



LIVING YOUR FAITH

March 9, 2014

God never ever tires of forgiving us...

The readings today are timeless. They point to the reality of a world with many temptations and promises for a "better life" on our spiritual journey. Just as many before us here on earth from the time of Adam and Eve, to today, we face many challenges that keep us from being faithful to God and find ourselves in need of reconciliation with God and with one another.

However, as the psalmist reassures us today, God is all loving and merciful, willing to forgive us of our sins, if only we acknowledge and ask forgiveness. God is always there to answer our call, give us back the joy of salvation, and open our lips to again proclaim God's praise.

Pope Francis tells us, "Ah! Brothers and Sisters, God's face is the face of a merciful father who is always patient. Have you thought about God's patience, the patience he has with each one of us? That is his mercy. He always has patience, patience with us, he understands us, he waits for us, he does not tire of forgiving us if we are able to return to him with a contrite heart."

It is in the Sacrament of Penance that we are able to feel God's love and mercy. It is an opportunity to feel a graced moment on 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. 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.

Pope Francis reminds us, "Let us not forget this word: God never ever tires of forgiving us... the problem is that we ourselves tire, we do not want to ask, we grow weary of asking for forgiveness. He never tires of forgiving, but at times we get tired of asking for forgiveness."

This coming Wednesday, March 12th from 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm we all have an opportunity to ask for forgiveness. You are invited to "An Evening of Confession", an opportunity for individual confession at any parish church in the Diocese of Cleveland. We encourage you to invite someone you know to return to church, practice their faith and know they are welcome home.

Diocesan Wide

An Evening of
Confession

March 12, 2014
5—8 pm



www.WelcomeCatholics.com

LIVING YOUR FAITH



An Evening of Confession

12 March 2014 ~ 5-8 p.m.

Examination of Conscience 1

Do I love God above everything else? Do I live as a child of God, confident in the Father's mercy? Am I humble? Do I depend on God as I should?

Am I prideful? Do I try to make the world revolve around me? Do I live out a sense of self-sufficiency, imposing my will on others, acting as if I were the cause of good in my life? Am I presumptuous? Do I think I can do whatever I want and that it will not matter to God?

Do I yearn to know God's will and do I abandon myself to divine Providence day by day and moment by moment? Do I pray everyday? Do I go to Mass every Sunday and Holy Day? Do I devote myself to growing in faith?

Am I thankful? Do I express my gratitude sincerely and outwardly, especially in works of mercy? Do I make excuses for my faults, blame others, or rationalize my actions? Am I self-righteous?

Am I forgiving? Do I harbor grudges, resentments - do I take delight in the misfortunes of others? Do I judge others, label others, exclude others, and condemn others? Is my life ruled by anger, jealousy, envy, or impatience?

Do I make gods of money, power, prestige, accomplishment, materialism, sensuality, vanity, pleasure, comfort, leisure, complacency, apathy, or anything else? Do I put myself first through self-centeredness, egoism, selfishness, vanity, self-aggrandizing, etc.

Do I dedicate myself to knowing, loving, and living the Truth as it is taught by the Catholic Church? Do I live in the Truth and do I tell the truth, always and without compromise? Do I misuse speech through cheating, gossiping, backbiting, profanity, blasphemy, complaining, being silent when I should speak, etc? Am I true to my vows, my commitments, my contracts, and my word?

Is my mind filled with thoughts that are lustful, viscous, carnal, mean-spirited, prejudicial, venal, and worldly? Do I engage in extra-marital sex?

Do I waste time? Am I generous with my time? Am I lazy? Do the priorities in my life reflect and serve the precious gift of faith God has given me? Do I love more for myself than for God and others?

Do I live by faith or by current fads, by popular ideologies, by the pressures and deceptions of media and culture? Do I recognize how God is present and active in every moment of my life? Do I live by any standard other than the way of love revealed by Jesus Christ?