

## Guide for Examination of Conscience for Confession of Sins

### 6 STEPS FOR A GOOD CONFESSION

- Examine your conscience - what sins have you committed since your last good confession.
- Be sincerely sorry for your sins.
- Confess your sins to the priest.
- Make certain that you confess all your mortal sins and the number of them.
- After your confession, do the penance the priest gives to you.
- Pray daily for the strength to avoid the occasion of sin, especially for those sins you were just absolved from.



### ACT OF CONTRITION



**O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You, and I detest all my sins because I dread the loss of Heaven and the pains of Hell, but most of all because they offend You, my God, Who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Your grace, to confess my sins, to do penance, and to amend my life. Amen.**

### FIRST COMMANDMENT

**"I am the Lord your God. You shall not have strange gods before Me." (Ex 20:2,3)**

- Did I doubt or deny that God exists? Did I refuse to believe what God has revealed to us? Did I believe in fortune telling, horoscopes, dreams, the occult, good-luck charms, tarot cards, palmistry, Ouija boards, séances, reincarnation? Did I deny that I was Catholic? Did I leave the Catholic Faith? Did I give time to God each day in prayer? Did I love God with my whole heart? Did I have false gods in my life that I gave greater attention to than God, like money, profession, drugs, TV, fame, pleasure, property, etc.?

### SECOND COMMANDMENT

**"You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain." (Ex 20:7)**

- Did I blaspheme or insult God? Did I take God's name carelessly or uselessly? Did I curse, or break an oath or vow? Did I get angry with God?

### THIRD COMMANDMENT

**"Remember that you keep holy the Sabbath Day." (Ex 20:8)**

- Did I miss Mass Sunday or a Holy Day of Obligation through my own fault? Did I come to Mass on time? Leave early? Did I do work on Sunday that was not necessary? Did I set aside Sunday as a day of rest and a family day? Did I show reverence in the presence of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament?

### FOURTH COMMANDMENT

**"Honor your father and your mother." (Ex 20:12)**

- Did I disobey or disrespect my parents or legitimate superiors? Did I neglect my duties to my husband, wife, children or parents? Did I neglect to give good religious example to my family? Did I fail to actively take an interest in the religious education and formation of my children? Did I fail to educate myself on the true teachings of the Church? Did I give scandal by what I said or did, especially to the young? Did I cause anyone to leave the faith? Did I cause tension and fights in my family? Did I care for my aged and infirm relatives? Did I give a full day's work for a full day's pay? Did I give a fair wage to my employees?

## FIFTH COMMANDMENT

### "You shall not kill." (Ex 20:13)

- Did I kill or physically injure anyone? Did I have an abortion, or advise someone else to have an abortion? Was I selfish in my marriage and not opened to the procreation of children? Did I attempt suicide? Did I take part in or approve of "mercy killing" (euthanasia)? Did I get angry, impatient, envious, unkind, proud, revengeful, jealous, hateful toward another, lazy? Did I give bad example by drug abuse, drinking alcohol to excess, fighting, quarreling? Did I abuse my children?

## SIXTH COMMANDMENT & NINTH COMMANDMENTS

### "You shall not commit adultery." (Ex 20:14)

### "You shall not covet your neighbor's wife." (Ex 20:17)

- Did I use impure or suggestive words? Tell impure stories? Listen to them? Did I willfully entertain impure thoughts or desires? Did I deliberately seek out and view pornography? Or deliberately read impure materials? Did I commit impure acts by myself (masturbation)? Did I commit impure acts with another - fornication (premarital sex), adultery (sex with a married person)? Did I marry or advise anyone to marry outside the Church? Did I avoid the occasions of impurity? Did I try to control my thoughts? Did I engage in homosexual activity? Did I respect all members of the opposite sex, or have I thought of other people as objects? Did I abuse my marriage rights?

## SEVENTH & TENTH COMMANDMENTS

### "You shall not steal." (Ex 20:15) "You shall not covet your neighbor's goods." (Ex 20:17)

- Did I steal, cheat, help or encourage others to steal or keep stolen goods? Have I made restitution for stolen goods? Did I fulfill my contracts; give or accept bribes; pay my bills; rashly gamble or speculate; deprive my family of the necessities of life? Did I waste time at work, school or at home? Did I envy other people's families or possessions? Did I make material possessions the purpose of my life?

## EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

### "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." (Ex 20:16)

- Did I lie? Did I deliberately deceive others, or injure others by lies? Did I commit perjury? Did I gossip or reveal others' faults or sins? Did I fail to keep secret what should be confidential?

## OTHER SINS AGAINST THE COMMANDMENTS OF THE CHURCH

- Did I fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday? Did I deliberately eat meat on the Fridays of Lent or Ash Wednesday? Did I fail to receive Holy Communion during Eastertime? Did I go to Holy Communion in a state of mortal sin? Without fasting (water and medicine permitted) for one hour from food and drink? Did I deliberately make a bad confession? Did I fail to contribute to the support of the Church?

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*Lent is the primary time for celebrating the Sacrament of Penance, because Lent is the season for baptismal preparation and baptismal renewal. Early Christian teachers called this sacrament "second Baptism," because it is intended to enable us to start again to live the baptismal life in its fullness. Those who experience the loving mercy of God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation should find themselves standing alongside the newly baptized at Easter filled with great joy at the new life God has given all of us.*

**Individual Confessions** are heard every Saturday afternoon from 3:45 – 4:30 PM in the Confession Room in the back of the Church. There is no confession on Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Vigil of Easter.