



OFFICE OF THE VICAR GENERAL
DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

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October 26, 2018

Dear Pastors /Administrators:

On Monday, December 17, 2018, our Diocese will join the Archdiocese of New York in celebrating ***Advent Reconciliation Monday***. On this special day, all the parishes of our dioceses will offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation from **4:00 PM to 8:00 PM**, in preparation for the great Feast of the Lord's Nativity.

Reconciliation Monday has been a great success in our Diocese over the past few years. The feedback received from the parishes, priests and faithful confirm what a truly positive and renewing experience it has been for all involved. This Advent, over 500 churches in New York City and the upper counties will be simultaneously offering the sacrament – a powerful invitation to those Catholics who may be away from the sacrament for a period of time, to be drawn back to this encounter with God's reconciling love. A coordinated media campaign involving this inter-diocesan effort is also underway so that the invitation for the faithful to avail themselves of the sacrament may reach many.

The Liturgy Office will prepare a Communal Penance Service that may be used if your parish or deanery is planning to host one. It will be found in the Liturgy Folder on First Class under "Reconciliation Monday Resources" towards the end of November.

Please note that all active priests who are not presently assigned to a fulltime parochial assignment, priests from religious congregations and all retired priests who are able to travel, are asked by Bishop DiMarzio to offer assistance in hearing confessions.

If you serve in a parish with more than one worship site, we would ask that you work with the priests of your parish, the priests of your deanery or your dean to make sure that every location has a confessor. Also, if you are a single pastor covering more than one parish, please coordinate your efforts with your dean to provide a confessor at each location. Our Diocesan Bishop requests that you post the confession times in your bulletin and on the outside doors of each entrance to every worship site in your parish.

Allow me to thank you in advance for your fraternal support and cooperation in making our Advent observance of *Reconciliation Monday* a pastoral success, especially this year in light of the many disturbing news stories regarding the current sexual abuse crisis.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Raymond F. Chappetto*

Most Reverend Raymond F. Chappetto, D.D., V.G., V.E.
Vicar General