

# A Journey of Holiness & Peace

The forgiveness of our sins is a graced moment in our spiritual journey. During the Rite of Penance after we have confessed our sins, received guidance and a penance from the priest we receive a blessing and absolution. In that blessing we are reminded that our sins are forgiven through the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We are reminded of how much God loves us and we are challenged to do our best to avoid sin and live in God's love. As we reflect upon this mystery of God's unconditional love we are aware of the role of the Holy Spirit in the forgiveness of sins and the individual and the communal aspect of the sacrament. My sin not only affects my relationship with God but my relationship with the community as well.

It is through the ministry of the church that God gives us pardon and peace. It is through God's grace and mercy revealed through this sacrament that we are able to deepen our resolve to overcome evil and avoid temptation that leads to sin. With the help of God we strive for holiness and we look forward to continuing on the journey toward the kingdom of God and life eternal.

There are many opportunities for you to celebrate this wonderful Sacrament of Penance throughout the year. You are most welcome to participate in this one day diocesan wide celebration of the *Sacrament of Penance on February 20, 2013 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.* in every Roman Catholic Church in the Diocese of Cleveland. We encourage you to consider inviting a family member or friend who has been away from the church or hasn't taken advantage of this great sacrament of healing and forgiveness in a long time to join you as well.

We are grateful to the Holy Father for calling us to this Year of Faith with a focus on reconciliation. This is a time for new beginnings. Please join us as we ask God to bless us and heal us from the wounds of sin. May God the Father of Mercies grant us pardon and peace and may we be absolved from our sins and strive to remain faithful to the Gospel.



YEAR OF FAITH 2012  
2013

LIVING  
OUR  
*Relationship*  
WITH  
JESUS CHRIST



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**Diocesan Wide  
Sacrament  
of Penance**  
February 20, 2013  
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