely by Loyola Press.

Please register today with Sherri Simmer at ssimmer@dmdiocese.org to ensure we have a spot for you. We need to have registrations by February 25, 2016 so that the Loyola Press representative can provide each of you with materials for the day as well as a goodie bag.

Iowa Catholic Men’s Conference:

The 2016 Iowa Catholic Men’s Conference will be held on March 5th, 2016 at St. Francis of Assisi parish in West Des Moines. This is a wonderful opportunity for the men of our parishes to grow in their faith during this season of Lent. Speakers for this year’s conference include:

John Crudele, Jim Blackburn, Al Kresta and Dr. Dan McGuire. The fee is \$35.00 and tickets are available at: www.iowacatholicmensconference.com.

Jesse Manibusan in concert at St. Theresa parish:

St. Theresa parish in Des Moines welcomes composer and singer Jesse Manibusan for two days of worship and song on February 23 & 24, 2016. There will be a family concert at 6:30 pm each evening. There will also be a session for adults on Tuesday, February 23, at 2:00 pm. If you are bringing a large group, please RSVP to Barb Woods at bwoods@sainttheresaiowa.org. Mark your calendar for this great event!

