

- **Evening of Confessions – March 20 – 5-8pm**

You are personally invited to the Evening of Confession held between 5 – 8 pm on Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at all Catholic Churches in the Diocese of Cleveland.

“Don’t be afraid to go to the Sacrament of Confession, where you will meet Jesus who forgives you.” – Pope Francis

God’s forgiveness, Francis said, is a sign of “His overflowing love for each of us”: that love that gives us the freedom to stray, like the prodigal son, but that every day awaits our return with open arms; it is the love of the shepherd who goes in search of the lost sheep; it is the tenderness with which each sinner is welcomed when he knocks at His door.

And when we come back to him, he welcomes us like children into his house, for he never ceases, not for one instant, to wait for us with love. And his heart rejoices over every child who returns. He is celebrating because he is joy. God has this joy, when one of us sinners goes to him and asks his forgiveness... It is love of God and neighbor that brings fulfillment to all the Commandments. And this is the love of God, his joy: forgiveness. He waits for us always!

You are invited to come and encounter Jesus through this Sacrament. Let us also encourage each other to come together to celebrate. Perhaps we can think of someone to accompany us, someone who is lost, by meeting them where they are at and bringing them to a place of love, healing and transformation as well. We are all missionary disciples on our pilgrimage of life. God doesn’t want any of us to feel lost. He wants us to feel infinitely loved and intimately connected so we may be sent to joyfully proclaim God’s love and mercy to the world!

- **Lenten Communal Penance Service – April 10 – 7-9pm**

A Communal Penance Service is a gathering of the people of our community and participate together in a renewal of life and conversion through God’s Word. It helps us to prepare to make a sacramental confession by providing a hospitable atmosphere for people to open their hearts to God’s ever present Divine Mercy. It will include some short readings, a homily, music and song, self examination of conscience and prayers – all aids to help us prepare and make an individual confession to a priest. At the conclusion of the service, approximately ten priests will be available throughout the church to hear individual confessions in private. There will be the option of a ‘face to face’ or a ‘behind the screen’ meeting with the priest.

Saint Albert’s Communal Penance Service is an invitation to ALL CATHOLICS who have made their First Confession, from those who regularly receive the sacrament to those who have not been to confession in many years. Saint Albert the Great Parish would love the opportunity to welcome those who have been away for any reason.

‘Our God wants to embrace us and welcome us, to heal us and sustain us, no matter how many times we have turned away, become distracted or chosen to distance ourselves. This is the kind of Church we are called to be: a family of forgiveness, of hope, of love. We are called to continue this mission of love, as described recently by Pope Francis in these words: “Let the Church always be a place of mercy and hope, where everyone is welcomed, loved and forgiven.”’ - *Cleveland Catholic Diocese “Living Your Faith”*