

ST. THERESE – LITTLE FLOWER

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

4720 E. 13th Street Indianapolis, Indiana 46201

www.littleflowerparish.org

*Celebrating 100 years
of our beloved school*



The Theresean

Little Flower Church Mission Statement

Little Flower Church (St. Therese of the Infant Jesus) is a vibrant faith community in the Roman Catholic Tradition, striving to live out the Gospel values of Jesus Christ. Centered in the Eucharist, we are called by God to look beyond ourselves to respond compassionately to the needs of others.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Thursday 5:00 p.m. or by appointment.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Please contact the parish office to schedule your child's baptism. Requests for the date and time specified will be honored to the extent possible. Parents who have not yet received pre-baptismal instruction are required to attend a Baptismal Preparation Class that is held 5 times per year. Call the parish office well in advance so that class arrangements may be made.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Contact the priest 9 to 12 months in advance. A Wedding Handbook is available from the Parish Office which provides the necessary information on arranging for a marriage.

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING/MINISTRY TO THE SICK

In an emergency, contact the parish at any time. Please contact the Parish Center if you or a loved one is hospitalized or confined to home or a nursing facility, to receive the Eucharist and/or Anointing. Hospitals and healthcare facilities no longer routinely inform churches when a parishioner is admitted.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY ORDERS

Priesthood or Vocation as a Religious Sister or Brother. Those considering entering the Priesthood or a religious vocation, please contact our Pastor or the Archdiocesan Vocation Office at 317-236-1490.

LITTLE FLOWER COUNSELING CENTER

Counseling services are available to Little Flower parishioners at a reduced rate. Please call Maureen Sweeney at (317) 617-2522.

INTERESTED IN THE CATHOLIC FAITH?

Inquiry Classes begin in September as part of the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA). Call Parish Center for information.

PARISH REGISTRATION

We welcome all those visiting with us today. If you are interested in knowing more about our parish or wish to register for membership, please call the Parish Office. Registration forms are also available at each of the church doors.

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Articles for the bulletin must be submitted in writing to the parish center or by email to lgibbons@littleflowerparish.org by noon on Monday.

PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Jude Meril Sahayam, Administrator

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PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

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Faith Formation Commission

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School Commission

Jesse Purvis

Stewardship Commission

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At-Large Member

Kathryn Leszczynski

At-Large Member

Catharine Diehr

At-Large Member

Consuelo Quiroz

At-Large Member

Jeff Usher

At-Large Member

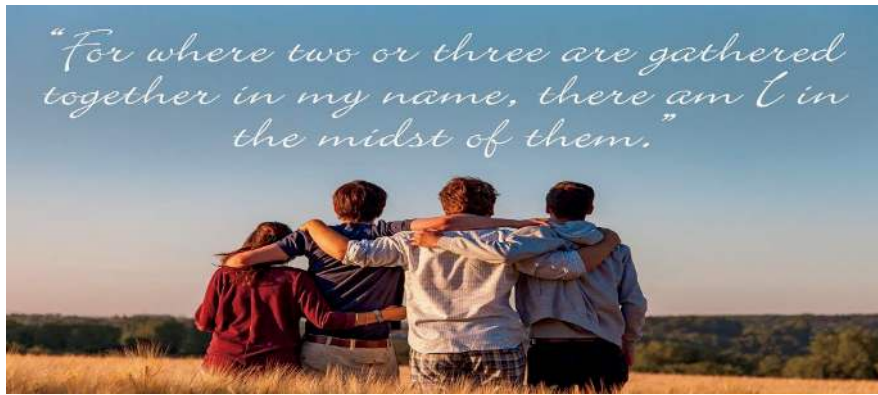
Rick Fischer

At-Large Member

Pattiann Gavaghan

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Mass	Saturday:	5:30 PM
	Sunday:	9:00 AM
	Weekdays:	Tue. 8:30 a.m., Thurs. 5:30 p.m.
	Holy Days:	Check inside the bulletin.



For the Week September 7 – 13, 2026

08	September	Tuesday
	8:30 a.m.	Jean Covington by John Covington
10	September	Thursday
	5:30 p.m.	Bob G. Carter by the Sitzman Family
12	September	Saturday
	5:30 p.m.	Bea Remmetter Paar by the Scecina Lunch Girls
13	September	Sunday
	9:00 a.m.	For the People



Our Annual Novena to St. Thérèse is a cherished tradition—one that has carried the faith, hope, and devotion of our parish almost from the beginning. Join us in celebrating our patronal Novena **beginning on Tuesday, September 22 and concluding on Wednesday, September 30.** The service on weekdays will consist of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Novena

prayers, Benediction, and a Communion Service. The Solemn Closing of the Novena (day 9) will take place on September 30th. **We will celebrate the feast on Thursday, October 1st with Mass at 5:30 p.m.**

The schedule of services are:

- **Days 1-4 - September 22-25;** Exposition begins at 5:00 p.m., Novena Prayers begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by Benediction and Communion Service/Mass
- **Day 5 - Saturday, September 26** – Novena Prayers at 5:15 p.m., Mass
- **Day 6 – Sunday, September 27** – Novena Prayers at 8:45 a.m., Mass
- **Days 7-9 - September 28-30** – Exposition begins at 5:00 p.m., Novena Prayers at 5:30 p.m., followed by Benediction and Communion Service
- **Feast of St. Thérèse - Thursday, October 1,** at 5:30 p.m. with our First Communicants in the Opening procession.

We will celebrate the Feast of St. Therese at all the Masses on the weekend of September 26 and 27.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

September 6 - 14, 2026

DAY	ROOM	TIME	GROUP
Sunday	Duffey Hall (School Cafe)	10:00 a.m.	Coffee & Donuts
Monday	Happy Labor Day Parish & School Closed		
Tuesday	St. Therese (Parish Center)	7:00 p.m.	OCIA
	Church	7:00 p.m.	Choir
Wednesday	St. Patrick (Parish Center)	11:30 a.m.	Adventuresome Group
	St. Patrick (Parish Center)	7:00 p.m.	Parish Council
Thursday	St. Therese (Parish Center)	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study
	St. Therese (Parish Center)	4:00 p.m.	Legion of Mary
	Duffey Hall (School Cafe)	7:00 p.m.	Athletic Association Meeting
	St. Therese (Parish Center)	8:00 p.m.	AA
Saturday	Front of Church	10:30 a.m.	Mum Pick Up
Sunday	Duffey Hall (School Cafe)	10:00 a.m.	Coffee & Donuts
	Parish Center	10:00 a.m.	Confirmation Prep
	Gym	10:30 a.m.	Volleyball Pictures & Uniforms

Mass Attendance

August 29 - 192

August 30 - 221

The **Adventuresome Group** will meet on **Wednesday, September 9, at 11:30 a.m.**, for lunch in the Parish Center. This month our guest speaker will be Evelyn Hoefer, from Central Psychological Services, LLC. She will give a presentation on: "Abundantly Alive: Mind, Body, & Spiritual Wellness." Please call 317-357-8352 if you plan to attend or email Peggy Clegg: pclegg@littleflowerparish.org. Feel free to bring a friend.



The parish office will be closed on **Monday, September 7, for Labor Day.**

Stewardship CornerYour Gifts of Treasure

Weekly Budget Goal	\$	13,350.00
Collection of August 29 and 30	\$	5,059.70
Electronic Contributions 8/24-8/28	\$	3,132.99
Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Actual	\$	10,112.38
Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget	\$	120,150.00
Fiscal Year 2026-2027 YTD DEFICIT	\$	- 10,037.62

Home Improvement Fund

June Contributions	\$	2,888.51
July Contributions	\$	2,862.51
August Contributions	\$	3,024.51

Home Improvement/Capital Project Updates

Tuckpointing on front of school and parish center-work to be scheduled.

Church exterior doors –keypad installed and operational; remaining doors waiting for programming.

Campus lighting - We are evaluating the need for additional lighting throughout.

Church floor refinishing – complete!



Join the Choir...
You'll Be Glad
You Did!

CHOIR STARTS THIS WEEK!

It's really important to get some new members if the choir is to maintain its rich tradition and vital role in our liturgy.

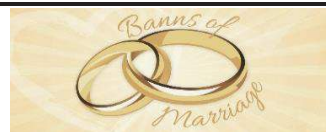
The adult choir sings at the 9:00 A.M. Mass on most Sundays from September through May. Practices are held on most Tuesday evenings from 7:00 P.M. until 8:30 P.M., and **our first practice for the new year will be Tuesday, September 8, at 7:00 P.M.** in the Church.

There is no audition needed, and no minimum skill level required. Many of our members started with no previous choir experience or music-reading ability. Please give some serious thought to see if God is calling you to serve in this important ministry. It's a significant commitment, but one that can be satisfying and fun!

Email gharlan@littleflowerparish.org with questions.

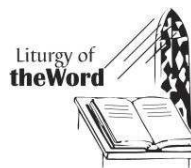
ATTENTION ALUMNI!

On Saturday, November 7, we will host the annual Little Flower School All-Class Reunion. Reserve this date and please pass the word to Little Flower School Alumni! Details to follow.

**First Banns of Marriage**

Liam Keenan & Lilly Hines

September 26, 2026

**READINGS FOR THE 24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

September 12 and 13

Sirach 27:30—28:7

Romans 14:7-9

Matthew 18:21-35

To read the readings on-line, go to

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/091326.cfm>

**LITTLE FLOWER MEN'S CLUB
ANNUAL BASEBALL TRIP
REDS vs. CUBS**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Join the Little Flower Men's Club for a family-friendly trip to Cincinnati to watch the **Cincinnati Reds take on the Chicago Cubs** at **6:40 PM** at Great American Ball Park!

Tickets: \$34 each

Reserved seating — Section 105

Members, family & friends are ALL WELCOME!

Some of us will meet at the **Seccina Memorial High School parking lot at 1:00 PM** to carpool/caravan to Cincinnati. We'll have the opportunity to enjoy **Oktoberfest Zinzinnati** on the Riverfront area before the game.

LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE!

To purchase tickets and arrange payment/electronic transfer, contact:

mensclub@littleflowerparish.org

Save the Date!

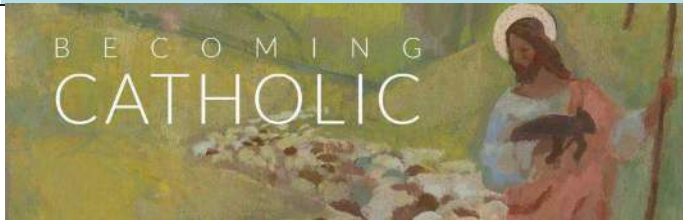
Saturday, September 26 - Annual Parish Feast Day and Parish Appreciation

Mark your calendars to attend the Parish Appreciation dinner in Duffey Hall following the 5:30 p.m. Mass. All are invited!



We remember our parishioner **Bob Sitzman**, who passed away on August 24. His funeral liturgy was celebrated at Little Flower on August 29. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife, **Mary Sitzman**, and his daughter, parishioner **Mary (Kurt) Hunt**. For many years, Bob and Mary faithfully cared for the church linens, ensuring they were cleaned after Mass each weekend. Bob was also involved in Boy Scouts and was an usher during his younger days. Please keep Bob's family and friends in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. May God grant Bob eternal life and bring comfort to all who mourn his passing.

Faith Formation Information



THINKING ABOUT BECOMING CATHOLIC?

Come and discover the journey of faith through OCIA

WHO IS OCIA FOR?

- Anyone who has not been baptized
- Anyone baptized in another Christian tradition
- Catholics who still need First Communion or Confirmation

JOIN US

**Beginning this Tuesday,
September 8, 2026**

7:00–8:30 p.m.

Parish Center

Enter through doors #11 or #13

Learn about the journey, ask questions, and discover what it means to become fully initiated into the Catholic Church.

No pressure. No obligation.

Just an invitation to come and see.

**For more information, contact Lisa at
lgibbons@littleflowerparish.org**



Religious Education

Enrollment is now open for our Religious Education Program for children in public schools, from kindergarten through eighth grade.

Program Details

- Classes begin Sunday, September 27.
- Classes meet most Sundays from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Questions or Registration

To register or learn more, contact Lisa at 317-357-8352, ext. 105, or email lgibbons@littleflowerparish.org.



**Confirmation classes begin on
Sunday, September 13 at 10 a.m.**

(after Mass) in the Parish Center.

For Little Flower Parishioners in 8th grade or High School

If you missed the Parent Meeting, or you have questions, please email confirmation@littleflowerparish.org.



First Eucharist and First Reconciliation

Sacramental preparation for First Eucharist and Reconciliation will begin in the fall for children entering 2nd grade. Children who attend Little Flower School will prepare during school. Watch for more information from school.

If you have a child that is in 2nd grade who attends public schools and needs to be enrolled in our Sacramental Program, please contact Lisa at 317-357-8352, ext. 105 or email lgibbons@littleflowerparish.org to register.

If you have a child in 3rd grade or above who has not made their First Eucharist, please contact Lisa at 317-357-8352, ext. 105 or lgibbons@littleflowerparish.org as soon as possible.

A requirement for First Eucharist is to be a baptized Catholic and a member of our parish. If your son or daughter has not been baptized in the Catholic Faith, please contact the parish center for more information.





Please keep our ill and homebound parishioners and friends in your thoughts and prayers, especially the following people who have requested prayers for various reasons:

Bill Ajamie, Charlotte Allstatt, Tricia Allstatt, Fr. Mike Barton, Marylyn Blackwell, Chip Brandt, Esther Capps, Joe Clegg, Mark Clevenger, Dennis Debruhl, Sherri (Ruegamer) Dugger, Joanna Estes, Carol Freeland, Olivia Garrison, Haydee Gloria, Margie Greene, Pauline Graf, Anna Marie Gutierrez, Mary Lou Hoggatt, Margaret Hughel, Lois Irwin, Carrie Jones, John Jones, Bob Lawless, Karen Lientz, Maximus Lopez, Larry Lynch, Catherine McKenna-Sexton, Sally Meth, Gene Miller, Carol Murphy, Mary Alice Pogue, Ray Quinn, Judy Rathz, Scott Rhinehart, Lourdes Riedeman, Denice Rose, Bette Smith, Eileen Walters, Gary Walters, Janet Wilkerson, Sister Lucia Christi Zetzl.

If you get a chance, please send them a card or a note. It will brighten their day. This week we especially want to remember:

Rosie Torzewski

5350 Churchman Pl Apt 220, Indianapolis, IN 46203

Pray for our active military family/friends:

Brian Ledgerwood, serving on the USS Theodore Roosevelt, son of Diane Anderson

Victor Franco, serving at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls, MT.

Matthew Hughey, serving in Tokyo, Japan – nephew of Rita Cooning.

Aden S. Haigerty, United States Navy, serving at Naval base Kitsap in Bangor, Washington – nephew of Mike Haigerty.

Javier Estrada – United States Navy, serving in AAMDS Poland. son of Liliana Estrada, grandson of Martin and Shannon Estrada.

Jared Cox - United States Army at Fort Riley, Kansas, grandson of Ed and Cindy Wernsing.

Lexi Robertson, Navel Submarine Base Kings Bay, GA., granddaughter of Barb Bruce

Riley Allstatt, serving at the San Diego Marine Basic Camp, son of Mark and Christa Allstatt and grandson of Dave and Charlotte Allstatt.

Alex Oskins, 3rd Class Midshipman at the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, son of Jill Oskins.

If you or someone in your family is ill or serving our country and would like their name listed in the bulletin so others can pray for them, please contact Peggy Clegg at 317-357-8352 or pclegg@littleflowerparish.org.



Come Away Day



Jesus often invited His disciples to "come away and rest for a while." We invite you to do the same at our One Day Getaway. Escape the pace of everyday life and spend the day renewing your heart through prayer, reflections, and peaceful time with God.

Unlike a traditional Day of Silence, this day centers on a theme that invites moments of fellowship and community as we journey together in faith. Come away and rest a while...

- September 29, 2026 (Angels)
 - October 21, 2026 (Gratitude)
- 8 a.m.-4p.m.

REGISTER

\$55 Per person



Please contact our registrar, Lisa Coons at 317-545-7681 or lcoons@archindy.org with any questions.

Castle Nights at

Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary

High school men are invited to join the Bishop Brute College Seminary Community for Castle Nights. Held once a month during the school year, you can come to one or all to see what life in seminary is like and spend time in prayer and fellowship with our college seminarians.

September 16, October 21, November 18, 2026

****Due to increased enrollment at Bishop Simon Brute Seminary, Castle Nights attendance will only be open to high school juniors and seniors. ****

To register go to

<https://heargodscall.com/castle-nights>

Continued Series on the Mass

Do This in Remembrance of Me, Part 7: Greeting

The Mass begins not with casual conversation but with a sacred greeting. After the Sign of the Cross, the priest says, “The Lord be with you,” or another greeting from the Missal. These words remind us that we are encountering Almighty God and joining the Church’s universal worship.

Far from Ordinary

A merely social welcome could obscure the sacred character of the moment. The liturgical greeting is also a prayer that God’s grace, peace, and love be with the people. They reply, “And with your spirit,” asking grace for the priest as he leads the celebration.

Whose Spirit?

“And with your spirit” directly translates the Latin *Et cum spiritu tuo* and echoes Scripture (Ruth 2:4; 2 Timothy 4:22). “Spirit” refers especially to the gift the priest received through Holy Orders. The response recognizes the Holy Spirit’s work through his ordained ministry and asks him to serve as Christ’s priest for the community.

Thus the opening dialogue is both welcome and prayer: the priest invokes the Lord’s presence, and the people acknowledge the grace given him to lead them. Ordinary remarks may follow, but the liturgy begins with sacred purpose: “The Lord be with you.” “And with your spirit.”

For Reflection:

1. Reflect on how you greet different relationships in your life, such as family members, friends, and professional acquaintances. What do you communicate through those diverse greetings? Be attentive to the next greeting opportunity in your day and more intentional about what and how you communicate.

2. Read Ruth 2 and 2 Timothy 4:19-22 to see our liturgical greetings in these contexts. Take time to meditate on these passages, placing yourself in the scenes and recognizing that you are part of a great lineage of human relationships.

Do This in Remembrance of Me, Part 8: Penitential Act

After the greeting, the Penitential Act helps us recognize that we stand before the all-holy God. In a brief silence, we recall our sins and ask the Lord for forgiveness and healing. The priest or deacon then leads one of three approved forms.

History of the Penitential Act

The practice is ancient. The *Didachē* instructed Christians to confess their faults before offering the Eucharist so that their sacrifice might be pure. What once centered mainly on the celebrant and ministers developed into forms that invite the whole assembly to participate.

How to Participate

This honest self-examination reveals where we need Christ’s help. It can become an intention offered with the Mass, especially for freedom from a particular sin or healing from its effects. Because the Mass joins us to Christ’s sacrifice, the moment is ultimately hopeful: Jesus offers forgiveness and restores communion with God.

Awareness of sin may feel uncomfortable, but it can be a sign of grace. We were made for love and communion; sin disrupts both. That discomfort should move us toward Christ’s mercy, especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Sometimes We Use Water Instead

On some Sundays, especially during Easter Time, the blessing and sprinkling of water replaces the usual Penitential Act (GIRM 51). The water recalls Baptism and celebrates our freedom from sin in Christ.

For Reflection:

1. Slowly pray Psalm 51 as a way of preparing for the Penitential Act. (Notice that verse 9 refers to being cleansed by “hyssop,” a branch serving the function of the aspergillum.) Which words or phrases speak to you as you seek forgiveness and healing? Keep these words in mind next time you participate in Mass.

2. Read the first portion of Luke’s account of the Risen Lord’s appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-24). Observe how Jesus invites the disciples to share what they are discussing and how freely they express what is on their minds and hearts. Place yourself in this scene. What do you want to express to the Lord as he invites you to “[p]our out your hearts to God” (Ps. 62:9)? Approach the Penitential Act with this same freedom to place your total self before the Lord.

Do This in Remembrance of Me, Part 9: Forms of Penitential Act

The Penitential Act has three ancient forms. Each proclaims that God is merciful and that we need his mercy, but each does so differently.

Form A: The Confiteor. Beginning “I confess to Almighty God,” it names sins of thought, word, action, and omission. We accept responsibility, strike the breast during the threefold admission of fault, and ask Mary, the saints, and one another to pray for us.

Form B. In a short dialogue, the priest asks God’s mercy and the people admit their sin and seek salvation. Its language echoes the Psalms, especially Psalm 85:8.

Form C. Invocations describe who Jesus is and what he does, followed by “Lord, have mercy,” “Christ, have mercy,” and “Lord, have mercy.” The many options highlight the richness of Christ’s saving love.



The Kyrie follows unless it is already included in the Penitential Act (GIRM 52). Its threefold plea expresses repentance and the Church's cry for God's help. The entire rite prepares us to receive the grace of the Mass with humility and hope.

For Reflection:

1. Pray Psalm 85, noting the plea: "grant us your salvation" (v. 8). Seek and find encouragement in the promises the Lord speaks to his people in this psalm.
2. Practice lectio divina with Luke 18:9-14. Imagine yourself as the Pharisee taking stock of his good qualities. In what do you boast or take pride? Imagine yourself as the penitent tax collector, who strikes his breast and asks for mercy. Where do you need the Lord's mercy in your life at this time?

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

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 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).

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.

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 Canticle 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 canticle, 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.

By Fr. Luke Spannagel

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