



PARISH PREPARATION SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Welcome/Hospitality:

- Prepare the gathering space between entry door and area for confessions – is it warm and welcoming, have meaningful displays and informative materials, can guests tell where to go to wait for their turn for confession?
- Could your parish arrange to have 2-3 greeters each Monday evening? It will be important that they are prepared to be welcoming, but also discreet, for their ministry in this special outreach, since many guests will prefer anonymity.
- Do you have handouts available as people arrive about how to go to confession, cards with an Act of Contrition? Maybe you could arrange for a prayer card with parish contact info and Mass times, a parish brochure or bulletin to offer guests as they leave?

Communications:

- Homilies before and during Lent inviting people to experience the love and mercy of God in many ways, including the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Offer “pew cards,” bulletin announcements and/or inserts, or other easy take home pieces to assist parishioners with spreading the news and inviting friends and family members. These could also be readily available in the back of church and placed in businesses in your community, with their permission. (samples enclosed)
- Reminders in weekend announcements and in all parish meetings to spread the word to others that The Light Is On For You on Mondays during Lent in every parish
- Publish an easy guide to “How to go to Confession” – in your bulletin, in back of Church, on your parish website and with reference to the Diocesan website (sample enclosed)
- Link the Diocesan resource page to your parish site, <https://www.dioceseofscranton.org/parish-life/the-season-of-lent-2023/the-light-is-on-for-you/>
- Letter and/or email message to each household; special outreach to families with children in the parish religious education program(s) (sample enclosed)
- Share your parish ideas with the Office for Parish Life so we can relay them to others

Prayer Support Ideas:

- Ask parishioners to pray for the initiative – for those who will return to the sacraments, and for the priest-confessors who are offering their caring, listening presence
- Include the outreach in the Prayers of the Faithful before and during Lent
- Consider offering Evening Prayer at 5:15pm before confessions, or Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during the 5:30-7:00pm period weekly