

The Sacrament of Reconciliation Advent 2018

During this Advent time of waiting and preparation, those of us who are baptized often recognize that we have not always lived up to our baptismal commitment. To prepare ourselves to celebrate Christ's coming in our midst, we approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation, asking God's forgiveness, so that we may be restored to full life in Christ. Please take time this Advent to come to one of our communal celebrations, or to come individually to celebrate this sacrament.

Why attend the Communal Celebration?

From the Rite of Penance:

People frequently join together to commit injustice. It is thus only fitting that they should help each other in doing penance so that they who are freed from sin by the grace of Christ may work with all people of good will for justice and peace in the world.

▶ Tuesday, December 11
6:30 PM — St. Thomas Aquinas, Elkhart Lake

▶ Saturday, December 15
10:00 AM — Immaculate Conception Parish

▶ Monday, December 17
6:30 PM — St. John the Baptist Parish

▶ Tuesday, December 18
6:30 PM — St. Dominic Parish

Priests will be available for the celebration
of the sacrament throughout the church

If you are unable to join us . . .

If you are unable to join the Sheboygan Catholic community on any of the dates listed above, there are opportunities for individual celebration of the sacrament.

Contact your parish office for dates and times!

PREPARE

For the individual celebration of the sacrament using the Examination of Conscience on the reverse side.
Sit in a quiet place,
light a candle if you can,
and spend 30 minutes reflecting.

(See Other Side . . .)

ADVENT COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION

Questions for Reflection/Examination of Conscience

1. What is my attitude toward the sacrament of penance? Do I sincerely want to be set free from sin, to turn again to God, to begin a new life, and to enter into a deeper friendship with God?

I. The Lord says: "You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart."

1. Is my heart set on God, so that I really love him above all things and am faithful to his commandments, as a son loves his father? Or am I more concerned about the things of this world? Do I have a right intention in what I do?
2. Do I pray every day? When I pray, do I really raise my mind and heart to God, or is it a matter of words only? Do I offer God my difficulties, my joys, and my sorrows? Do I turn to God in time of temptation?
3. Do I keep Sundays and feast days holy by taking a full part in the Mass? How well do I prepare myself for participation in the Mass?
4. Are there false gods that I worship by giving them greater attention and deeper trust than I give to God: power, sex, materialism?

II. The Lord says: "Love one another as I have loved you."

1. Have I a genuine love for my neighbors? Or do I use them for my own ends, or do to them what I do not want done to myself?
2. In my family life, have I contributed to the well-being and happiness of the rest of the family by patience and genuine love? Have I been faithful to my husband, my wife in my heart and in how I treat others?
3. Do I share my possessions with the less fortunate? Or do I look down on my neighbor, especially the poor, the sick, the elderly, strangers and people of other races?
4. Does my life reflect the mission I received in confirmation? Do I share in the apostolic and charitable works of the church and in the life of my parish? Have I helped to meet the needs of the Church and of the world and prayed for them: for unity in the Church, for the spread of the Gospel among nations, for peace and justice?
5. Have I been truthful and fair, or have I injured others by deceit, slander, detraction, rash judgement or violation of a secret?
6. If I have been injured, have I been ready to make peace for the love of Christ and to forgive, or do I harbor hatred and the desire for revenge?

III. Christ our Lord says: "Be perfect as your Father is perfect."

1. What use have I made of time, of health and strength, of the gifts God has given me to be used like the talents in the Gospel? Do I use them to become more perfect every day? Or have I been lazy and too much given to pleasure?
2. Have I kept my spirits, senses and my whole body pure as a temple of the Holy Spirit consecrated for the resurrection and glory, and as a sign of God's faithful love for men and women.
3. Have I always tried to act in true freedom of the children of God according to the law of the Spirit or am I the slave of forces within me?

(See Other Side . . .)