

A *Year of Prayer, Repentance and Reparation* for the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings

In light of the present crisis in the Church and in our Diocese, Bishop Warfel has declared this liturgical year as a ***Year of Prayer, Repentance and Reparation*** for sins committed against children and youth by clergy and religious.

The year begins with the First Sunday of Advent, **December 2, 2018** with a Solemn Evening Prayer presided by the bishop within a Holy Hour and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Ann's Cathedral on Sunday, December 2nd at 6 PM. All parishes are invited to do likewise.

- Clergy are asked to join the bishop in prayer for the purification of the Church in light of the scandal of child sexual abuse with every Friday being a special day for fasting, prayer and abstinence from meat. All Catholics are invited to join in Friday prayer, fasting and abstinence or some other form of penance.
- Parishes are asked to provide space and opportunity for a weekly rosary prayed at the parish for the healing of the Diocese and the Church universal.
- Households are asked to pray the Rosary daily as families for the healing of the Church.
- Families are asked to share at least one weekly meal as a family at which the importance of mercy and healing is discussed. Prayer cards and discussion questions will be provided.
- Parishes are asked to provide an opportunity for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.
- Priests are invited to make a daily Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament, being especially mindful of the priestly responsibility to celebrate the sacrifice of the Mass on behalf of the people.
- Pastors are asked to hold a special Mass during the year emphasizing penance, the need for reparation and especially for healing of victims who have suffered the sin of sexual abuse.
- Pastors should consider including the Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel before or after Mass or as a conclusion to the Prayers of the Faithful.

The close of the *Year of Prayer, Repentance and Reparation* will be the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, **November 25, 2019**.