

My Side of the Confessional: What Is It Like for a Priest?

By Fr. Mike Schmitz (continued from the CCD Newsletter)

I have talked with people who tell me that they don't want to go to Confession to their priest because their priest really likes them and "thinks that they are a good kid." This is one of the reasons why pride is so deadly.

I have two things to say to this. 1. He will not be disappointed! What your priest will see is a person who is trying! **I dare you to find a saint who didn't need to God's mercy!** (Even Mary needed God's mercy; she received the mercy of God in a dramatic and powerful way at her conception.)

2. So what if the priest is disappointed? We try to be so impressive with so much of our lives. Confession is a place where we don't get to be impressive. Confession is a place where the desire to impress goes to die. Think about it: all other sins have the potential to cause us to race to the confessional, but **pride is the one that causes us to hide from the God who could heal us.**

Do I Remember Your Sins? No!

So often, people will ask if I remember people's sin from Confession. As a priest, I rarely, if ever, remember sins from the confessional. That might seem impossible, but the truth is, sins aren't all that impressive. They aren't like memorable sunsets or meteor showers or super-intriguing movies . . . they are more like the garbage.

And **if sins are like garbage, then the priest is like God's garbage-man.** If you ask a garbage-man about the gross-est thing he's ever had to haul to the dump, maaaaaybe he could remember it. But the fact is, once you get used to taking out the trash, it ceases to be noteworthy, it ceases to stand out.

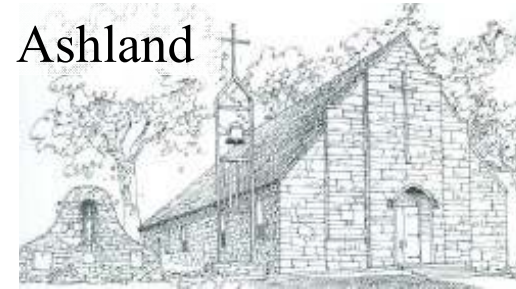
Honestly, once you realize that the Sacrament of **Reconciliation is less about the sin and more about Christ's death and resurrection having victory** in a person's life, the sins lose all of their luster, and Jesus' victory takes center stage.

The day after I was ordained, we had a little party and my dad stood up and made a toast. He has worked his entire life as an orthopedic surgeon, and he was a very good one. My whole life, his patients have come up to me at one time or another and told me how their lives have been changed because my dad was such a good surgeon.

So, there my dad was, standing in the midst of these people, and he began to say, "My whole life, I have used my hands to heal people's broken bodies. But from now on, my son Michael . . . um, Father Michael . . . will use his hands (at this point, he got choked up) . . . **He will use his hands to heal broken souls. His hands will save even more lives than mine have.**"

St. Mary & St. Joseph Catholic Churches

Ashland



1625 Adams Street, Ashland NE 68003
Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 PM
Sunday Mass: 8:30 AM

Greenwood



7 Oak Street, Greenwood
Sunday Mass: 10:30 AM

Pastor: Father Gary Coulter

Rectory & Fax: 402-944-3554, Preschool & Hall: 402-944-7509

Cell: 402-202-3782, stmaryashland@windstream.net

View the weekly bulletin & monthly calendar at our **website:**

home.windstream.net/stmaryashland

Confessions a half hour before Masses

Saturday 4:00-4:50 PM St. Mary

Sunday 8:00-8:20 AM St. Mary

10:00-10:20 AM St. Joseph

Any time by calling the rectory.

Welcome to new parishioners,
 please call the rectory to register or
 for information on any of our parish
 activities and organizations.

Mass Schedule for this week

Sat.	Mar. 2	5:00 PM	Ashland	+ Elodia Medina
Sun.	Mar. 3	8:30 AM	Ashland	+ Carol Stander
		10:30 AM	Greenwood	For the People
Mon.	Mar. 4	9:00 AM	Ashland	+ Daniel Ottis
Tues.	Mar. 5	9:00 AM	Ashland	Maureen McManus
Wed.	Mar. 6	9:15 AM	Care Center	+ Josef Parker
Thurs.	Mar. 7	9:00 AM	Ashland	+ John & Sandra Storm
		6:30 PM	Greenwood	Mass/Stations/Knights
Fri.	Mar. 8	9:00 AM	Ashland	+ Adam Vavra
Sat.	Mar. 9	9:00 AM	Ashland	
		5:00 PM	Ashland	+ Wolk & Wemhoff Family
Sun.	Mar. 10	8:30 AM	Ashland	For the People
		10:30 AM	Greenwood	Poor Souls

Wilson Tax Service

Individual and Business Taxes
 Julie Wilson, ES

607 N 21st St
 402-639-8651

St. Mary
 Parishioner



Marcy Mortuary

Mark & Shasta Pentico
 Don Fick ~ Audrey Williams

Here for you now, here for you in the past, here for you in the future.

402-944-3343

marcysvoboda.com

Properties

For all your real estate needs
 402-521-1004 Ray Elwood

March 3, 2013

Ministries for Next Weekend

Sat. Mar. 9 - 5:00 PM
 Servers: Kasuske, Isaacson
 Acolyte: Greg Logsdon
 Lector: Mary Logsdon

Sun. Mar. 10 - 8:30 AM
 Servers: Adams, Horn
 Acolyte: Tim Kirkpatrick
 Lector: Mace McGinely

Sun. Mar. 10 - 10:30 AM
 Lector: Ginny Hummel
 Offertory: Hofferber

Our Return to the Lord, Feb. 23-24

	St. Mary	St. Joseph
Adult:	\$ 1,405.00	\$ 200.00
Plate:	\$ 46.00	\$ 51.00
Children:	\$ 4.00	
Weekly Budget:	\$ 1,727	\$ 323
Catholic Press:	\$ 45.00	
Masses:	\$ 40.00	

Third Sunday of Lent

Stewardship Corner

The parable in today's Gospel clearly warns that we, like the fig tree, will be judged by our fruit. While God mercifully provides us with time and opportunity, let us give witness to our faith with deeds of kindness and generosity!

Congratulations

Anniversaries: Daniel & Tess McElroy

Birthdays: Laura Rinschen
 Ferd Ortiz
 Lisa McConnell
 Phil Onwiler
 Veronica Chairez
 Tom Styskal
 Halie Lewin
 Jerry Fudge
 Leslie Krings
 Deb Hoffman
 Ed Bruneteau
 Rod Reisen
 Eileen Thaden

Calendar

Sun. Mar. 3, 9:30 & 11:30 AM Catholicism DVD
 9:30 AM Easter **Choir** practice

Tues. Mar. 5, 9:30 AM **Bible Study**

Wed. Mar. 6, 9:15 AM **Mass** at Care Center
 7:00 PM **CCD** Religious Education
 7:00 PM **Penance Service**
 7:00 PM **Catholicism DVD**

Thurs. Mar. 7, 6:30 PM **Mass**, 7:00 PM **Stations**,
 7:30 PM Knights of Columbus at Greenwood

Fri. Mar. 8 (Abstinence from meat)
 6:00 PM **Stations** of the Cross
 6:30 PM **Confessions**

Sun. Mar. 10, 9:30 & 11:30 AM Catholicism DVD
 9:30 AM Easter **Choir** practice

Mon. Mar. 11, 5-7 PM **Preschool Open House**

Readings and Celebrations this week:

March

4 Mon [Saint Casimir]
 2 Kgs 5:1-15b / Lk 4:24-30

5 Tue Dn 3:25, 34-43 / Mt 18:21-35

6 Wed Dt 4:1, 5-9 / Mt 5:17-19

7 Thu [Sts Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs]
 Jer 7:23-28 / Lk 11:14-23

8 Fri [Saint John of God, Religious]
 Hos 14:2-10 / Mk 12:28-34

9 Sat [Saint Frances of Rome, Religious]
 Hos 6:1-6 / Lk 18:9-14

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Jos 5:9a, 10-12 / 2 Cor 5:17-21
 Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Parish Announcements

Stations of the Cross at St. Joseph Greenwood on Mar. 7 at 7:00 PM, following 6:30 PM Mass, followed by Knight of Columbus at 7:30 PM. Stations at St. Mary Ashland Fri. Mar. 8, 6:00 PM, followed by Confessions.

Several priests will be hearing confessions at a **Penance Service** this Wed. Mar. 6, 7:00 PM at St. Mary Ashland (during CCD time).

My apologies, the **Catholicism DVDs** did not begin last weekend, but will start this week, (today) Sunday Mar. 3. See box at right.

Last chance to sign-up! Join Fr. Coulter for an **Easter Monday Pilgrimage** to Arapahoe and Indianola on April 1st, 6:30 AM carpool from Ashland/Greenwood, with Mass and prayers, return by 7:00 PM. Cost is \$35/adult, \$10/minor, includes snacks and lunch. Contact Fr. Coulter.

Thank you for the donations during **Catholic Press Month** for the **Southern Nebraska Register**. To date: \$420 St. Mary, \$15 St. Joseph.

Help Stock the St. Mary Social Hall Kitchen - drop off items by Mar. 24th. E.g. dish soap, cloths, towels, hot pads, paper plates, napkins, paper towels, plastic silverware, coffee, trash bags, instant tea, kitchen utensils, or whatever else you think would benefit the parish kitchen.

The Knights of Columbus thank all for the \$145 donated to **One Rose-One Life** for Pro-Life and Pregnancy Assistance Organizations.

New **One Book, One Diocese** selection is Prayer Primer: Igniting a Fire Within by Fr. Thomas Dubay, S.M. This easy-to-read book features 18 brief chapters on the fundamentals of an active Catholic prayer life. Sign-up at St. Mary to order a copy for only \$10. Great for Lent.

During Lent our students will collect for the Missionary Childhood Association, and all adults are invited to join in the **Rice Bowl** for Catholic Relief Services. Pick up your Rice Bowl today.

Catholicism DVD Series

Fr. Robert Barron (WordOnFire.org) has created a dynamic video series, Catholicism, filmed in 50 locations throughout 15 counties, teaching the Catholic faith through art, architecture, literature, beliefs, practices and Catholic tradition.

Watch one-hour episodes for Lent. Come even if you miss an episode. Subtitles available.

- Sundays, 9:30 AM (after Mass) at Ashland
- Sundays, 11:30 AM (after Mass) Greenwood
- Wednesdays, 7:00 PM (during CCD) Rectory

Community Announcements

Ashland-Greenwood School seeks volunteers and donations of pies to celebrate **Pi Day** on Wed. Mar. 14. Contact Barry at 944-2114.

Diocesan Announcements

Year of Faith Presentations on the Creed, St. Teresa Church, Lincoln: Mondays in Lent 7:30-8:30 PM.

Upcoming **Lenten Retreats** at Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House, Waverly for both Men & Women Mar. 8-10 with Fr. Apostoli and **Mar. 22-24** with Fr. Kubat. 402-786-275 or www.goodcounselretreat.com

A Night of Caring for Camp Kateri, Sun Mar. 23, at Stone Creek in McCool, NE. 5:00 PM Mass, 6:00 PM Social Hour, 6:45 PM Italian Dinner. Music by Ellen Soukup. Email by Mar. 14 to RSVP: campkateri@yahoo.com

Take a fresh look at your Marriage. Consider making a **Marriage Encounter** Weekend and enrich your lives together. It is a unique approach aimed at revitalizing Christian Marriage. April 12-14 in Omaha or Aug. 2-4 in North Platte. To register or for more info, contact Pat & Janelle at 308-946-3568 or pbjbbn@yahoo.com

Please Pray for our Seminarians

Alex Sasse (St. Peter, Lincoln) College 1
 Andrew Schwenka (Heartwell, NE) College 2
 St. Gregory the Great Seminary, Seward