

The Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation/Confession

The **Sacrament of Penance** is one of two sacraments in which the Lord continues His healing ministry. It is a celebration of God forgiving love as witnessed by Christ in the Gospels. As Christians, we are called to live a life of ongoing renewal, constantly striving to grow in our ability to love both God and our neighbor in the way that Jesus has taught us to love. When our human selfishness gets the better of us (sin), we need to turn to God with sorrow for our failure to love, and we need to hear God's words of forgiveness, to know that God *always* forgives us. That is what happens in the Sacrament of penance. We are given a fresh start; we become signs of reconciliation and healing for others.

At times, this sacrament is referred to as the Sacrament of Penance, or the Sacrament of Reconciliation, or as Confession. All three titles refer to the same sacrament and each emphasizes a different aspect of what occurs in the sacrament.

The Sacrament of Penance is celebrated in the worship sites as follows:

St. Mary's Church: Saturday 3-3:30pm

St. Peter and Paul's Church: Saturday 3-3:45pm

Our Lady of Lourdes Church: Saturday 3-3:45pm

Or by appointment.

Children who wish to make their first confession must enroll in classes starting in the fall. The Sacrament of First Penance is celebrated in early December. Watch for information in the bulletin.

