

## Pastor's Column

March 2, 2014

### "The Light Is On For You"

This Lent and perhaps for many to come, the Archdiocese of Seattle is initiating a program to increase participation in the Sacrament of Confession: it is called "The Light is On For You". The idea is that all parishes and missions throughout the Archdiocese will have Confessions from 6-7pm on Fridays of Lent. This is a wonderful program and I hope as many priests as possible will participate in it. Of course it is not possible for all the parishes and missions of the Archdiocese to have Confession at this time, simply because we do not have enough priests for all the parishes and missions to be able to participate. Then of course there will be priests who won't do it for various reasons. The long and the short of it is, many places will have Confessions on Fridays during Lent from 6-7pm, and many won't.

As many of you already know, most parishes and missions only have Confessions once a week for an hour or less, some not at all. With "The Light is On For You" the Archbishop is trying to encourage the 95% of priests who only hear Confessions one hour or less per week to make this important sacrament more available to the laity; and for the laity to take advantage of the sacrament more frequently.

With all of this said, Queen of Angels and St. Joseph's parishes will not be participating in this well-intended effort. Why not? Queen of Angels and St. Joseph's parishes are each blessed to have Confessions six days a week, a half hour before all the scheduled Masses and from 4-5pm on Saturdays; that's 4½ – 5 hours per week! Add to that penance services in each parish during Advent and Lent (only about 30% of parishes do this anymore) and what we have are perhaps the two most Confession friendly parishes in the Archdiocese: Confession is taken very seriously here. The reason why we will not be participating in "The Light Is On For You" is because I don't believe more people will come to Confession as a result of it – *here*. Rather the same people who would normally come at a different time might come on Friday night because it could be more convenient for them; while reducing the numbers coming for the other 8-9 opportunities per week. Of course my time is a factor too. I am a very busy priest and I have to be a good steward of the entire ministry that God has given me. It is for these reasons that I will continue to offer the Sacrament of Confession six days a week, 4½ – 5 hours a week, plus penance services, but can't justify adding another hour for Confessions at this time.

By the way – go to Confession! One of the precepts of the Catholic Church makes it obligatory to confess our sins at least once a year as part of our Easter duty. Everyone is encouraged to take advantage of the many opportunities that are made available weekly in our parishes. Please see our website [www.clallamcatholic.com](http://www.clallamcatholic.com), the bulletin cover, or the schedule for Lent included in this bulletin for further information about the days/times of confessions in each parish.

In Christ's Love,



Fr. Thomas Nathe  
Pastor

(Please see reverse)