

From the Desk of Fr. John

PRESENT (3-25-20) SACRAMENT OF PENANCE SCHEDULE UNDER ALL APPROPRIATE COVID-19 PROTOCOLS:

No one who would judge themselves as not needing to share the Sacrament of Penance need to do so. A private personal prayer of contrition will suffice for the reception of grace and the forgiveness of sin.

The Vatican in a larger statement of the Sacrament of Penance noted this greater statement as to a private personal contrition and the remission of sin:

"Where the individual faithful find themselves in the painful impossibility of receiving sacramental absolution, it should be remembered that perfect contrition, coming from the love of God, beloved above all things, expressed by a sincere request for forgiveness (that which the penitent is at present able to express) and accompanied by *votum confessionis*, that is, by the firm resolution to have recourse, as soon as possible, to sacramental confession, obtains forgiveness of sins, even mortal ones (cf. CCC, no. 1452)."

Given in Rome, from the seat of the Apostolic Penitentiary, on March 19, 2020,

It is permissible within the COVID-19 protocols of this day, Wednesday 25 March, to hold that on Saturday 28 March the Sacrament of Penance may be offered to one who would desire to share the sacrament. This will take place at the SMO/SMP regularly scheduled hours on Saturdays for the praying of the sacrament: SMO 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; SMP 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.. Given Fr. John's presence within the SMP building only 9 other persons may be within the church building. At SMO as I will not be in the church building the number of persons in the church at SMO remains at 10. The site of our sharing the sacrament will not be in the Reconciliation Chapels at either church. I will be at the Parish Fellowship Center just west of the church at SMO and in the east Faith Formation wing at SMP. Particular directives will be posted at the inner main worship space doors at both churches. Upon arriving at SMO/SMP one must go to the main entry to learn and follow these particular directives for each location. If our common COVID-19 protocols should change this opportunity to share the sacrament will change accordingly and may not be able to be provided.

- Fr. John