



*From the Desk of Father Peter*

*Reconciliation & the Season of Lent (Part II)*

*Our Pope's spontaneity, especially at this time and place of our Lenten season, has enlivened the Church. Speaking his first Angelus prayer before thousands in 2017, Pope Francis asked people to never get tired of asking God for forgiveness. "Don't forget this. The Lord never gets tired of forgiving; it is we that get tired of asking for forgiveness," said Pope Francis.*



*As we enter into Holy Week, there are many characters in the Passion reading that begin to unfold for us today— some heroic, some despised. Perhaps, as our Church invites us to the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we can best relate to the so-called “good thief” who cries out to Jesus, “Remember me when you come into your kingdom,” in hopes that we too, might hear our dying Savior say, “today you will be with me in Paradise.”*

*Once again, I encourage all to take advantage of the grace and spiritual benefit that this sacrament brings us. Palm Sunday and the events of Holy Week raise many questions, but more importantly, they raise our hopes of new life after death, light from darkness, and sorrow and pain giving way to joy and hope.*

*Below is an examination of conscience that should be helpful to all of us as we prepare to encounter the forgiving Christ in the Sacrament of His love!*

1. *Is God truly at the center of my life, or do I worship “gods” such as wealth, power, prestige, or lust?*
2. *Do I speak with and listen to God regularly in prayer, and trust in His concern and care for me?*
3. *Do I make an honest effort to gather with my family of faith by attending Mass and receiving Eucharist? Do I respect the Eucharist?*
4. *Do I have genuine love for other people, or do I use them for my own ends?*
5. *Have I contributed to the well-being of my family: through patience, love, respect, and good example? Do I abuse a family member physically, emotionally, or spiritually?*
6. *Do I contribute to the misery of the poor, the outcasts, the oppressed, and the forgotten by ignoring their needs? Do I respect every person as a child of God?*
7. *Have I nurtured a grudge against someone? Have I ignored the attempts of others to reconcile with me?*
8. *Have I stolen or done damage to the property of others? Have I made restitution? Do I steal the work of others by cheating? Do I lie? Am I trustworthy? Do I gossip? Do I unnecessarily defame another’s reputation?*
9. *Do I respect the sexual dignity of others? Of myself? Do I degrade that dignity by treating others as an object of pleasure? Do I respect the commitment I made to my spouse?*
10. *Do I take my faith seriously? Have I become spiritually arrogant, thinking myself better in the sight of God than others?*

11. *Am I obsessed with jealousy or envy of others?*

12. *Do I try to maintain a simple unpretentious life-style?*

*If you are taking your Lenten season seriously, then these are the tough questions you should be asking yourself. When we answer them honestly, we realize how much we need God's forgiveness!*



*God Bless,*

*Fr. Peter*