

An Invitation to Celebrate

The scriptures from today's Mass invite us to reflect upon our membership in the community of faith and our willingness to be faithful to our baptismal promises. St. Paul writes to the people of Corinth using the image of the body (I Cor 12:12-14,27). In doing so he reminds us that we are Christ's body. As parts of the body of Christ, it is imperative that we remember that our actions, words and deeds impact the credibility of the Gospel message. When we fail to remain faithful to living, authentic, Christian lives we detract from the mission of Christ. Our failures, our sins impede our path towards holiness. In the gospel story from Luke (Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21), we hear of Jesus reading the passage from the prophet Isaiah proclaiming that, "the spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord."

We too are called to continue the same mission of Christ and remember that the Spirit of the Lord is upon us as well. During this Year of Faith the Holy Father has called us to enter into a deeper understanding of our faith which will ultimately lead to a deeper understanding of God's incredible love and mercy he so freely gives to all of us. When we come to know our faith and deepen our relationship with the Lord, we recognize the need for conversion in our lives. There is nothing that can help us know and experience the greatness of God's mercy like the Sacrament of Penance.

During the next few weeks we will provide you with some insight regarding the Sacrament of Penance through a series of bulletin articles. This information will help you prepare for a diocesan wide celebration of the Sacrament of Penance with the opportunity for individual confession. This one day event will be held on *February 20, 2013 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.* at each parish.

We invite you to come to the Sacrament and receive the grace and blessings from God to help you live your faith. We hope these reflections are helpful to you and encourage you to invite someone you know to return to church, practice their faith and know they are welcome home.



YEAR OF FAITH 2012
2013

LIVING
OUR
Relationship
WITH
JESUS CHRIST



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**Diocesan Wide
Sacrament
of Penance**
February 20, 2013
5 p.m. to 8 p.m.