

Confessions by Appointment (Recommendation)

Not wanting to deny anyone the opportunity for Confession, especially during Lent and the quarantine, we offer the following ideas:

1. Set aside time during the week when Confessions will be heard.
2. Promote a phone number for people to call to make an appointment.
3. The person taking the call can suggest that if the person is experiencing any symptoms, that they defer to another time.
 - a. The person taking the call can pray the act of contrition with the person on the phone and then instruct them to confess as soon as they are not symptomatic.
4. Appointments of 15-minute intervals can be set, the person can be told to arrive 5 min early, and a system for waiting can be arranged.
5. People would be offered clear instructions like avoiding touching surfaces and to understand that there is a limited window of time for the confession to conclude.
6. Appropriate disinfection can occur as needed between penitents.
7. If necessary, a conference room can be used as a confessional, this will promote social distancing and privacy.
 - a. A privacy screen could be erected in the room for those who desire it.
 - b. If the weather is nice, confessions may be heard in an outdoor setting.