



MASS FOR THE WEEK  
September 27—October 4  
EACH MASS IS OFFERED FOR  
THE INTENTIONS OF EVERYONE  
PRESENT AND FOR THE FOLLOWING:

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27**

- 4:00 p.m. Loretta Doussan; Carol Leonard; Marlene Morris; Leona O'Dwyer  
5:30 p.m. Theresa M. Barry; Dr. Harry Philibert; Barbara Rush; Marcia Spencer

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**

- 8:00 a.m. Members of St. Patrick's Church (Propopulo)  
9:30 a.m. Roberta W. Bruley; Jane O. Chatelain; Cyril P. Geary; SFC David Hurst, USA; Carol Lenoard; Shaun M. Nesmith; Mehmet & Nedime Rende & Family; John H. Schroder, Jr.; Charlotte Viguerie

- 11:00 a.m. Cecilia M. Barbier; Loretta Doussan; Curtis J. Marse

- 5:30 p.m. Dr. Harry Philibert; Barbara Rush; Marcia Spencer; Mary & Hilton Touns

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29**

- 11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List  
12:00 p.m. Sarah Palin; Dr. Harry Philibert; Barbara Rush; Marcia Spencer

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30**

- 11:30 a.m. Loretta O'Dwyer; Robert & Hazel Wells  
12:00 p.m. Dr. Harry Philibert; Elisabeth Robert; Barbara Rush

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1**

- 11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List  
12:00 p.m. Stephen Losee; Sarah Palin; Jeanne Perret; Dr. Harry Philibert

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2**

- 11:30 a.m. Loretta O'Dwyer; Sarah Palin; Father Timothy Pieris  
12:00 p.m. Dr. Harry Philibert; Elisabeth F. Robert

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3**

- 11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List  
12:00 p.m. Stephen Losee; Loretta O'Dwyer; Dr. Harry Philibert

**TRIDENTINE LATIN MASS—Sunday at 9:30 a.m.**

*Twenty Sunday after Pentecost*

**Solemn High Mass**—First Sunday of the month.

**Benediction**—Third Sunday after the 9:30 a.m. Mass.

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT  
AND BENEDICTION**

Every Sunday, 3:00pm—5:00pm

**FIRST FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2008**

- 7:00 p.m. Confessions  
7:30 p.m. Latin Tridentine Mass  
8:30 p.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
9:30 p.m. Benediction

**FIRST SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2008**

Crusade for the Conversion of Greater New Orleans

9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary, Confession, Novena and Holy Mass. All are invited.

**SUNDAY OFFERING**—September 21, 2008

First Collection \$ 9,028

Second Collection\* \$ 1,440

\* Catholic Communications Campaign

**SECOND COLLECTION—HURRICANE ASSISTANCE**

The second collection this weekend will be taken for the victims of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. South Louisiana was hard hit by these two hurricanes and many of our neighbors in the coastal parishes are in need of assistance. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated as they struggle to rebuild their homes.

**DAY OF RECOLLECTION WITH FATHER GROESCHEL**

Father Benedict Groeschel, noted priest-psychologist, speaker, author and host of "Sunday Night Live" on EWTN, will lead a Day of Recollection **Saturday, September 27, 2008**, 9:00a.m.-3:00p.m., at St. Benilde Church, 1901 Division Street in Metairie. The theme for the day is: "The Holy Spirit Guides the Church". Father Groeschel will give a talk in the morning, followed by Mass. There will also be a talk in the afternoon and a blessing with the relic of St. Pio of Pietrelcina. Register at the door.; cost for the day is \$20.00; lunch is not included; a freewill offering will be received. Doors open at 8:00a.m. For more information, contact CCRNO at [www.ccrno.org](http://www.ccrno.org).

**RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY—OCTOBER 5, 2008**

Next weekend, when we observe *Respect Life Sunday*, members of the New Orleans Right to Life will be selling the 2009 Right to Life Calendars after all the Masses. The calendars cost \$5.00 with the proceeds going to help the New Orleans Right to Life carry out their mission of: *Touching Hearts.... Changing Minds.... Saving Lives!* Please support LIFE!

**RED MASS—OCTOBER 6, 2008**

The Louisiana Bishops in conjunction with the St. Thomas More Catholic Lawyers' Association will host the Annual Red Mass at St. Louis Cathedral on Monday, October 6, 2008 at 9:30a.m. Archbishop Hughes will be the main celebrant and Bishop Provost of Lake Charles will give the homily. Everyone is cordially invited to attend the celebration.

**FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR**

To honor a loved one by donating flowers for the altar please call Jessie at 525-4413.

**COFFEE AND REFRESHMENTS**

After the Sunday morning Masses, The Claddagh Group hosts coffee and pastries in the Monsignor Reynolds Hall, directly behind the rectory. Please stop by after Mass to enjoy refreshments and the fellowship of parishioners and visitors of St. Patrick's Church.

**PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR**

Our Father in heaven, through the powerful intercession of Our Lady of Prompt Succor,  
spare us from all harm during this hurricane season,  
and protect us and our homes from all disasters of nature.  
Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us. Amen.

**PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL**

For the sick of our parish and those who have asked for our prayers especially: Tom Alexander; Tristan Anderton; Del Barry; Patricia Berrigan; Brett Bradley; Sara Cashio; Tony Clesi; Howard Comeaux; Jack & Paula Coughlin; Rene Crane; Fritz Dahlberg; Ralph DeBlanc; Raymond DeBlanc; Al Duroncelet; Rose Fee; Mimi Finley; John Fulcher; Mikell & Pete Johnson; Joan Kimball; Joseph; Lolita Lannan; Stephen Losee; Michael McCarthy; Buddy McInnis; Sally Ann Main; Mary O'Brien; Lucille Ogden; J. Van Provosty; Hugh Ramsey; Tom Roach; Elisabeth Robert; Carmelite Salassi; Adele Silva, Mary Silva; Stephanie Summers; Salvador Trentacoste; Turkington Family; Houston Walker

**SECURITY PROVIDED AT ALL EVENING SERVICES**

CONFESSION

The Sacrament of Penance is surely the most under-utilized of the Church's sacraments. This is inevitable in the age of "I'm OK, you're OK." But our failure to use the sacrament well is an important obstacle to holiness. . .

**God and the Apostles**

"Who can forgive sins but God alone?" Outraged at Jesus' claim to forgive the sins of the paralytic (Mk 2:1-12), the scribes asked this question, and they were right to do so. Either Jesus was blaspheming or He was God. Our Lord understood the question perfectly, so He performed a visible, physical miracle to establish the truth of His claim. The scribes simply refused to believe. But since we do believe, we ought to take seriously the need to seek God's forgiveness each time we sin.

How is this done? Christ wants us to do this sacramentally. First, that's the way He usually works, through external signs and created things. Second, He deliberately and obviously commissioned His apostles with a special power to forgive sins. To Peter and to the Church generally He said: "Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Mt 16:19; Mt 18:18). This refers to the power of Peter and the apostles in union with him to determine, both on earth and in heaven, who is in communion with Christ and who is not. And to the apostles together He said, very specifically: "As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.... Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained" (Jn 20:21-23). For these reasons, the Church has always held that the bishop, with the fullness of Holy Orders, is the principal minister of the Sacrament of Penance, assisted by his priests insofar as he commissions them for this service. Through the sacrament of Penance we are restored to God's grace and reconciled with the Church (which is inseparable from being reconciled with God). We also in some measure anticipate the final judgment by obtaining God's definitive mercy now, through the means He has wisely and generously provided. We are foolish indeed if we do not take full and frequent advantage of so clear and simple a means of forgiveness, overflowing as it is with Divine love.

**Essentials of the Sacrament**

There are four elements to the Sacrament of Penance, commonly listed as contrition, confession, absolution and satisfaction. First, the penitent must both have and express contrition for his sins. This contrition can be either perfect—arising from the love of God—or imperfect, arising from other considerations such as a horror of sin or a fear of judgment. Such contrition necessarily involves a sincere examination of conscience and the intention to amend one's life in the future, even if that intention is successful only over time and through many struggles. Without contrition, the priest's absolution has no effect.

Second, except in emergency situations, the Sacrament requires verbal confession of one's sins. This is not only required but salutary both naturally and supernaturally. As our psychology-saturated culture knows very well, we humans typically feel a little better if we can get something off our chests. Though often difficult, this has a sort of natural cleansing power. In addition and more importantly, confession of our sins requires considerable humility and abasement before God's tribunal. We recognize God's authority, strip away our pride, acknowledge our sinfulness and name our specific shortcom-

ings before God's representative. The spiritual power of this process far exceeds any sort of "going directly to God", as is frequently (and erroneously) advocated by Protestants.

Third, the priest must grant absolution—and may in fact withhold it if he sees no contrition or intention to amend one's life. For example, if someone confesses cohabitation before marriage without intending to change the situation, the priest certainly ought to withhold absolution. And so with any sin. But when absolution does come in what is called a "good" confession, it is tremendously consoling. Both naturally and supernaturally, it does confer pardon and peace. Most regular users of the Sacrament have seen more than one penitent enter the confessional tense and distraught only to leave with a lighter step, or even crying tears of relief and joy.

Finally, the priest assigns a penance which we must at least intend to perform if the absolution is to take effect. This is called satisfaction. In general, of course, we must make satisfaction for any wrong we have done to others as best we can (restoring stolen property, for example). But our sins also offend God; in fact they primarily offend God, who is infinitely holy. The penances assigned by the priest will generally be directed toward this fact. They provide a small and simple means—perhaps some prayers or a work of mercy—through which we can show our sorrow and offer satisfaction to God for our sins, satisfaction which is made far more valuable because it is joined to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

**Growth in Holiness**

Here are some other things to note about the Sacrament of Penance. What the Church strives for is not merely a formulaic ritual finished off by the mechanical performance of a penance. The Sacrament is designed to elicit that true interior penance and constant conversion which are so necessary to growth in holiness throughout life. This is why, although only mortal sins must be confessed (a mortal sin is something that the sinner knows is wrong, involves grave matter, and is done with full consent of the will), the Church recommends confession of venial sins as well, or even the restatement of sorrow for past sins. In addition, although Confession is required only once a year by ecclesiastical law, the Church also recommends frequent use of the Sacrament. Once a month is a good general guideline. All of this fosters rapidly increasing union with God.

Two other rules concerning the Sacrament of Penance are also important, especially as they have been frequently ignored in modern times. Penance is required before First Communion, even for children. And all those aware that they are in mortal sin must refrain from receiving Communion until they have made a good Confession. A third rule should bring great consolation to all of us sinners: The Church insists that all her priests honor the seal of the confessional. That is, the priest may neither reveal nor act upon anything he learns about a penitent through the Sacrament. In addition, of course, you can be sure that priests have heard most sins many, many times; they are also aware of their own sins (for they too must confess them to other priests). So there is no need for embarrassment or fear about what "Father will think."

...the Sacrament of Penance is one of Christ's most beautiful gifts to His Church, a Church which on earth is made up exclusively of sinners—sinners in dire need of grace.