

Confession—Prepare Your Heart to Meet Christ

Will you let Jesus clean your heart during this Advent season before we celebrate Christmas? Most think, “I really never sin. I haven’t killed anyone. I haven’t cheated on my spouse. I’m a pretty good person.” We priests think that you are pretty good, but we want you to become great and holy. We want you to become saints. We priests need forgiveness from Jesus; so do you. Let Jesus prune you so that you can produce more fruit. We all must go to Confession.

Examination of Conscience How is my daily struggle?

-Jesus is in the confessional with you and the priest.

The priest will gladly help you—just ask.

-Confess all your sins [what **kind** and **number** of times committed] to the Divine Physician to heal you of your sins. Eight Steps to a Good Confession: (1) pray to the Holy Spirit for His light and grace; (2) examine your conscience; (3) be sorry for your sins out of love for God; (4) make a firm resolution not to sin again and to avoid occasions that cause you to sin; (5) tell all your sins to a priest during Confession; (6) after leaving the priest, promptly thank God for His love and forgiveness; (7) do the penance the priest assigned to you; (8) pray for the priest to increase in holiness.

1. I am the Lord Your God: you shall not have strange gods before Me.

Did I fail to love God today? Did I pray to Him? Have I doubted or denied my faith? Was I careless in saying my prayers? Did I read books, listen to radio programs, or watch shows or movies against the Catholic Faith? Have I been involved in any occult activity (Ouija board, psychic, etc.)? Did I receive Holy Communion while not in the state of grace?

2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

Did I curse or swear? Did I use God’s Name in vain: lightly, carelessly, or by blasphemy? Did I use profane language? Have I insulted a sacred person?

3. Remember to keep holy the Lord’s Day.

Have I missed Mass on Sundays or Holy Days through my own fault? Was I late for Mass or did I leave early without a good reason? Did I allow my children to miss Mass? Did I go to Confession within a year? Did I let myself get distracted at Mass? Did I do unnecessary servile work on Sunday?

4. Honor your father and your mother.

Did I honor and obey my parents and/or those with lawful authority over me? Have I talked back? Did I

fail to help at home? Have I neglected my children’s religious education? Have I not taken them to Mass and the Sacraments? Have I failed to spend time with my family? Have I separated or divorced civilly without consulting a priest for advice?

5. You shall not kill.

Was I angry, resentful, or did I keep hatred in my heart? Did I fight or give bad example or scandal? Did I fail to correct in charity? Have I permitted or encouraged an abortion or mutilation (vasectomy, sterilization, etc.) to avoid children?

6. You shall not commit adultery.

Did I consent to impure glances? Passionate kisses? Sinful touches? Was I immodest in dress or behavior? Did I look at impure images (movies, shows, or magazines, books, Internet)? Am I guilty of masturbation (impurity with self), fornication (pre-marital sex), adultery (sex with a married person), homosexual activity, or birth control (by pills, devices, withdrawal)? Have I used pregnancy methods (IVF, etc.) not approved by the Church? Do I avoid laziness, gluttony, idleness, and occasions of impurity?

7. You shall not steal.

Did I steal? What or how much? Did I return it or make equal restitution? Did I waste time at work, in school, or at home? Have I cheated in anything? Am I stingy? Do I gamble excessively? Neglect to pay debts promptly? Do I live poverty of spirit and detachment? Have I supported my Church regularly?

8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Have I lied or gossiped? Talked about another behind his/her back? Do I always tell the truth? Am I sincere? Did I reveal secrets that should have been kept confidential? Am I critical, negative, or uncharitable in my talk?

9. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife.

Have I consented to impure thoughts? Have I caused them by stares, bad reading, video or radio, curiosity, or impure conversations? Do I neglect to control my imagination? Do I pray at once to banish such bad thoughts and temptations?

10. You shall not covet your neighbor’s goods.

Is my heart greedy? Am I jealous of what another has? Am I envious of others because I don’t have what they have? Am I moody or gloomy? Do I work, study, and keep busy to counter idle thoughts? Is my heart set on earthly possessions (or on the true treasures of Heaven)?

Act of Contrition

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You, and I detest all my sins because of Your just punishments; 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 sin no more and to avoid the near occasions of sin. Amen.

Symbolic Meaning of the Advent Wreath

The wreath has a circular shape, which has no beginning or end, perfectly symbolizing the eternity of God and His love, and the everlasting life that Christ wants to give all of us.

The different types of branches traditionally used in Advent wreaths are all from evergreen trees, trees that remain green even during the coldest, darkest days of winter. They remind us that Christ's love remains fresh and strong even in life's most difficult moments—He never abandons us.

Traditional wreaths include laurel and holly branches. The laurel branch was an ancient symbol of victory; it reminds us that on the first Christmas Christ came to bring victory over sin and Satan. The holly branches are bordered with small, prickly edges, reminding us of Christ's crown of thorns, of the suffering by which He won victory over sin and evil.

The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. Some traditions also say that they represent four thousand years—a period of time that Christians used to believe passed between the Fall of Adam and Eve and the Birth of Jesus. The light of the candles represents Christ himself, who is the light of the world: His Word shows us how we should live, and His love, expressed especially in the Eucharist, fills our hearts with comfort, like the warmth of a supernatural fire. We light the candles gradually throughout Advent, because we know that the joy of salvation doesn't come fully into our lives all at once. Rather, life as a Christian is a journey, a relationship with Jesus that has to be constantly renewed, just as a new candle is lit each week. If we are faithful to this friendship and don't abandon our journey, the fullness of joy will eventually be ours.

Aid to the Church in Need

Fellow Christians, if we are following Jesus the King, we have the four signs of a dynamic Catholic: (1) prayer, (2) study, (3) generosity [in working to build up God's Kingdom by action and with money], and (4) evangelization [telling others what good things God is doing in our life]. Simply put: Pray, learn, act.

Please consider giving to "Aid to the Church in Need." They have a great reputation. I was told that 90% of my donation will make it directly to the Christian refugees. Call (800) 628-6333 or visit:

<http://www.churchinneed.org/site/PageServer?pagename=mainpage>

Please Do NOT Spoil Your Priests

Fr. Peter and Fr. Michael do not want any gifts or food in the Holy Day season. Keep us thin; pray for us instead. For those who like to send Christmas cards, feel free to pray for us instead. We pray for you every day.

Please Pick up the "Power Novena to the Christ Child"—to be prayed December 16-24.

It is also available on our website, under the heading "Prayers and Spiritual Resources."

US Air Force Academy Cadet Choir Coming

On Martin Luther King weekend, the cadets will sing at St. Anne, Sat, 5 p.m. and Our Lady, Sun, 9:30 a.m.

Quick Apologetics (Defending Your Faith)—Salvation

There are some Christians who live by the motto: "Once saved, always saved." Is this motto true? If I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior 10 years ago, am I still saved? After all, John 10:28 says: "No one can take my sheep out of my hand." We need to know the whole Bible before giving answers too quickly. Let's think about this. First, all of us have a free will, and we can choose to accept or reject Jesus each day. (Hopefully, we will accept Him every minute of every day.) Second, we know that faith is a free gift from God, and we can lose it if we are not careful. Paul states in 1 Timothy 1:18-19: "This charge I commit to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophetic utterances which pointed to you, that inspired by them you may wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting conscience, certain persons have made shipwreck of their faith."

Our Church (headed by Jesus) teaches that our eternal destiny depends on the state of our soul at the time of our death. Did we love God and our neighbor? Was Jesus our best friend? The bottom line is that we need to persevere in our faith every day; we are not saved once and then we get slothful about our faith. We work with the Lord every day, relying on His graces. Matthew 24:13 states: "But he who endures to the end will be saved."

Gems of Wisdom from the *Diary* of Saint Faustina

1074. [Jesus speaking:] **Tell [all people], My daughter, that I am Love and Mercy itself. When a soul approaches Me with trust, I fill it with such an abundance of graces that it cannot contain them within itself, but radiates them to other souls.**

Let Jesus Clean Your Heart Before Christmas

In case you were not aware, Confession is available after any daily Mass. You can always call to schedule an appointment. Extra Confession times in Advent:

- StI**, Friday, Dec. 7, 4 – 4:30 p.m. (Fr. Peter)
- StA**, Friday, Dec. 7, 4 – 5 p.m. (Fr. Michael)
- StB**, Saturday, Dec. 8, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. (Fr. Michael)
- OLS**, Saturday, Dec. 8, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. (Fr. Peter)
- StP**, Wednesday, Dec. 12, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. (Fr. Peter)

Pint with a Priest Join Fr. Peter for a drink and a good discussion about the faith, with time for Q & A. This is for Catholics and non-Catholics alike. Bring a friend! The Peak Brewery and Restaurant in Winter Park. Tuesday, Dec. 4 at 6 p.m.

High School Breakfast with Fr. Peter

Friday, Dec. 7 at 9:30 a.m. at the Midtowne Cafe in Granby. Contact Fr. Peter with questions: 887-0032, x5

Immaculate Conception: Holy Day of Obligation

- Friday, December 7
 - St. Ignatius, 4:30 p.m.** [Tim/Barb Lytle]
 - St. Peter, 7:30 p.m.** [Thomas/Dahlana Kullman]
 - St. Anne, 5 p.m.** [Jordan/Victoria Goray]
- Saturday, December 8
 - St. Bernard, 8:30 a.m.** [Gerald Hraban Family]
 - Our Lady, 9:30 a.m.** [Dan/Sabrina Machiniak]

Christmas Mass Schedule *This year Christmas falls on a Tuesday. We are obligated to go to Mass on the weekend and attend one Christmas Mass. Ten Masses are available!*

- Monday Evening (Christmas Eve), December 24
 - St. Bernard**, 4:30 and 6:30 and 8:15 p.m.
 - Our Lady of the Snow**, 5 p.m.
 - St. Anne**, 5 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 25
 - St. Bernard**, 7 and 9 a.m.
 - Our Lady of the Snow**, 9:30 a.m.
 - St. Peter (Kremmling)**, 10 a.m.
 - St. Ignatius (Walden)**, 1 p.m.

Guadalupe Celebration, St. Peter, December 12

Confession, 5:30 p.m.; Mass, 6:30 p.m.; fiesta!

MTYR Advent is your annual wake-up call. God's love is superabundant and endless! God's love is His gift to the world! GRACE This is what MTYR is all about! With the beginning of Advent as you await the celebration of our Lord's birth, let all the words that come from you express this amazing gift of love to all.

"Wisdom and Works of Mercy," the third **Fr. Gaitley parish-based retreat** is offered at StA, StB, and OLS. It begins the third week of January. This is a 10-week retreat. Those who have attended the first two retreats,

"33 Days to Morning Glory" and "Consoling the Heart of Jesus," have been asking for this and know the quality of the program. Any questions, call the numbers below:

StA will meet on Wednesdays, beginning January 23, from 6:30 – 8 p.m. Call Jan, 970-887-2000.

StB will meet on Mondays, beginning January 21, from 4 – 6:30 p.m. Call Wendy at 720-402-7575 or Pat at 361-442-3532

OLS will meet on Mondays, beginning January 21, from 6:30 – 8 p.m. Call Pam at 410-903-5256.

Grand County Live Nativity; Sunday, December 16

Polhamus Park in Granby, at 4 p.m.

Calendar of Events

- Dec 7-8.** Immaculate Conception: Holy Day
- Dec 16 (Sun).** Live Nativity in Granby, 4 p.m.
- Jan 19-20 (Sat-Sun).** United States Air Force Academy Cadet Choir to sing St. Anne and Our Lady of the Snow

Mass Collections, Nov 24 – 25

St. Anne	\$ 1500
St. Bernard	7898
Our Lady of the Snow	646
St. Peter	354
St. Ignatius	487
Total	\$10885

Vocations Prayer Calendar

Please pray for our seminarians every day.

- Sat**—John Croghan & Tony Davis
- Sun**—Ryan Kent & John Stapleton
- Mon**—Peter Srsich & Patricio Chuquimarca
- Tue**—Justin Doerr & Juan Hernandez
- Wed**—Christopher Marbury & Christian Mast
- Thu**—Samuel Rendon & Cristian Rivera
- Fri**—Men and women applying for formation

Mass Intentions and Schedule for StA, StB, and OLS

KEY: StA = St. Anne; StB = St. Bernard;
OLS = Our Lady of the Snow

- Sat, Dec 1, StA, 5 p.m., Ed and Kathleen Szalkowski
- Sat, Dec 1, StB, 4 p.m., People in our region/visitors
- Sat, Dec 1, StB, 5:30 p.m., Peter/Mary K. Savarie
- Sun, Dec 2, StB, 7 a.m., Healing and Reparation for sins
- Sun, Dec 2, OLS, 9:30 a.m., Dan and Sabrina Machiniak

Weekday Masses

- Mon, Dec 3, StA, 8:30 a.m., Peter and Kathleen Brownell
- Tue, Dec 4, OLS, 7:30 a.m., Chip McGinn
- Wed, Dec 5, StB, 8:30 a.m., Timothy/Jodee Seitz
- Thu, Dec 6, **OLS, 11:15 a.m., Traditional Latin Mass**
- Fri, Dec 7, **OLS, 8:30 a.m., Fr. Michael (No Holy Hour)**
- Fri-Sat, Dec 7-8, **Immaculate Conception: Holy Day**
-See schedule to the left.

Mass Intentions and Schedule for StP and StI

KEY: StP = St. Peter; StI = St. Ignatius (Walden)

- Sun, Dec 2, StP, 10 a.m., Brian and Kendall Vogel
- Sun, Dec 2, StI, 1 p.m., People in our region/visitors