



24 hours for the Lord is an initiative of Pope Francis who offers us two days of prayer, to better live our Lent in the joy of a renewed Heart. During these days there will have a prayer vigil during which we will participate in the penitential celebration (confession). The ceremony will take place according to the following program:

1. Friday March 12: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Penitential liturgy + prayer vigil
2. Saturday March 13: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Open day at the church with Confession and animated Eucharistic adoration.

A- Why do I have to go to confession?

I confess to receive, from God, peace, joy and the forgiveness of my sins, gifts of Easter and fruit of the death and resurrection of Jesus. We must know first of all that the protagonist of the forgiveness of sins is the Holy Spirit. In His first appearance to the apostles, in the Cenacle, the risen Jesus makes the gesture of blowing on them saying, Receive the Holy Spirit. Those to whom you forgive sins, they will be forgiven; those to whom you will retain them, they will be retained for them ~ (Jn 20, 22-23)... The breath of Jesus, accompanied by the words with which he communicates the Spirit, indicates the transmission of life, new life regenerated by forgiveness. But before making the gesture of breathing and giving the Spirit, Jesus shows his wounds, in the hands and side: these wounds represent the price of our salvation. The Holy Spirit brings us the forgiveness of God “passing through” the wounds of Jesus.

B- Jesus gives the apostles the power to forgive sins.

It's a little hard to understand how a man can forgive sins, but Jesus gives that power. The Church is the custodian of the power of the keys, to open or to close forgiveness. God forgives every man in his sovereign mercy, but he himself has wanted those who belong to Christ and to the Church to receive forgiveness through ministers of the community ... The Church is not patron of the power of the keys, but she is servant of the ministry of mercy and rejoices whenever she can offer this gift divine. Many people probably do not understand the ecclesial dimension of forgiveness, because individualism, subjectivism still dominates. Surely God forgives every repentant sinner, personally, but the Christian is linked to Christ, and Christ is united to the Church ... We may feel ashamed to speak of our sins, but our mothers and grandmothers said that it's better to turn red once than yellow a thousand times. We blush once, but our sins we are forgiven, and we are moving forward.

C- The priest, instrument for the forgiveness of sins

The forgiveness of God given to us in the Church is transmitted to us through of the ministry of our brother, the priest; also a man, who like us needs mercy, he truly becomes an instrument of mercy, giving us limitless love of God the Father. Priests also go to confession, even bishops: we are all sinners.

The Pope confesses every fortnight, because the Pope is also a sinner. And the confessor hear the things I say to him, advise me and forgive me, because all we need of this forgiveness. Sometimes it happens to hear someone who supports confess directly to of God ... Yes, God always listens to you, but in the Sacrament of Reconciliation he sends a brother bring you forgiveness, assurance of forgiveness, in the name of the church.

D- What to do after confession?

“You think times are bad, times are hard, times are hard. Live well and times will be good”.
Saint’Ambroise

“The Beatitudes contain the Christian's 'identity card' - this is our identity card - because they define the face of Jesus himself, his lifestyle. The Beatitudes always lead to joy; they are the way to reach joy. He will do us good today to take the Gospel of Matthew, chapter five, verses one to eleven, and read the Beatitudes - perhaps other times during the week - to understand this path if beautiful, so sure of the happiness that the Lord offers us ”.

POPE FRANCIS

Happy celebration to all