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September 10, 2017

Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,

As we heard in Archbishop Aymond's letter to us this weekend, the Archdiocese of New Orleans is continuing the practice of an evening of Reconciliation in every church across the Archdiocese. This Wednesday evening, every church will be open to offer people the chance to go to confession and to receive absolution and forgiveness of their sins through the ministry of priests. This is a wonderful opportunity to be reconciled with God through the great mercy of Jesus!

For some, though, it may be hard to go to confession. Maybe it has been a very long time since you have last been to confession. Maybe it seems that confession is unnecessary. Maybe you have had a negative experience from a priest who was not as compassionate as he could have been. If this rings true for you, I encourage you to take the opportunity this week to return to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. As a priest, one of the greatest joys that I experience is when someone who has been struggling to come to confession finally makes that decision to go. In those blessed moments, I get to experience in a very real way what Jesus said in the Gospel: "there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance." (Luke 15:7)

Since Archbishop Aymond has been calling us to experience the great mercy of God through confession, I believe that it would be good for our parish to have more scheduled times to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. There was a time when Saturday afternoons were some of the most convenient times for people. But in our busy world, I think it is important to have more and different times that God's mercy is offered. So, **starting next weekend, we will add the following times for confession each week:**

5:15-5:45pm on Sunday evenings
6:30-6:50am on Wednesday mornings
7:40-8:00am on Friday mornings.

Let us pray that, through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, all of us may open our hearts more and more to the boundless mercy and love that Jesus offers us!

To Jesus through Mary,

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