

THE CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

THE SIGN OF GOD'S LOVING FORGIVENESS

INTRODUCTION

God in His love gave us the Sacrament of Penance. Since God is so willing to forgive our sins, we must be willing to forgive one another. When we confess our sins we receive God's pardon but we also are called to share that forgiveness with others. We must resolve to overcome the sin in our lives and accept the Lord's loving forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance.

OPENING PRAYER:

God, our Father, you chose us to be your people, to be holy in your sight and happy in your presence.

Receive us as we confess our sins tonight so that we may share the joy and love of your holy Church in the Sacrament of Penance.

We ask this through Christ our Lord AMEN

SCRIPTURE READING

HOMILY - (Reflections on the Scripture)

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

LEADER: Let us examine our lives and assess our living in the light of the gospel. Jesus said, "Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is close at hand," (Mt. 4:17)

Is there sin in my life? Since my last confession, have I made a real effort to improve? Have I lived at peace with God? With others? With myself?

ALL: LORD, FORGIVE US.

**LEADER: Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."
Do I love God with all my heart? Is there any other god-such as, success, pleasure, wealth, possessions, self - that comes before Him?
Do I pray each day?
Do I ever pray?
Do I respect and reverence God's name?
Am I faithful to Sunday Mass?
Do I attend Mass regularly?**

ALL: LORD, FORGIVE US

LEADER: Jesus said, "I give you a new commandment: Love one another."

**Have I tried to love my neighbor as myself?
Have I helped those in need?
Have I been aware of their needs?
Have I remembered the sick, the deprived, those whom we put
on the margins of our society?
Have I been a faithful and loving member of my family?
Have I loved and honored my parents?
Have I loved and honored my children?
Have I mistreated my own body through the improper use of
drugs, alcohol, or sex?**

ALL: LORD, FORGIVE US

LEADER: Jesus said, "Happy are those who hunger and thirst for what is right: They shall be satisfied." (Mt. 5: 6)

Am I selfish, self-seeking, caring only for my own wants and needs?

Have I respected the rights of others?

Do I pay fair wages and provide proper working conditions?

Do I overcharge? Make false claims?

Am I guilty of stealing? Have I stolen or damaged property?

Do I respect life? Am I conscious of other people's safety?

Do I drive with care?

Have I lied in a serious way?

ALL: LORD, FORGIVE US

LEADER: Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, My own peace I give you." (Jn. 14:27)

Am I a person of peace?

Do I support, condone, and encourage violence in any form?

Have I been violent, in word or action?

Am I a source of trouble or discontent at home? At work?

At school?

ALL: LORD, FORGIVE US

LEADER: Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth.... the light of the world" (Mt. 5:13-14)
Am I willing to be counted as a Christian?

ALL: LORD, FORGIVE US

LEADER: And Jesus said, "Courage, your sins are forgiven" (Mt. 9:2)

ALL: LORD, FORGIVE US

ACT OF CONTRITION

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with Your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ, suffered and died for us. In His name, my God, have mercy.

INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION OF SINS AND FORGIVENESS BY A PRIEST.