

Advent Examination of Conscience

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, "Glory to the newborn King:
Peace on earth and mercy mild, **God and sinners reconciled!"***

Soon we will be singing Christmas Carols, with many of the lyrics celebrating the truth that Jesus comes to earth to forgive our sins and to unite us with God.

Please try to make a good confession this Advent season and receive that great grace of reconciliation. Confessions are heard thirty minutes before the weekend Masses and by appointment.

In preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, take some time to examine various aspects of your life, with special consideration of the many gifts God has given you.

FATHER BILL

THE GIFT OF FAITH:

- Do I trust in God? Are there times when I become too cynical?
- Do I pray daily, taking time to praise God?
- Am I mindful of and grateful for all God has given me?
- How am I responding to the call to share my faith with others, to lead others to Christ?
- Do I attend Mass faithfully?
- Does the time I spend with God show that God is a priority in my life?

THE GIFT OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

- Do I let busyness get in the way of my most important relationships?
- Do I take out my problems and frustrations on others?
- Do I build myself up by tearing others down?
- Do I let resentment and lack of forgiveness overcome me?
- Do the people who are closest to me know that I care about them.

THE GIFT OF MYSELF:

- Do I treat myself with respect?
- Do I take care of my body, my health?
- Do I treat the gift of sexuality – mine and others' – with appropriate dignity?
- Am I careful about how I 'feed' my body, my mind, my heart?

THE GIFT OF THIS WORLD:

- Do I respect God's world?
- Do my actions show that I treasure God's creation?
- Does my caring and concern reach beyond my immediate family and friends to include those in need?
- Do I live as a person of peace?

Act of Contrition

Lord God, Giver of all good gifts, to prepare my heart to welcome Your Son, I confess with sorrow that I have sinned by misusing the gifts You have given me. I ask for forgiveness, for healing, for peace. Please give me wisdom and courage, so that I may begin anew, to change my heart and my life, to use my gifts well, and to follow You. Amen.