


The Light is ON  for You.
Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

On a table near the church entrance or the confessionals, provide information:

- Parish celebrations for Holy Week and Easter
- Your parish and its activities, including Stations of the Cross, Lenten meals, etc.
- Annulment process or how to obtain that information on the Archdiocesan website (www.adw.org or www.the-light-is-on.org); Our Sunday Visitor has great brochures, *Annulments* and *Top 10 Reasons to Come Back to Church* (1-800-348-2440)
- Material from your parish magazine rack
- About RCIA and RCIC (Some people have been away, or their kids are “off track” sacramentally)
- Brochures on how to go to confession (the Archdiocese will provide brochures for each parish; a black/white version appropriate for copying is online at www.the-light-is-on.org)
- Brochures for praying in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament (available for copying online at www.the-light-is-on.org)

For the Confessional

- Place a copy of the Act of Contrition in the confessional
- Place a new box of tissues in the confessional

Hospitality

- Invite people: put a sign up outside the church (logo online at www.the-light-is-on.org)
- Invite parish groups to make a commitment to be present in prayer at Adoration on one of the Wednesdays during Lent
- Arrange for a few member(s) of the parish to be in the church:
 - present at the entrance to distribute prayer guide, Benediction prayers (if applicable) and reconciliation brochure
 - praying for the grace of reconciliation during scheduled confession time or
 - quietly available as a welcoming presence for those who might visit, understanding that some coming to confession may be dealing with difficult issues.
- If appropriate, consider offering some hospitality (coffee/refreshments) in a side room during the times confession is available
- Create a welcoming environment. An hour or so before confession, turn the heat and lights on. Turn lights on over the altar and tabernacle and light candles. If you want to help older Catholics come back to Mass after being away, burn incense at your morning Mass. The smell will be familiar.
- Parishes with one priest and two church buildings:
 - ask neighboring parishes if priests are available to assist you by being present at one of your churches or
 - please consult with the Secretary for Ministerial Leadership or Secretary for Pastoral Ministry and Social Concerns for assistance.