

Examination of Conscience During Lent for Parishes

(based on Pope Francis' *Evangelii Gaudium: The Joy of the Gospel*)

PRIEST CELEBRANT: Pope Francis reminds us in *The Joy of the Gospel* that “God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy.” And so, we come before him this day in humility and faith.

ALL: “Christian triumph is always a cross, yet a cross which is at the same time a victorious banner borne with aggressive tenderness against the assaults of evil. The evil spirit of defeatism is brother to the temptation to separate, before its time, the wheat from the weeds; it is the fruit of an anxious and self-centered lack of trust.”

Pope Francis' *Evangelii Gaudium: The Joy of the Gospel*

READER: Do I place money, success, power, or other worldly things above God?
Do I take time to pray each day?
Do I participate in the Liturgy on Sundays and holy days?
Do I trust in God and try to submit to his will?

ALL: “Before all else, the Gospel invites us to respond to the God of love who saves us, to see God in others, and to go forth from ourselves to seek the good of others.”

Pope Francis' *Evangelii Gaudium: The Joy of the Gospel*

READER: Do I strive to share the Good News of Jesus with those I meet?
Do I treat all people with kindness and respect?
Do I become impatient when dealing with others?
Do I give of my time, talent, and treasure to help the community especially the poor and those in need?
Do I damage someone's reputation through malicious speech or gossip?
Do I refuse to forgive?

ALL: “Lord, I have let myself be deceived; in a thousand ways I have shunned your love, yet here I am once more, to renew my covenant with you. I need you. Save me once again, Lord, take me once more into your redeeming embrace.”

Pope Francis' *Evangelii Gaudium: The Joy of the Gospel*

READER: Do I treasure my possessions more than I treasure people?
Do I respect my body or do I abuse it through the improper use of drugs, alcohol, sex, or lack of exercise and rest?
Do I strive to speak the truth with love?
Do I reverence human life in all of its forms?

ALL: “Let us try a little harder to take the first step and to become involved. Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. The Lord gets involved and he involves his own, as he kneels to wash their feet. He tells his disciples: “You will be blessed if you do this.”^(Jn: 13:17) ... Evangelizers thus take on the “smell of the sheep” and the sheep are willing to hear their voice.”

Pope Francis' *Evangelii Gaudium: The Joy of the Gospel*

PRIEST CELEBRANT: Let us pause in silence as we think about the sins we will confess today.