



The Sacrament of Penance

(updated 11/29/09)

Although none of us want to be overly burdened by guilt, it is just as problematic to ignore that sin and evil exist in our world and in our hearts. To address our sin and guilt, the church has the Sacrament of Penance. Through the reception of this sacrament and a sincere willingness to do penance, we receive the powerful and saving grace of our Lord's forgiveness.

Our Parish regularly celebrates the Sacrament of Penance at the following times:

- **On Saturdays at 3:15PM**
 - **By appointment**
 - **Seasonal communal Penance Services** (during Advent and Lent)
1. *Where is this sacrament celebrated (where is the Confessional)?* The reconciliation room is located near the front of the church, near the baptism font. Enter through the doorway adjacent to the tabernacle. Confessions begin promptly at 3:15PM (see further information below.)
 2. *How is the sacrament handled? Is it like the old days?* Yes and no. As you enter the reconciliation room, you have two options:

You can choose **to kneel behind the priest** and make your confession anonymously or, you can choose **to sit across from the priest** and make your confession face-to-face. In either case, if you are unsure or do not remember the procedure, *the priest will guide you through the sacrament.*

Unlike the "old days," the red Confessional light **remains on** during the whole confession time period (it does not turn on and off after each penitent.) Also, given that our parish has only one full-time priest and that time is needed to prepare for the 4:00PM Mass, if no penitent seeks Confession by 3:15PM, the priest usually leaves the confessional.

For **First Penance** information, please contact the Parish Office at 508/586-1575 for more information or to make an appointment.