

Examination of Conscience During Lent for Schools

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

PRESIDER: Pope Francis reminds us in *The Joy of the Gospel*: “Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you.”

Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel: Evangelii Gaudium

READER ONE: “The Church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven, and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel.”

Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel: Evangelii Gaudium

READER TWO: Do I love God above all else and strive to live according to his word?
Do I take God's name in vain?
Do I pray each day?
Do I come to Mass every Sunday with a grateful and loving heart?

READER ONE: “Often it is better simply to slow down, to put aside our eagerness in order to see and listen to others, to stop rushing from one thing to another and to remain with someone who has faltered along the way.”

Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel: Evangelii Gaudium

READER TWO: Do I treat others with kindness and compassion?
Do I listen to and obey my parents, teachers, and those in authority?
Do I respect the elderly?
Do I reverence the gift of human life in all of its forms?

READER ONE: “Whenever we encounter another person in love, we learn something new about God.”

Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel: Evangelii Gaudium

READER TWO: Am I judgmental and critical of others?
Do I pray for those who offend me?
Do I seek revenge instead of forgiveness?
Am I willing to let go of grudges and resentments?

READER ONE: Being a disciple means being constantly ready to bring the love of Jesus to others, and this can happen unexpectedly and in any place: on the street, in a city square, during work, on a journey.

Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel: Evangelii Gaudium

READER TWO: Am I mindful of the needs of the poor, the hungry, the homeless?
Do I share the gifts of my time, talent, and treasure?
Do I strive to be honest, fair, and just in my relationships with others?
Do I love my neighbor as myself?

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