

Priest: May the joy and peace of Jesus our brother, the love of God our Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

All: And also with you.

Priest: We are here as a people who have heard the call to follow Christ and to live in a loving and caring way. At times we fail to follow as we should; we lose our way. Let us pause for a moment and think about the times we have failed and how much our Lord wants us to return to Him.

Priest: As we know, God our loving parent is always ready to forgive us when we have sinned. It is a great joy for him to forgive us, to welcome us home to His loving embrace.

To help us understand this, Jesus told us a story:
The Parable of the Prodigal Son
Luke 15:11-24

Homily:

Priest: It is a feast for God our loving parent when we come back to Him. It is a feast for the Church, too. The Church is the great family of God's children. When we come together as baptized members of this community of believers to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the community rejoices in the great love of our God who always welcomes us.

Priest: The response is: Father forgive us.

Priest: For the days when we do not want to make an effort to grow, to work, to develop our talents.

All: Father forgive us.

Priest: For the days on which we refuse to pay attention to others, to love, to help them.

All: Father forgive us.

Priest: For the days on which we refuse to forgive or to ask others to forgive us, for the days on which we refuse to make peace.

All: Father forgive us.

Priest: For the days on which we have treated our parents and others without love and respect.

All: Father forgive us.

Priest: For the days on which we have been unkind to our brothers, sisters, and friends.

All: Father forgive us.

Priest: For the days on which we do not want to think of you, our loving God, for the days on which we do not want to pray to you or even listen to you.

All: Father forgive us.

Priest: Father, we give you thanks and praise for the love and mercy you so generously give us and in you we put all

our trust.

All: Our Father....

Act of Contrition

O my God, I am sorry for my sins.
In choosing to sin, and failing to do good,
I have sinned against You and Your Church.
I firmly intend, with the help of Your Son,
to make up for my sins and to love as I should. Amen.

