

Holy Spirit Catholic Church

Served by
Priests of the Sacred Heart



545 East Commerce • Hernando MS

Phone: 662-429-7851 • Medical Emergency 901-351-6591

E-mail: holyspiritchurch@shsm.org • Web address: <http://www.holyspirit-catholic.com>

Mailing Address: PO Box 424, Hernando, MS 38632

Mission Statement

The Spirit of the Lord is upon us and has anointed us to proclaim the Good News

In Love, Our Holy Spirit Catholic Church Family will seek the Kingdom of God so that we all may be one, bringing peace and unity to our world.

With an undivided heart we commit ourselves to live the Gospel teachings of Jesus. Following Him who is our Way, our Truth and our Life, we will live a life of holiness, worship and service as witness to the Resurrection of our Savior Lord.

MASS TIMES:

Thursday & Friday 8:00AM

Saturday 6:00PM

Sunday 9:30AM

RECONCILIATION:

Saturday 5:30 pm-5:50 pm

Weekdays by Appointment

SERVED BY:

Fr. Hendrik Ardianto, S.C.J. Moderator

Fr. David Szatkowski, S.C.J.

Fr. Guy Blair, S.C.J.

Rose Hacker, S.S.S.F., Pastoral Assistant

Deacon Ted Schreck, Director of Evangelization

Christine Greer, Administrative Assistant

MaryAnn Nix, Receptionist, Secretary

Amanda Ready, Coordinator, Religious Education

Catholic Social Services - 662-429-5789

SACRAMENTAL OPPORTUNITIES & OTHER HAPPENINGS

BAPTISM: Classes required - contact parish office.

MARRIAGE: Contact parish office SIX months prior to planned date.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK: Contact parish office to advise of need.

ADULT STUDY GROUP: Meets each Sunday morning at 8:00 AM and Thursdays at 9 AM. All are welcome!

MEN'S ASSOCIATION MINISTRY: Meet the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM in the Education Building. All men of the parish are encouraged to attend.

LADIES ASSOCIATION MINISTRY: Meet the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM. All women of the parish are encouraged to attend.

CHOIR: Interested in being in the Choir? Contact the parish office.

THIS IS OUR FAITH: (RCIA) Interested in learning more about your faith? Contact the parish office.

ARE YOU REGISTERED IN THE PARISH? Please pick up a registration form located in the foyer of the church, or come by the parish office. Please indicate if you would like to receive offering envelopes

PREP Times: K - 5th Sunday, 10:30 - 12:00 PM
6th - 12th Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM

*Considering becoming a Catholic?
Contact the Parish Office.*

March 10, 2024 Fourth Sunday of Lent

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 10, 2024

“God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.” John 3:17

CALENDAR OF MASSES/EVENTS

Sunday, March 10, 2024 – Daylight Saving Time Begins Fourth Sunday of Lent

8:30 am Unleashing the Power of Intercessory Prayer
9:30 am Liturgy For The Parish Community
NO RCIA – Spring Break
NO PRE – Spring Break



Monday, March 11, 2024

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

7:00 pm Ladies Association

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

NO Open Gym – Spring Break
NO 6th through 12th Grade PRE – Spring Break

Thursday, March 14, 2024

8:00 am Liturgy + **Kelly Herr** by: Carmen Kreider
9:00 am Bible Study
10:00 am Beautiful Eucharist
10:30 am Shepherd Center – 1st Presbyterian
7:00 pm AA & Al Anon



Friday, March 15, 2024

8:00 am Liturgy + **Carolyn Pesce Keane** by: Linda Bond
4:00 pm Fish Fry
6:30 pm Soup & Stations – led by Morning Crew



Saturday, March 16, 2024

5:30 pm Confession
6:00 pm Liturgy + **Bill Brown, Jr.** by: Liz Brown

Sunday, March 17, 2024 – St. Patrick's Day

Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:30 am Unleashing the Power of Intercessory Prayer
9:30 am Liturgy For The Parish Community
10:30 am RCIA – Maybe
NO PRE – Spring Break
1:00 pm Widows/Divorced Group – Holy Spirit



SUNDAY OFFERING



PARISH SUPPORT

Needed Weekly for Budget.....	\$ 6,094.81
Offering	\$ 6,971.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 210.00
Community Services.....	\$ 130.00
Flowers.....	\$ 120.00

RELIGIOUS GOODS STORE

March 9 – Jane Dettmer/March 10 – Len Wright

March 16 – Cathy Powers/March 17 – Barbara Nickarz

CHILDREN'S HOMILY

Sunday, March 10 – No Lesson/Spring Break

Sunday, March 17 – Mary Lovell

Ministry Schedule

PLEASE REMEMBER:

You are to arrive at least 20 to 30 minutes before Mass is to begin. This is important to be prepared and ready.

Saturday, March 16 – 6:00 pm

Greeter: Helen Spencer/Kelli Bishop
Usher: Danny Thomas/Don Greer
Server: Benjamin Baskin/Mary Jacinta Baskin
Lector: Charlie Young/Allison Baskin
Gift Bearer: Veitch Family
Eucharistic Minister: Jim/Greg/Jose

Sunday, March 17 – 9:30 am

Greeter: Ron & Shirley Henderson
Usher: David Steinman/Help
Server: Clay/Brody
Lector: MaryAnn Nix/Lucy Lasher
Gift Bearer: Courts Family
Eucharistic Minister: Barbara L/Barbara D/Barbara N
/Patsy Clark/Robin Brantley

REMINDER: If you are unable to fulfill your ministry obligation, it is your responsibility to find someone that can serve in your place. Thank you.

Have you considered using



online giving?

By creating a login and contributing online you'll always have a report of your giving

history available. Signing up is as simple as scanning the QR code and start the process or logging in

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/holy545151>



NWMississippiParishes

<https://www.youtube.com/@nwm catholic>

Sunday homilies are posted now.

ALTAR LINENS MINISTRY

March – Diane Cullen

Weekday Mass Schedule

Queen of Peace—Monday & Tuesday at Noon

Christ the King, Southaven—Wednesday & Thursday (English)
at NOON. 1st Friday Mass in Spanish at 7:00 pm

Holy Spirit, Hernando—Thursday and Friday at 8:00 AM



It is time to update our database. Please let us know any changes, additions that may have occurred in YOUR family over the past year. The church office number is 662-429-7851 and our e-mail holyspiritchurch@shsm.org. Thank you for your help.



Enjoy POSITIVE, CATHOLIC messages through TABELLA!
Media: Listen to CATHOLIC audio content.
Download with the QR code in the Narthex.

Scam Alert

If you receive a text, email, or phone call from someone using the name of one of our Priests or Religious, Fr. David Szatkowski, Fr. Hendrik Ardianto, Fr. Guy Blair, Deacon Ted Schreck, Sr. Rose Hacker, SSSF or Deacon Paul Hoang asking for you to send gift cards or money to them, hang up immediately and delete the text/email message. Our Priests and Religious would never contact you asking for money or gift cards. **This is a scam. Do not respond to them in any way.** Thank you and God bless you.

Scam report: https://consumercomplaints.fcc.gov/hc/en-us/requests/new?ticket_id=39744



Sacrament of the Sick

Facing surgery or serious health tests?

We encourage all parishioners to make an appointment with one of our priests to receive the Sacrament BEFORE an anticipated entrance into the hospital. Please call Holy Spirit at 662-429-7851.

**For Your Safety Church doors will be locked
6:00 pm Saturdays and 9:30 am Sundays**



As a Catholic community we are all joined together by our faith. Each year we are asked by Bishop Kopacz to support the Catholic Service Appeal. It is our opportunity to reach out to those in need and support the diocesan ministries. To date, Holy Spirit Church has pledged \$11,896.10 and paid \$9,015.10 from 26 donors. Our goal this year is \$22,700. If you have not already contributed, you can give online at csa.jacksondiocese.org or mail your pledge card today.



Each Lent, Catholic families across the country unite to put their faith into action through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Through CRS Rice Bowl, families learn about how our sisters and brothers across the globe overcome hardships like hunger and malnutrition, and how through Lenten alms, we have the power to make the world a better place for all. Rice Bowls are located in the Commons. Rice Bowls will be collected at the Holy Thursday Mass. Please be generous.

Seriously Sick & Hospitalized

Please Pray For The Sick

Your prayers are requested for the following who are having/recovering from surgery or are seriously ill:

Fr. Tim Gray, SCJ, Katrina Owen, Andy Massa, Becky Winters (Nix), Tommie Whiteside (Brasher sislaw), Milton Ferrell, Adin (Jane Grand), Jeriel Ann Caha & baby (nix), Kathleen SoSapio, Chris Greer, Norma Nickarz (mom), Ernesto Palencia (Laura's brother), Nancy Stapor, Tony Riggs, Liz Brown, Patsy Cordell (Joy's sislaw), Lynn Canales (Holland Daughter), Bobbie Shell, Mike Nix (bro-in-law), Jimmy Helms (K.Tarsi dad), Margaret Kelly, Carolyn Parker (Deborah sis), Paige Nix, Denny Fink, Joe Greenwell (Dean bro), Ron Gaunt, Rena Eileen Shebesta (Fink), Paul Kelly (Leigh Ann's uncle), Oliver Pounders (Oliver's Grand), Wayne Miller, Nancy Tully (daughter-in law), Phyllis Masse (L. Kistler mom), Gwen Savage, Nancy Kelly (H. Spencer sis), Ed French (bro-n-law), Barbara Stoduto (J. Tully's sis), Dorie Sarmiento (Marking niece), Deanne Greer (B. Dean Niece), Marvin Dixon, Bill Warner, Theresa Perez, Rosemary Sabbatini, Rose Powell, Diana Hill, Dana Marking, Baby Jarnigan (Riggs), Angela Cates (Gonda's sis), Jeff Smith, Chris Carroll (Sr. Rose Nephew), Erica Orive (George's mom), Kathy Eldred, Judy Ferguson (daughter-n-law), Allen Sanders (G. Savage bro), Glenn Donnelly, Bobby Nickarz (bro), and Melissa McNary (Kistler). Please notify the Pastor when serious illness occurs or when hospitalization is indicated: we would like to strengthen the ill with the Eucharist and the Sacrament of the Sick (Anointing).



THANK YOU to the many families who have signed up with Parish SOFT Giving. Your gifts and your participation are a blessing to us. When you participate, you can

view giving history and pledge progress any time just by logging in

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/holy545151>



Queen of Peace

Wednesday, March 13th at 7:00 pm



SEDER MEAL

Christ the King Catholic Church. For all our parishes.
Monday, March 26th at 6:30 pm.

Passover is the Jewish Feast commemorating God's deliverance of the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt and his creation of the Israelite people.

Please bring a dish to share.



Every Friday during Lent at 6:30 pm

Good Friday at 3:00 pm

Journey with us through Lent at Good Shepherd!

Weekly reflections on the Sunday Readings, followed by the Stations of the Cross.

Time: 11:30am-1:00pm

Bring a lunch or snack.

Dates: then Wednesdays Mar. 13, 20.

Good Shepherd Church, 1329 Casino Center Dr. Ext., Robinsonville, MS

Please sign up if you plan to attend. All are Welcome!



Beautiful Eucharist



Did you know that 70% of Catholics don't believe in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist according to a 2020 Pew Forum Survey?

Jesus gave us this gift of Himself in the Eucharist the night of the Last Supper. Join us this Lent to discuss the many miracles found in

Beautiful Eucharist by Matthew Kelly. Deepen your relationship with Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and experience His Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist.

When: Thursdays 10:00 - 11:00 am

Dates: March 14 and 21.

Where: Holy Spirit (room beside chapel)

Facilitator: Sara Rauch



Sacred Heart Southern Missions needs your help for its monthly mobile food distribution.

Landers Center, 4560 Venture Dr., Southaven

Please contact Kermit Gaddy to volunteer!!

662-342-3181 Email: KGaddy@shsm.org

Distribution Dates (Wednesdays): March 20th, April 17th, May 15th, June 19th, July 17th, Aug. 21st, Sept. 18th, Oct. 16th, Nov. 20th and Dec. 18th.

SOUP & STATIONS

Friday Evenings 6:30 p.m.

You are invited to join us every Friday evening during Lent for Stations of the Cross, followed by a soup supper. There will be a variety of meatless soups available with bread or crackers and tea or coffee. We ask for \$1.00 donation per person and all of the proceeds will go to our Hernando Catholic Social Services to be distributed to the poor in our community when needed.

Everyone in the parish is invited and encouraged to join in this prayerful journey with Jesus to Golgotha. This is a wonderful family night out. For more information, please call the Church Office 429-7851.

If you would like to be in charge of organizing these Friday evenings or would like to just take one Friday night, please call the church office at 429-7851. Thanks for your consideration of this blessed ministry.

March 15 – Morning Crew

March 22 – Men's Association

Make plans to join us Friday evenings for this Lenten gathering.

The Stations of the Cross are a recommended prayer journey during the Season of Lent. Materials to aid your prayerful journey with Jesus to Golgotha will be available.

LENTEN HOUR OF RECOLLECTION

Provided by the Priests of the Sacred Heart

CALLING AND CHRISM:

Being Sacred Heart in the World

You are invited to join the Sacred Heart Priests as they reflect on the mission of

the Church, the mission of the Priests of the Sacred Heart,

and our own mission.

Friday, March 15 at 10:30am (CT)

VIRTUAL: Check in using the QR code.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88230315512?pwd=U2FZMUIQV0VSctEtTk1uTzVHUGw3dz09>



You are not alone.



The Widowed and Divorced Group will have an afternoon of reflection and fun (BINGO) next Sunday March 17th from

1-3 pm here at Holy Spirit Church. Bring your favorite snack. Prizes will be given out for our Bingo winners. WE HOPE EVERYONE WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND and bring a friend in need of this fellowship time. Sign-up sheet available on the table in the Narthex.



Our Holy Spirit Parish Family offers their deepest Sympathy & Prayers to George & Amanda Ready on the recent death of her Uncle Chip Mielkey May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.



Men's Association Fish Fry Fundraiser

March 15th

4:00 pm till 7:00 pm

Dine in or carry out.

The plate will include "Fresh not Frozen" Catfish Fried Catfish, French fries, hushpuppies, coleslaw and dessert

\$13 per plate for adults

\$6 per plate for children under 12

Shepherd Center of Hernando will meet this Thursday, March 14, at First Presbyterian Church on McIngvale Road at 10:30 am. This will be our Easter meal. Ham and rolls will be provided. Please bring a side dish.



2024 Women's Morning of Spirituality

Saturday, April 13, 2024

Catholic Church of the Incarnation

360 Bray Station Road, Collierville, TN 38017

7:15 - Continental breakfast in the gym

8:15 - Program begins in the Sanctuary

12:15 - Celebration of Mass

Opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the Flame of Rosary, and the Divine Mercy Chaplet



Using the USCCB website is one of the easiest ways to get the daily readings, just scan the QR code



CALLING ALL USHERS IN ALL PARISHES: CURRENT & FUTURE

What: Workshop for Ushers

When: Saturday, April 6, 2024 in the Christ the King Education Building, Southaven **OR**

Saturday, April 13, 2024 in the small Chapel at Holy Spirit, Hernando

Time: 10 am to Noon (Lunch will be provided.)

Who: For All Current Ushers. For those who would like to serve their parishes as ushers. For Men and Women. Please sign up in the Gathering Space if you plan to attend.



Considering becoming Catholic?

Please contact Deacon Ted by phone at (662) 342-1073 or by email nwms.evangelization@gmail.com.

The St. Giles club is a group for youth with special needs. We meet every other month on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Participants bring their own dinner and the church supplies drinks and activities. Parents and siblings are encouraged to attend and participate. Our next meeting is Tuesday, March 19th at 6:30pm at the Fr. John Young Center at Queen of Peace in Olive Branch. If you have any questions please contact Vickie at (662)895-5007.

Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist

Why do we believe what we believe about the Eucharist?

How did the first (Jewish) Christians come to believe in the real presence?

What was Jesus talking about in "The bread of life discourse," John 6?

How does understanding the Passover help us understand the Last Supper?

What were the Jewish people waiting for the Messiah to do?

How did Jesus fulfill the expectation of the Jewish people in the Last Supper?

How do these Jewish roots help us, today to understand his real presence in the Eucharist?

Sign up in the Narthex

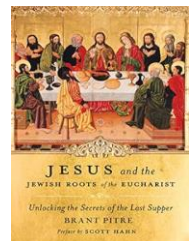
Thursdays April 4, 18, 25,

May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; June 6, 2024. 6:30p-8p

Christ the King, 785 Church Road West,

Southaven, MS 38671 – Facilitator: Don Coker

Books will be available for purchase

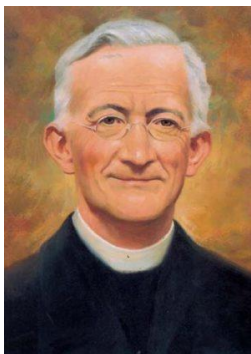




Dehonians USA

PRIESTS OF THE SACRED HEART

Remembering Venerable Leo John Dehon
On March 14, the Priests of the Sacred Heart celebrates the 181st anniversary of the birth of their founder, Venerable Leo John Dehon. Born in 1843 to a prosperous family in France, Fr. Dehon first felt called to the priesthood when he was in high school. But before entering the seminary, he followed his father's wishes and earned a degree in civil law. It would become the first of four advanced degrees that he would earn. Fr. Dehon was a priest who valued a spiritual life that led to action. Assigned to the factory town of Saint-Quentin, France, he soon saw the need to better the lives of workers who were often exploited by the Industrial Revolution. Long working hours kept many away from their families and the church. In response, Fr. Dehon founded clubs and schools for young people. He sent his fellow priests to the factories to ensure that the workers' sacramental needs were met. Furthermore, he challenged factory owners to implement more humane working hours and conditions. In 1878 Fr. Dehon established the Priests of the Sacred Heart with a focus of bringing the love of the Sacred Heart to those who need it most, those often on the peripheries of society. The community now ministers in over 40 countries on five continents, including here, in your parish. Learn more about the founder and the Priests of the Sacred Heart at: www.dehoniansusa.org



"March 14th is the birthday of Fr. Leo John Dehon, Founder of the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart. To commemorate this special event in the life of the Congregation, the US Province is organizing a Lenten Hour of Recollection. This event is designed to provide SCJs, employees, and collaborators with an opportunity to reflect on the mission of the Church, the mission of the Priests of the Sacred Heart, and our own mission. It is a space for reflection.

Title: Calling and Chrism: Being Sacred Heart in the World

When: Friday, March 15, 2024 at 10:30 am (CT)

Where:

Virtual <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88230315512?pwd=U2FZMUIQVoVScEtjTk1uTzVHUGw3dz09>

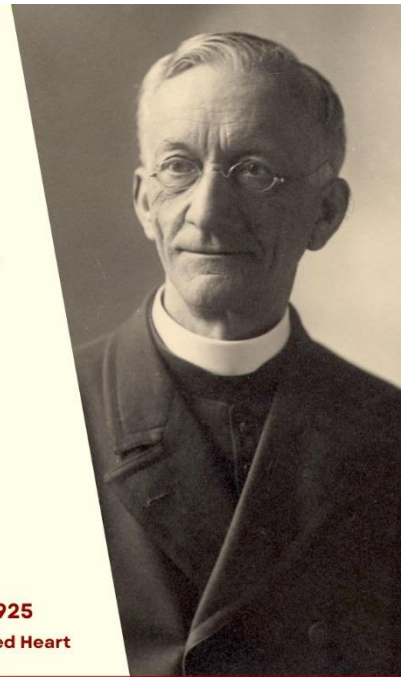


The Heart of Jesus is overflowing with tenderness and compassion for all those who suffer, those who endure hardships, those who go hungry, and for the sick and the infirm. His is the heart of a father, the heart of a mother, the heart of a shepherd.

Fr. Leo John Dehon

March 14, 1843 - August 12, 1925

Founder of the Priests of the Sacred Heart



Priests of the Sacred Heart (Dehonians / SCJ)

www.dehoniansusa.org • www.facebook.com/PriestsoftheSacredHeart



Holy Week

Palm Sunday, March 23 rd	6:00 pm
Palm Sunday, March 24 th	9:30 am
Holy Thursday, March 28 th	7:00 pm
Good Friday, March 29 th	7:00 pm
Holy Saturday, March 30 th	8:00 pm
Easter Sunday, March 31 st	9:30 am



Spring 2024 | Feb 14 – Mar 24

Vigil Location: Planned Parenthood - Memphis
2430 Poplar Avenue Memphis, TN
Leader Contact Info: Memphis Coalition for Life
(901) 450-5433 info@memphiscoalitionforlife.org



Holy Spirit's Easter Egg Hunt

When: Sunday, March 24th

Time: 11:45am (right after CCD classes)

Age Group Hunts (0-3, 4-6, 7-10)

Lunch will be provided

Prizes will be awarded

***This hunt is for all the children of Holy Spirit Parish. Come out and enjoy a few hours of fun**

For more information, please contact Amanda Ready or Chris Greer☺

Feeding the Flock

This year the Interfaith Council is holding the "Feeding the Flock" Donation Drive supporting the food pantry in place of the Flock Around the Block. Even though **we will not have the race**, we are offering our custom t-shirts for a \$25.00 donation to the food pantry.

We are also still in competition with our other Interfaith churches, and whichever church has the most t-shirts sold will win the Interfaith cross to have in their church for the following year. Last year it was won by Hernando Baptist, and we are anxious to get it back to Holy Spirit!!

We also encourage sponsors for the Drive. For a \$200 donation your company or group name will be placed on the back of the shirt showing your support of the pantry. These shirts have become popular and this is great exposure for your business or group. (Bible study groups, etc).

Of course, we welcome and are grateful for any donation we receive, and it goes entirely to support the pantry. In 2023 we provided food for over 1562 households which was over 3380 individuals!! Each family receives, among many other items, milk and eggs that must be purchased. The cost for that to over 1560 households is significant!

The Last day to be guaranteed a shirt is March 22nd. The shirts will be available the weekend of April 6th-7th.

You will find the order sheet for the shirts and sponsorship forms in the Narthex, or you may contact the church office or Roxanne McIngvale. ([901-647-6655](tel:901-647-6655)/ roxannebmc@yahoo.com).

Thank you for your continued support!!

Do This in Remembrance of Me. Part 10: Penitential Absolution



The Mass

the mercy of God: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life” (Understanding the Mass, p. 56). In the past, some people (including priests) were incorrectly told that this prayer was the equivalent of the absolution prayer the priest says in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This is certainly not the case! To make this clear, the General Instruction of the Roman Missal directly says that this prayer “lacks the efficacy of the Sacrament of Penance” (GIRM, no. 51). Elaborating, Belmonte comments, “The Penitential [Act] of the Mass is not a sacramental confession; therefore, it does not bring immediate remission of mortal sins. Forgiveness of mortal sins has to be obtained in the Sacrament of Penance. It is also important to remember that a person who has committed a mortal sin cannot go to Communion unless he goes to Confession beforehand” (Understanding the Mass, p. 57).

Having spent a brief moment calling to mind our sins and acclaiming together God’s mercy, the priest then says words that the Roman Missal calls “the absolution.” Is this a “real” absolution, another version of the absolution we receive in the Sacrament of Reconciliation? The short answer is no, it is not the same. Let’s look at it a bit more closely.

Not a Sacramental Confession

In the words of Charles Belmonte: “At the end of [the Penitential Act], the priest takes refuge with his brethren in



If we think about the actual words of the prayer, this explanation makes sense. The priest here simply asks the Lord to have mercy on us, forgive us, and bring us to heaven. This is clearly different from the words of sacramental absolution where the priest, in the person of Christ, says the words, “God, the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit

among us for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church, may God give you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” In the Sacrament of Reconciliation (also known as the Sacrament of Penance or Confession), we openly confess our sins and speak them to the priest, whereas in the Mass we review them interiorly. In the Mass, we certainly are acknowledging that we have sins and that we need the Lord’s mercy, but we are not directly bringing those sins to God for forgiveness as we do in Reconciliation.

Do This in Remembrance of Me. Part 10: Penitential Absolution

Obtaining Pardon

Even though the words the priest says at Mass are not a sacramental absolution, that does not mean they are not important. As Belmonte says, “the Penitential [Act], if it is said with true contrition, helps to obtain pardon for present venial sins, as well as to stir up new sorrow for past sins that have already been forgiven. In this way, it helps us to purify ourselves and so to take better part in the Holy Mass” (Understanding the Mass, p. 57). As we have reviewed previously, the Sacrifice of the Mass is our participation in the one perfect sacrifice of Jesus offered on the Cross for the forgiveness of sins. It is a fitting place for us to recall what a wonderful Savior we have and how powerful the gift of his forgiveness truly is in our hearts. Hopefully, it also helps us resolve to seek out the sacramental grace of Reconciliation whenever we need it!



A Necessary Pause

I don't know about all of you, but sometimes I find that when my days are full, I am often going from one thing to the next without time for reflection. I find that brief moments of quiet in my day are needed so that I can thoroughly review what I have said and done. It is in those moments that I realize times when I have gotten off track and need a reset. Similarly, the Penitential Act of the Mass

certainly can be an important opportunity to review how we have lived since our last time at Mass. It is also a great moment to realize that there might be sins that need sacramental forgiveness before we receive Communion.

As I continue to grow in my life as a priest, I am finding the Penitential Act to be one of my favorite parts of the Mass. It is such a great gift to recall where I need God's mercy and to acclaim his great mercy together with God's people. To add to our joy, next in the Mass we sing of God's glory!

For Reflection:

1. The Cantic of Zechariah (Luke 1:68-79) reflects Zechariah's confidence in God's loving mercy after his period of nine months of silence before the birth of John the Baptist. Take some time for silent reflection on God's mercy in your life. Conclude by praying this cantic, which is part of the Church's daily Morning Prayer.
2. Fr. Luke acknowledges the importance of brief moments of quiet in our day to reflect on our thoughts, words, and actions. Where can you build in or embrace a few moments of quiet in your daily schedule? The next time you wonder, "What's next?", allow yourself a few moments of quiet prayer before moving on to your next task