

Pastor's Column

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An Examination of Conscience

On Sunday, March 2, at 4:00pm, our Parish celebrates our Lenten Communal Penance Service.

Hopefully many will take advantage of this opportunity to praise God and to celebrate God's mercy and forgiveness.

I share with you the Examination of Conscience that will be used in our Penance Service.

You may want to save it as a prayer/reflection throughout the year!

Brothers and sisters, our compassionate God knows all our failings, but asks us to call them to mind so that we may seek out God's forgiveness.

Have I listened to the voice of God? How can I better converse with God in prayer? How can I worship God more faithfully in communal liturgy?

Do I pray daily?

Do I receive the sacraments regularly?

Do I keep Sundays and holy days sacred?

Do I fulfill my commitments as a member of my Faith Community?

What is my attitude toward the sacrament of reconciliation?

Have I tried to grow in the life of the Spirit through prayer and the reading of the Word of God?

Do I trust God's goodness and providence, even in times of crisis and doubt?

In my daily living do I listen to the voice of God?

Do I respect my own body as a gift from God?

Do I control my vices, including abuses of food and drink?

Have I made good use of the gifts God has given me?

Do I work too hard and too long?

Do I neglect my family and my health?

Have I been lazy and given too much time to leisure or entertainment?

Have I listened to the voice of God when it comes to my relationships with others?

In my household, have I contributed to the well-being and happiness of the rest of my family? Am I patient? Am I loving?

Do I treat my parents with respect?

Am I ever angry with those I love?

Have I been faithful in my relationships?

Have I imposed my will on others without respecting their freedom and rights?

Am I intolerant of others' ideas or needs?

Have I perpetuated racism, sexism, prejudices and stereotypes?

Do I treat people with disabilities with respect?

Have I listened to the voice of God and brought God's love to the world?

Do I share my time and my treasure with others in need?

Do I fail to speak out on behalf of the poor or the oppressed?

Have I accepted suffering as a share in the suffering of Christ?

Have I indulged in reading, conversation or entertainment that is contrary to Christian Decency and respect for human life?

Do I use the earth's resources wisely?

Do I purchase a lot of material goods that I don't really need?

Have I listened to the voice of God? Where is God leading me?

Am I ever afraid to act in a Christian manner, afraid of what others might think?

Is the hope of eternal life my inspiration for all I do?

Do I sincerely want to be set free from sin, turn again to God, and resolve to begin again?

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sin, and bring all of us to life everlasting!

Fr. Mike