



# Knights *focus*

**EDWARD V. McCULLOUGH COUNCIL #7736**  
**St. Jude Catholic Church**  
**Mansfield, TX**  
**MARCH 2011**

## The Value of Lenten Repentance

*By Grand Knight Bill Tillotson*

We know that the Catholic Church teaches that, in order to be a practicing Catholic, we should make confession at least once a year, usually during Lent. St. Jude gives us many opportunities to fulfill this requirement. Fr. George hears confessions several nights a week and there are penance services scheduled throughout Lent.

But do we take advantage of these opportunities? For all too many Catholics, the answer is probably no. There are a lot of excuses for why we don't go. *It takes too much time* (you may have plenty of time to contemplate those sins some day) – *I can pray directly to God* (of course you can, but you are not guaranteed the graces you'll receive in the Sacrament) – or the best one – *I haven't really sinned* (really?).

There was a period of time in my life that I was away from the Sacrament of Reconciliation for many years. I used all these excuses and many more to justify to myself why I didn't need to go. But I did need to – and God sent a big event into my life that brought me back to the Sacrament.

But you don't need a big event to occur in your life to return to the sacrament – it is always there for you.

Our Catholic Church is wise in requiring us to receive this Sacrament once a year, and I encourage each of you to avail yourself of the graces present in this Sacrament. The importance of regular repentance can be illustrated as follows.

For a moment, imagine your life as an old sailing vessel crossing the Atlantic. Your sextant and compass are your guides. But currents push your ship this way and that. There are inaccuracies in your readings each day. And storms swell up that push you even further off course. And when you get to the New World, you land not at New York (where you wanted to go), but Florida!

In our everyday life, the Church and our conscience are our guides. But the currents of everyday life (TV, Internet, coworkers) drive us off our path. Our misunderstanding of church teachings and our own shortcomings lead us a bit further astray. And crisis arise, like large storms, that drive us further off the path we want to be on. At the end, will we end up somewhere much further south than where we wanted to be?

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a course correction – a reorienting of our lives back towards New York and away from Florida (no offense, Floridians). And these course corrections are easier to make if we haven't veered too far off the right path!

We all drift off the path (as we all sin). Reconciliation forces us to confront our sinfulness, confess it and receive the healing graces of the Holy Spirit.

What a great gift the Church offers us through this sacrament. I challenge each of you to receive it this Lenten season.

***Vivat Jesus!***

## Upcoming Events

- March 11, 18 & 25 – Fish Fries
- March 14 – First Degree @ St. Matthew's
- March 15 – Lady Knights
- March 21 – 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Mtg
- March 22 – Officers Mtg
- March 24 – First Degree @ St. Patrick's Cathedral
- March 26 – Pray @ Abortion Clinic
- March 26 – Keeping Children Safe Training
- March 26/27 – KNIGHTS CAN Weekend
- March 30 – Fort Worth Chapter Meeting



# Lenten Fish Fries

Our annual Lenten Fish Fries start on March 11 and continue throughout Lent. We start serving each Friday around 5:30-ish. On Good Friday, we start at 3:00 P.M.

Many thanks to the recently retired Larry Evans who has volunteered to head up this event. We know he'll do a great job.

We'll need guys to show up around 3:00 P.M. each Friday to help set up. If you can't come that early, come when you can to help. This is a big fundraiser for us and we need the help.

Meals are \$6 for adults - \$3 for kids - and we'll have kids meals each week as well.

Each week we will also have specials. Thanks to the Lady Knights for their help with these:

3/11 - Cheese Enchiladas and Rice (Jerry & Bonni Rodriguez)

3/18 - Gumbo (Carolyn Hart)

3/25 - Pizza (K of C)

4/1 - Potato Soup and Salad (Donna Ciarkowski)

4/8 - Fred Shrimp (K of C)

4/15 - Spaghetti w/ Red Sauce and Garlic Bread (John & Cindy Pressley)

4/22 - Shrimp Creole (Lorie Tomlin)

The CWO will also be selling desserts to help fund their scholarship.

AS A REMINDER - if you want to eat early, you are welcome to pay for a meal, sit down and enjoy yourself. If you wish to eat for free, we ask that you wait until the end of the evening and all our paying customers have been served.

**Senior Scholarship Forms are available on the website and in the back of the church - deadline is May 10! Scholarship Raffle also starting this month!**

## First Degrees This Month

(all at 7:00 P.M.)

3/14 - St. Matthew's in Arlington

3/23 - St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton in Keller

3/24 - St. Patrick's Cathedral in Fort Worth

Call Speedy Gonzales at 817-680-8240 or e-mail at [speedyg@hotmail.com](mailto:speedyg@hotmail.com) if you have a lead on a new member

## Keeping Children Safe

The Fort Worth Diocese is fully committed to protecting our youth. Hence, if you are going to work with the youth of our Parish, you must attend the "Keeping Children Safe" training.

The next training will be on March 26 from 9 AM to noon. Call the church offices at 817-473-6709 to register for this training.

## Pro Life Activities

Every fourth Saturday of the month, the Knights and their families travel out to the Henderson Street abortion clinic to pray the Rosary. The group meets at 8:15 A.M. at the Parish Center and carpools up. They are usually back by 10:30 A.M.

This month, we are going up on March 26. If you are interested in coming, call Chris Heath at 214-727-5017 or e-mail at [chrisg-heath@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chrisg-heath@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

## Council 7736 to host Fort Worth Chapter Meeting March 30

Our Council will be hosting the Fort Worth Chapter Meeting on the evening of March 30 in the St. Thomas Hall. Dinner will start at 7:00 P.M. and the meeting at 8:00. Jerry Rodriguez is going to be cooking up his killer barbeque so the meal will be great.

Please come out and help with the dinner and meeting. We'll need folks to help set up, serve and clean up afterwards. You are also welcome to stay for the meeting and hear all the great things the various Councils and Assemblies are doing all over the Fort Worth Diocese.

Our very own Pat Henz is the Chapter President, so we really want to put on a good event and show the rest of the Fort Worth Diocese how it's supposed to be done. Please plan on coming out to help.

## KNIGHTS CAN!

If you are like me, you are always forgetting to bring food for the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Well, now you have a reminder!

On the last weekend of the month, we have a KNIGHTS CAN! Weekend when we encourage all Knights to bring canned goods to the Mass they attend.

This month, the KNIGHTS CAN weekend is March 26/27. Please be generous towards the poor of our community.

Also, if you can help with food pickup after any of the Masses (especially 11:15), please contact Bill Tillotson at 817-690-0556 or [william\\_tillotson@yahoo.com](mailto:william_tillotson@yahoo.com) to volunteer to help.



Find out everything going on with Council 7736 by going to our website: [www.kofc7736.org](http://www.kofc7736.org)

## Council 7736 Upcoming Events

March 11 @ 3:00 P.M. – Fish Fry, Parish Hall – Start cooking about 3:00 P.M. Dining Room opens at 5:30 P.M., Dinner at 7:00.

March 11 @ 8:00 P.M. – Retention Committee Meeting, Parish Hall – Committee to meet during Fish Fry

March 14 @ 7:00 P.M. – First Degree @ St. Matthews in Arlington

March 15 @ 7:00 P.M. – Lady Knights Meeting – Meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at Parish Center.

March 18 @ 3:00 P.M. – Fish Fry, Parish Hall – Start cooking about 3:00 P.M. Dining Room opens at 5:30 P.M., Dinner at 7:00.

March 21 @ 7:00 P.M. – Fourth Degree Meeting –Held every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at Council 6269 in Arlington.

March 22 @ 7:00 P.M. – Monthly Council Planning Meeting – Held every fourth Tuesday of the month in our regular meeting room. Please come out and help us plan our upcoming events.

March 23 @ 7:00 P.M. – First Degree @ St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton in Keller.

March 24 @ 7:00 P.M. – First Degree @ St. Patrick Cathedral in Fort Worth

March 25 @ 3:00 P.M. – Fish Fry, Parish Hall – Start cooking about 3:00 P.M. Dining Room opens at 5:30 P.M., Dinner at 7:00.

March 26 @ 8:15 A.M. – Go pray Rosary at Henderson Street Abortion Clinic. Meet at Parish Center.

March 26 @ 9:00 A.M. – Keeping Children Safe Training at St. Jude.

March 26 & 27 – KNIGHTS CAN Weekend

March 30 @ 7:00 P.M. – Fort Worth Chapter Meeting at St. Jude. Please come to help set up around 6:00 P.M.

Late March – Scholarship Raffle Begins!

April 1 @ 3:00 P.M. – Fish Fry, Parish Hall – Start cooking about 3:00 P.M. Dining Room opens at 5:30 P.M., Dinner at 7:00.

April 2 @ 6:00 P.M. – BINGO!, Parish Hall – Start prepping food at 4:00 P.M., gaming starts at 6:30 P.M.

April 3 @ 11:15 A.M. – Corporate Communion and Unborn Commemoration Mass – Corporate Communion to remember our departed brothers. Also special Mass to commemorate the Unborn. Honor Guard will stand.

April 8 @ 3:00 P.M. – Fish Fry, Parish Hall – Start cooking about 3:00 P.M. Dining Room opens at 5:30 P.M., Dinner at 7:00.

April 8-10 – Kennedale Art in the Park – We will be cooking and selling food at this event. Times are Friday 4:00-10:00, Saturday 10:00-10:00 and Sunday 12:00-6:00. Please come out and help!

April 9-10 – Youth Homeless Event – Our youth will be spending night in church parking lot to experience homelessness. Knights will be helping, More details to come.

April 10 @ 6:30 A.M. – Pancake Breakfast, Parish Hall

April 12 @ 7:00 P.M. – Monthly Council Meeting - Meet every second Tuesday in our meeting room. Rosary at 6:30 P.M.

April 15 @ 3:00 P.M. – Fish Fry, Parish Hall – Start cooking about 3:00 P.M. Dining Room opens at 5:30 P.M., Dinner at 7:00.

April 18 @ 7:00 P.M. – Fourth Degree Meeting –Held every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at Council 6269 in Arlington.

April 19 @ 7:00 P.M. – Lady Knights Meeting – Meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at Parish Center.

April 21 @ 7:00 P.M. – First Degree @ St. Patrick Cathedral in Fort Worth

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