

St. Ignatius Catholic School

Faith for Families

March 2023

An outreach of the School Board's Catholic Identity Committee



We belong to the Broken...

During the season of Lent, it is sometimes easy to be distracted by the cost of our sacrifices to the point that we miss the beauty they can bring to our lives. This month, as we remember that "We belong to the broken," we take a step back to embrace the season of Lent through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, and reach out with love and healing.

Suffering is present at every turn of life. Our tendency is to flee from it, to avoid it. This holds true from the small scratch we get when we first fall off our bicycle to the profound sorrow we feel when a friend betrays us. When we feel pain, we take every means in our power to get rid of it. In today's society, there is a medicine to alleviate any pain or suffering we might feel. Yet, in every suffering there is a lesson, and we remember the lesson better when we have suffered to learn it. Christ foresaw his rejection, suffering, and death, yet did not flee them. He embraced them as a way of showing his most profound love: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13). It is what we do when we give our children our time and attention. It is what real friends do when they serve without counting the cost. It is what we do when we help someone in need.

When Christ came to earth, suffering took on a new meaning. He gave us the possibility to give in to suffering, illness, and pain—the consequences of sin—the redemptive and salvific meaning of love. We all encounter suffering, and if we allow him, Christ can transform our greatest trials into our greatest victories. In every cross that we carry, it is possible to grow, if we choose to meet Christ in that moment. We are all broken, but Christ desires healing for us and sufferings are our opportunity for transformation. It is through denial of self, through the recognition of our weakness, through willfully embracing our trials and sufferings, that we can show the strength of God and the wonders of God in our life.

The reality is that we are all broken, and we encounter each other in our brokenness every day. We can choose to allow this difficulty to harden and darken our hearts, or we can choose to embrace Christ as our healer, and allow our sufferings to be the remedy to our brokenness. We always have the opportunity to turn to prayer, to turn to love, to choose forgiveness and mercy. That is how Christ encounters us, let our Lenten sacrifices help us to imitate him.

[When Lent Gets Inconvenient](#) by Fr. Mike Schmitz

REMEMBER THAT YOU
HAVE ONLY ONE SOUL;
THAT YOU HAVE ONLY
ONE LIFE, WHICH IS
SHORT AND HAS TO BE
LIVED BY YOU ALONE;
AND THERE IS ONLY
ONE GLORY, WHICH IS
ETERNAL.

ST. TERESA OF AVILA

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Parish Events

- March 3rd — K of C Fish Fry, 5:45pm
Stations of the Cross, 7pm
- March 4th — First Saturday Mass, 8:45am
- March 9th — Anointing Mass, 11am
- March 10th — K of C Fish Fry, 5:45pm
Stations of the Cross, 7pm
- March 12th — Coffee & donut social hour
after 9 & 11am Masses
- March 17th — K of C Fish Fry, 5:45pm
Stations of the Cross, 7pm
St. Patrick's Day Party @ St. Ignatius, 6pm
- March 24th — K of C Fish Fry, 5:45pm
Stations of the Cross, 7pm
- March 28th — Penitential Service, 6:30pm

*"May Mary, our guide on the Lenten journey, lead us to
ever deeper knowledge of the dead and Risen Christ,
help us in the spiritual combat against sin, and sustain
us as we pray with conviction: "Convert us to you, O
God, our salvation."*

Pope Benedict XVI

Catholic Link

The Sacraments of Healing

During the season of Lent, it is a wonderful opportunity to focus on the areas where we need Christ's healing. The Church offers us the sacraments as the antidote for our ailments. Particularly, the sacraments of healing allow us to experience Christ's love for our bodies and our souls. The Church, in her wisdom, knows that we need both.

Reconciliation

While it's unlikely anyone truly looks forward to confessing their sins, the beauty of this Sacrament is transformational. The reality is that Christ already knows everything we have done. This Sacrament is powerful because it gives us the opportunity to claim those mistakes, and to hear that we are known and forgiven. We also receive the grace to forgive ourselves, and to not commit the same sins again. Avoiding the Sacrament has been compared to a gunshot victim in an ER waiting room, refusing to see the doctor who can save them. It is blatant to both of them that the gaping wound is fatal, however, the pride of the injured will cost them their life. All the doctor wants to do is help. The process might be painful but the Divine Physician is not afraid of our sin. He has already conquered it, and the sacrament is our opportunity to encounter this beautiful Truth. Check out this [Sophia Sketchpad](#) video!



THE FIVE EFFECTS OF CONFESSION



It reconciles us with God and the Church
We regain the grace we lost because of sin and we recover the relationship with our Mother, the Church.



We are forgiven
We receive the forgiveness of all our sins (mortal and venial).



It reduces Purgatory time
Confessing diminishes, at least in part, the time we should be in Purgatory for our venial sins.




It gives us peace
Confession gives us the peace of conscience and spiritual consolation we long for.




It strengthens us
It provides us with the strength we need for our spiritual combat.


THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS  **CatholicLink** SOURCE: CONECTACEC.COM




THE THREE EFFECTS OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK




A particular gift of the Holy Spirit
Strengthening, peace and courage to overcome the difficulties that go with the condition of serious illness or the frailty of old age.




Union with the passion of Christ
In a certain way, the sick person is consecrated to bear fruit by configuration to the Savior's redemptive Passion.



An ecclesial grace
By celebrating this sacrament the Church intercedes for the benefit of the sick person, and he, for his part, through the grace of this sacrament, contributes to the sanctification of the Church.



A preparation for the final journey
This last anointing fortifies the end of our earthly life like a solid rampart for the final struggles before entering the Father's house.

THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS  **CatholicLink** SOURCE: VATICAN.VA

Anointing of the Sick

Usually, when we think of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, we think that it is for the elderly or dying only. While it is certainly most directly applicable to them, the sacrament of healing is truly for anyone who is suffering with an illness. Anybody who will be going under surgery or struggling with ANY health issues...physical, emotional, or mental can be anointed. Whether we need physical or spiritual healing, this sacrament is for both. We regularly have healing masses at our parish, where we are able to encounter Christ's healing in a physical way. All are welcome and invited to join in this. Here are a couple of great videos! [Sacraments 101](#) and [Theo matters](#)