

# PARISH BIBLE STUDY

Cinema. Contemplation. Community.

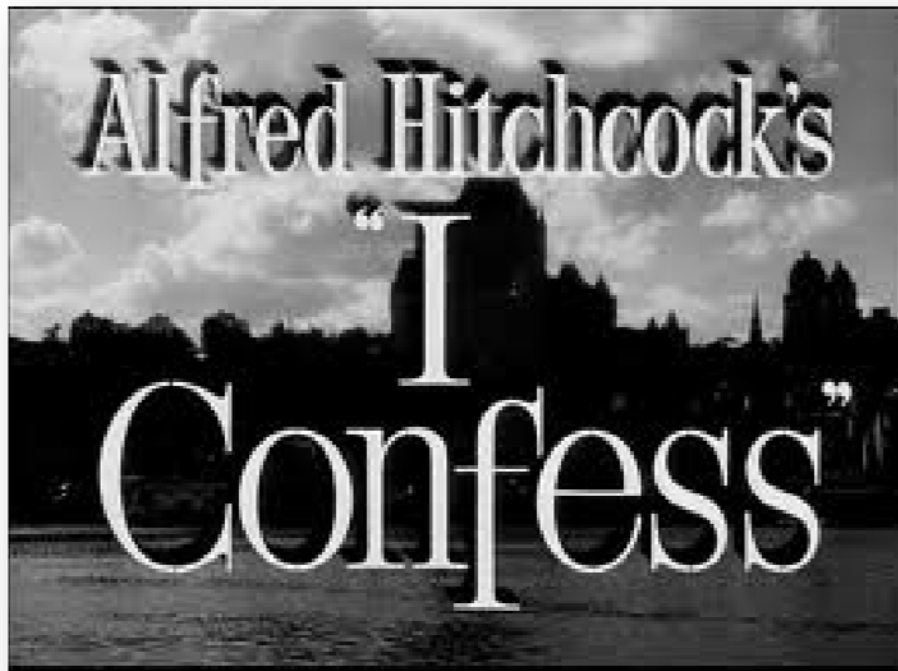
“Cinema Divina: A *Lectio Divina* experience in Film”  
featuring Alfred Hitchcock’s 1953 classic starring  
Montgomery Clift, Anne Baxter and Karl Malden.

**PLOT:** Refusing to give into police investigators’ questions of suspicion, due to the seal of confession, a priest becomes the prime suspect in a murder.

## Invite a friend!

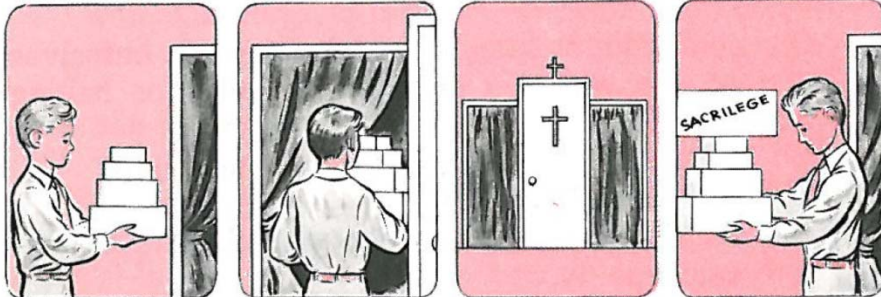
Thursday • March 3<sup>rd</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> • 7:00-8:30pm

*Prepare for the practice of Lenten confessions  
with this great Hitchcock classic!*



## Baltimore Catechism

### STORY OF A BAD CONFESSION



JOHN HAS FOUR MORTAL SINS

HE GOES TO CONFESSION

HE TELLS THREE, BUT IS ASHAMED OF THE OTHER

HE COMES OUT WITH **FIVE**

And no matter how often John goes to confession after this, no sin will ever be forgiven until he tells the one he deliberately left out. As often as he goes to confession without telling this sin, all his confessions will be bad. And if he goes to Communion, this will be a sacrilege, too.

419. Why should a sense of shame and fear of telling our sins to the priest never lead us to conceal a mortal sin in confession?

A sense of shame and fear of telling our sins to the priest should never lead us to conceal a mortal sin in confession because this is a grave sacrilege, and also because the priest, who represents Christ Himself, is bound by the seal of the sacrament of Penance never to reveal anything that has been confessed to him.

A priest must always keep his lips locked about what he hears in confession. One priest even died a martyr's death, because he refused to reveal what he had heard in confession. His name was St. John Nepomucene.



PRIEST'S LIPS LOCKED



Cathedral Parish Bible Study  
Thursday, March 3 & 10, 2011



## Cinema Divina

1. **LECTIO:** “Reading” the film with an eye toward the Divine. Where do the movie characters encounter Christ? How is His Divine Providence present? Where are His golden fingerprints of Providence detected?
2. **MEDITATIO:** How does the movie aid in fine tuning the senses? To see? To hear? To smell? To touch or feel? To taste? What is the image or scene from the movie that the Spirit leads you to?
3. **ORATIO:** Our opportunity for prayerful dialogue with the Lord, sharing the thoughts and emotions that we experienced and felt during the movie.
4. **CONTEMPLATIO:** Our time to be a good listener with the Lord, sitting attentively with Him. Perhaps simply listening in the silence, but most importantly being present to Him. Giving freely of ourselves to Him with no other distractions or mental dialogue.
5. **OPERATIO:** St. Paul reminds us that we are given fruit so that we may share it with others. How can we work to use the fruit from this movie to deepen our relationship with Christ and at the same time, help others to also grow in their own relationship with Him?

*I Confess* (1953) is a drama film directed by Alfred Hitchcock, and starring Montgomery Clift as Fr. Michael William Logan, a Catholic priest, Anne Baxter as Ruth Grandfort, and Karl Malden as Inspector Larrue. This was the only film Hitchcock made with these three actors. Refusing to give into police investigators' questions of suspicion, due to the seal of confession, a priest becomes the prime suspect in a murder.

### Things to Watch for in the Film Techniques of Alfred Hitchcock:

- Camera sequences seen from the character's viewpoint — this may serve as an aid to developing the *Lectio Divina* technique of “seeing” when reading Sacred Scripture.
- Movement of camera through public space – again this may serve as an aid to deepening the *Lectio Divina* technique of encountering travel within Sacred Scripture.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What Sacraments were portrayed in the movie? Were they portrayed well? Did you gain any new insights into the Sacraments that were portrayed?
2. When did ‘guilt’ make an appearance in the movie?
3. When did ‘grace’ make an appearance in the movie?
4. What image, scene, or feeling were you drawn to in the movie? Why? If you could pick one scene to freeze-frame to capture this image or feeling, which would it be?
5. What would you say to help someone who was struggling with going to Confession?
6. What are some ways (*what are the actual words that you would say?*) to invite family, friends, co-workers, or neighbors when you’re planning to go to Confession?

**Jesus “breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.””  
(John 20:23-23 NAB)**

***I Confess* Scene Selection:****TIMES**

1. Credits and a Pedestrian	0:00-2:00
2. Church Encounter	2:01-5:09
3. I have Killed	5:10-8:17
4. How fortunate we are	8:18-12:19
5. Crime Scene	12:20-15:52
6. Easy to be good	15:53-19:30
7. What two school girls saw	19:31-24:59
8. Not possible to answer	25:00-31:15
9. A woman in love	31:16-36:17
10. Ferry Rendezvous	36:18-39:47
11. Determined to explain	39:48-46:05
12. A matter of Blackmail	46:06-48:15
13. Young lovers	48:16-52:31
14. Rain-soaked Reunion	52:32-56:14
15. Dealing with Villette	56:15-59:31
16. <u>What have I done?</u>	<u>59:32-1:02:17</u>
17. Killer & Confessor	1:02:18-1:05:35
18. Through Quebec's Streets	1:05:36-1:09:56
19. On Trial	1:09:57-1:14:07
20. Caught in a Storm	1:14:08-1:20:46
21. The Verdict	1:20:47-1:23:58
22. Hostile Mob	1:23:59-1:25:57
23. The killer revealed	1:25:58-1:29:38
24. A man Alone	1:29:39-1:33:36
25. Final Confessions	1:33:37-1:34:30