

# RECONCILIATION



A Sacrament  
of HEALING

## Why are there so many names for penance and is there a difference between reconciliation and confession?

Everyone struggles with sin and its effects. No one lives a perfect life and the power of evil always looks for opportunities to tempt us. When we fail, we choose self over all else, even God. We may feel shame, guilt, or remorse. Our conscience will bother us, reminding us that we have failed in our relationship with God and those we should love. We know we are not in right relationship with God and others and we need to make it right. Confession, reconciliation, and penance are all parts of the process given in the sacrament to help us forgive and be forgiven.

When we recognize the need for change, we begin with confession--identifying the specific things we have done that are sinful. We accept God's grace and make the intention to sin no more. We see that what we have done is not in keeping with our faith and our desire to serve God, and we recommit ourselves to following God's will and living our life in right relationship with God, others, and self. This is reconciliation. We seek and ask for the forgiveness of those we have hurt. And then, we do what we can to make it up to them. This is penance--prayers and sacrifices that directly or indirectly help restore a balance of grace.

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### Fr. Brian's Sacrament of Reconciliation Schedule for Advent 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11	12	13	14 6:30 pm @ Holy Family	15 7 pm Penance Service	16	17 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm
18 7pm @St. John's	19	20 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	21 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	22 10:00 am - Noon	23 9:00 am - 11:00 am	24