



MEDIA ADVISORY

We're Saving You a Place in Line! 225 Local Catholic Churches Join in Day of Confessions March 6

TORONTO (March 5, 2013) – Thousands of Catholics in more than 220 Catholic churches throughout the Greater Toronto Area will line up to take part in the Archdiocese of Toronto's first Day of Confessions on March 6, sharing the burdens of their consciences with priests as they prepare for Easter.

Every Catholic church in the archdiocese will devote extended hours to Confession – formally known as the Sacrament of Reconciliation – as part of the Day of Confessions. Building on similar days in dioceses throughout the United States and Canada, the event, in conjunction with the global Roman Catholic Church's Year of Faith, provides an opportunity for Catholics to renew their focus on repentance and forgiveness as part of the 40-day liturgical season of Lent. Similar initiatives will take place in the Archdiocese of Edmonton and the Diocese of London, Ontario, where the event has expanded significantly since its arrival four years ago.

Some churches will have a priest on hand for up to 14 hours to be available for those wishing to take part in this important sacrament, which is a central part of an active Catholic faith life. Confession allows individuals to meet with a priest, acknowledge their frailties and imperfections, seek forgiveness and start anew, resolving to raise the bar on personal behaviour moving forward. Priests, God's representative in the sacrament, are under a seal of secrecy and can never reveal the content of a confession.

Those hoping to take part can find a local parish by visiting www.archtoronto.org. The Archdiocese of Toronto has prepared a special mini-website: www.archtoronto.org/confession with resources, multimedia clips and more information to help those who have been away from the sacrament for an extended time or might be looking for a refresher on the steps involved.

The Archdiocese of Toronto is Canada's largest diocese, encompassing 42 municipalities stretching from Toronto north to Georgian Bay and from Oshawa to Mississauga. It is home to 1.8 million Catholics and 225 churches, with Mass celebrated in more than 30 different languages each week.

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Note: Our office is happy to assist journalists covering this story. To respect the sacred nature of the sacrament, please contact the Office of Public Relations & Communications prior to arrival.

MEDIA CONTACT: Neil MacCarthy – Director, Public Relations & Communications
Phone (416) 934-3400 x 552 Cell: (416) 879-2846 neilm@archtoronto.org www.archtoronto.org

Sample of Local GTA Churches – Day of Confession Hours

Newman Centre, 89 St. George St., Toronto - 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., 4:30 – 6 p.m.

Our Lady of Grace Parish, 15347 Yonge St., Aurora - 8:30 a.m.– 6:30 p.m., Reconciliation service @ 7 p.m.

St. Barnabas Parish, 10 Washburn Way, Scarborough - 10 a.m. – 12 noon, 2-5 p.m.

St. Basil's Parish, 50 St. Joseph St., Toronto - 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., 1 – 3 p.m.,

St. Brigid's Parish, 300 Wolverleigh Blvd., Toronto - 9 a.m. – 12 noon, 2 p.m. – 9 p.m.

St. Joseph's Parish, 5440 Durie Rd., Mississauga, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., 2 -5 p.m., 6:30 – 9 p.m.

St. Mary's Parish, 65 Amelia St., Barrie - 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.

St. Mary's Parish, 66A Main St. South, Brampton - 7 a.m. – 10 p.m.