



Metropolitan Archbishop of Izmir

Izmir February 15, 2024

Dear brothers and sisters,

We began yesterday the season of Lent that will prepare us to celebrate Easter. The Lord, who loves us and wishes to forgive all our sins, invites us to convert, to return to him wholeheartedly. For this to happen Jesus himself instituted the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Every time we celebrate the Sacrament of Confession we receive very precious gifts: the Lord forgives, he repairs the communion between us and our brothers and sisters that any sin ruins, he gives our hearts a deep peace that we all need, he makes us stronger to be able to resist temptations.

From its origins, the Church, with a mother's love, invites all the faithful not to neglect this great gift of the Lord and to frequently celebrate the Sacrament of Confession.

With this in mind, I inform you that starting today, and throughout the duration of the Novena in honor of St. Polycarp, **from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** some priests will be available in the cathedral to hear confessions from those who wish to do so. It will also be possible to celebrate the Sacrament of Confession in the cathedral **every Friday of Lent from 5:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

Dear brothers and sisters, from the heart with the words of the Apostle Paul I invite you, "be reconciled with God!" Celebrate the Sacrament of Confession without fear and after preparing yourself sincerely. The Lord will make everyone feel the joy of his love and salvation.

Wishing you a good time of Lent I pray the Lord to give you all good things.

+ *Mart Kmetec*

+ Martin Kmetec OFM Conv.

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