

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 today 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 AND LITANY OF PETITION

LEADER: *For not recognizing you as our God and respecting your presence in our lives, we pray to you, O Lord*

ALL: *Lord, forgive us*

LEADER: *For failing to attend Mass on Sunday, for not saying our prayers, we pray to you, O Lord*

ALL: *Lord, forgive us*

LEADER: *For speaking unkindly of others or without care for their feelings, for using the gift of speech to cause pain or anger, we pray to you, O Lord*

ALL: *Lord, forgive us*

LEADER: *For taking what does not belong to us, by stealing, for being selfish with what is ours, we pray to you, O Lord*

ALL: *Lord, forgive us*

LEADER: *For failing to respect our parents and elders, for failing to respect our children and family, for failing to respect others, we pray to you, O Lord*

ALL: *Lord, forgive us*

LEADER: *For being jealous or hateful towards others and not grateful for the many gifts you have given us, we pray to you, O Lord*

ALL: *Lord, forgive us*

LEADER: *For being afraid to stand up for what we know is your truth, for failing to keep your commandments, we pray to you, O Lord*

ALL: *Lord, forgive us*

LEADER: *For misusing the gifts of alcohol, drugs or sex, for not appreciating the gift of body and soul, we pray to you, O Lord*

ALL: *Lord, forgive us*

PRIEST: *God, our Father, give us the courage and strength to meet Jesus, your son, as He continues His work of forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance. Give us the faith to see in the words and gestures of your priests the words and gestures of Christ our Lord. AMEN*

INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION OF SINS AND FORGIVENESS BY A PRIEST