

**Українська Католицька  
Церква Св.Родини**

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**Holy Family Ukrainian  
Catholic Church**

**Pastor:** Fr. Olvian N. Popovici

225 N. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Lindenhurst, NY 11757  
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**Trustees:** Silvia Smith (516) 712 - 5526

Bogdan Shafranski (516) 250-8009

**Choir Director:** Iryna Popovych 943-3348

Nataliya Popovici – **English cantor**

**Advisor:** Gloria Tolopka (631) 667-6483

**Sunday Divine Liturgies:** 9:00 am - English / 10:15 am - Ukrainian

**Weekday Divine Liturgies:** 8:00 am or 9:00 am or 7:00 pm

**Holy Days Liturgy:** 9:00 am or Previous Day at 7:00 pm

**No. 3/17**

**CHURCH BULLETIN – ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК**

**January 15, 2017 / Січень 15, 2017**

**DIVINE LITURGIES SCHEDULE:**

**35th Sunday after Pentecost, January 15, 2017.** *Our Venerable Father Paul of Thebes.*

**Tone 2: Epistle: Colossians 3:12-16. / Gospel: Luke 18:18-27.**

**9:00 a.m. – Pro Populo – English.**

**10:15 a.m. – (God’s Blessing upon Oleh, Nataliya, Vadym & Petryk Family, req. Family) – Ukrainian**

**12:00 p.m. - Special Divine Liturgy for children – Eng. /Ukr.**

**Sanctuary Candle:** This week Sanctuary Candle is lit in Memory of † Laryssa Falkowski, req. by Falkowski Family

**Monday, January 16, 2017.** *The Veneration of the Precious Chains of the Holy and Illustrious Apostle Peter.*

**6:45 p.m. – Panakhyda in Memoriam † Metropolitan Constantine Bohachevsky**

**7:00 p.m. - God’s Blessing upon Stepan, Iryna, Zoryana, Eduardo, Daniel, Diana, req. Stepan Brynkalovych**

**Tuesday, January 17, 2017.** *Our Venerable and God – bearing Father Anthony the Great.*

**9:00 a.m. – † Iryna Jatsiv/Panakhyda/ {Anniv.}, req. Iryna Popovych**

**8:00 p.m. - Bible Study (Reading, Explanation, etc) – Eng.**

**Wednesday, January 18, 2017.** *Our Holy Father and Archbishops of Alexandria Athanasius and Cyril.*

**6:00 p.m. – † Laryssa Falkowski {Anniv.}, req. Falkowski Family**

**Thursday, January 19, 2017.** *Our Venerable Father Macarius of Egypt.*

**9:00 a.m. – Pro Populo - Ukrainian**

**Friday, January 20, 2017.** *Our Venerable and God – bearing Father Euthemius the Great.*

**9:00 a.m. – God’s Blessing upon Stephanie Bojuk, req. Bojuk Family**

**Saturday, January 21, 2017.** *Our Venerable Father Maximus the Confessor.*

**8:00 a.m. – † All Deceased Members (Special Intention), req. by Mothers in Prayer**

**6:00 p.m. – Vespers (Вечірня)**

**36th Sunday after Pentecost, January 22, 2017.** *The Holy Apostle Timothy.*

**9:00 a.m. – Pro Populo – English.**

**10:15 a.m. – (God’s Blessing upon Oleh, Andriy, Halyna, req. Mir Family) – Ukrainian**

**Confessions:** Can be heard by appointment daily and on Sundays before or after the Divine Liturgy.

**Baptism and Chrismation:** By appointment. Sponsors must be practicing Catholics.

**Marriage:** Please contact the Pastor at least six (6) months in advance. *Attendance at pre - Cana is required.*

**Ukrainian Culture School will be held Every Saturday from 9:00 am until 1:30 p.m.** For more information please call the Rectory or contact the Director, Mrs. Izolda Maksym at (631) 225 -1203 or visit our web page: [ukrainskaschkola.com](http://ukrainskaschkola.com).

**Ukrainian Cultural Dances** for children ages 5 to 12 are provided by Mr. Gregory Momot of Paramus, NJ, every Saturday, by groups: ages (5 – 8) 1:35 p.m. – 3:05 p.m.; ages (8 – 12) 3:05 p.m. – 4:35p.m.

**Religious Education:** Classes for religious education will be held every Monday from 5:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Please contact the rectory for further information.

**Ministry to the Sick:** Rev. Popovici will make visits to the sick on the first Friday of the month. It is the responsibility of an immediate family member to kindly notify Rev. Popovici at the Rectory office about any sick or aged individual who is hospitalized or confined at home or in a nursing home, and he will gladly visit and administer the sacraments. In case of emergencies please call any time.

**Pray the Rosary:** The Apostleship of Prayer requests members and parishioners pray the Rosary on the **First Sunday** of each month, beginning 20 minutes before Divine Liturgy. The Rosary Society requests members and parishioners pray the Rosary on the **Third Sunday** of the Month beginning at 10:00 a.m. before Ukrainian Divine Liturgy.

**Mothers in Prayer:** Next prayer group will be held on **February 3, 2017 at 8:00 p.m.**

**St. Joseph’s Men’s Prayer:** group will be held every Thursday at 8:00 p.m.

**Rectory Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; Saturday: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm;** Evenings by appointment. **Attention: Tuesday** is a free day for the priest. In case of an emergency, please call at any time.

**Divine Liturgy:** Dear Parishioners! Remember your faith; please come every Sunday and Holy Days to Church.

**Divine Liturgy for Children:** Special Divine Liturgy (English/Ukrainian language) for family/children will be held today **Sunday February 5, 2017 at 12:00 Noon.** All parents are requested to bring their children to church to celebrate the Holy Divine Liturgy.

**Sunday Bulletin Deadline:** Notices should be phoned in or brought to the Parish Office **NO LATER** than 12:00 noon on the Friday prior to the Sunday of publication.

**Bequests:** In making out your will, kindly remember your church. Holy Family Ukrainian Catholic Church of Lindenhurst, N.Y. is our legal title.

**New Parishioners:** Welcome to Holy Family Church! To all who are tired and need rest, to all who mourn and need comfort, to all who are friendless and need friendship, to all who are discouraged and need hope, to all who are hopeless and need sheltering love, to all who sin and need a Savior, this Church opens wide its doors in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Please stop by the Rectory to introduce yourselves and register. We look forward to meeting you.

**Change in address or telephone?** Parishioners, kindly provide the rectory with your new address and telephone numbers as soon as possible.

**Parishioners and guests: after each Divine Liturgy, coffee, rolls, & cakes are served in the Parish Center for a donation of \$3.00 per person.**

**Sunday Collection – January 8, 2017. Christmas (Julian calendar): \$4,020.00**

*“Give to the Most High as He has given to you, generously, for the Lord is one who always repays, and He will give back to you sevenfold.” (Sir. 35: 9 – 10).*

Candles: \$180, Terapod: \$32, Shoka: \$15, Initial: \$10, Energy: \$235, Holy Days: \$15, Christmas: \$95, Epiphany: \$80, Refund: \$15, Annual Support: \$50,

**Pledge: \$380.00, Sunday Offering: \$843.00, Total - \$1,945.00.**

**Dear Parishioners:** *Sincere thanks for the offerings made on Sunday, January 8, 2017. May God bless you all for your generosity*

**Our Prayer:** *Please remember all those parishioners who are ill or elderly within your families. They are part of our parish and need to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacraments of Confession and Communion. To schedule a visit by the priest, please call the rectory for an appointment.*

**Attention: To all who celebrate their birthday** during the month of **January**, our best wishes and many happy healthy years! Mnohaya Lita and God's Blessing.

### Our Church News:

**1. We wish to express our deepest condolences and sympathy for Mrs. Valerie Laraia and the Laraia family for the loss of her mother our Parishioner, † Stella Rachunok, who fell asleep in the Lord on January 11<sup>th</sup>. May her memory be everlasting.**

**2. January collections: Regular church cleaning:** The next free will donation will be collected **today** Sunday, January 15, 2017.

**3. We wish to express our sincere thanks to:**

**a)** all parishioners and all those who made special gifts for Christmas Day (Julian Calendar, January 7, 2017). The total amount donated was **\$4,020.00**. Thank you also to those who participated in our annual parish caroling event and to those who made offerings for carolers to come to their homes. The total offerings were **\$3,970.00**.

**b)** A Parishioner who wishes to remain anonymous who donated \$300.00 to help defray the costs of our new pew cushions.

**c)** M/M Slawomir & Helen Samilo who stored all of the chairs after Julian Christmas services and cleaned and prepared the church for the Sunday Liturgy.

May God bless all those who volunteered or made donations and may He reward you with His choicest Blessings.

**4. Dear Parishioners: Please refrain from lighting candles during the Divine Liturgy.** The Divine Liturgy is the reenactment (in an unbloody manner) of the sacrifice of our Lord on the Cross at Golgotha. Recall what God said to Moses: Moses, remove your sandals because the place in which you stand is holy. Out of respect for Christ and to avoid distracting movements during the Liturgy, please light all candles either before the Liturgy has begun or after the final blessing. Thank you for your cooperation.

**5. We have for sale pyrohy** with potatoes – \$6.00 per dozen; holubtsi (stuffed cabbage with meat and mushrooms), \$6.00 per package. All proceeds go to our church. This is a fundraiser.

**6.** In case of an emergency, at any time, whenever someone is in the hospital, seriously ill, or confined at home, please notify the parish office if it is the wish of the sick person or of his/her family that I should visit or administer the Holy Sacraments. I cannot visit a person who is ill without a request from the person or from their immediate family.

**7. Reminder to all parishioners and friends:** no animals or pets

are permitted to enter our church property because of the proximity of the sanctuary and the Blessed Sacrament. In accordance with the limits of our liability insurance policy, the only animals that are permitted in the church are 'service animals' such as seeing eye dogs. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this regard.

**8. House Blessings with a special Prayer:** It is a long standing custom among Ukrainians to have their homes blessed with holy water sanctified during the Feast of Theophany (the feast which commemorates the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River.) If you would like to have your home blessed, please contact Fr. Popovici or call the office to make arrangements or to ask questions.

**9. Dear Parishioners: Our Prospora (end of the Christmas season) Luncheon will be held on January 29, 2017 after the 10:15 am Ukrainian Divine Liturgy. Admission will be \$25.00 per person. To bring the Christmas Season to a close, please plan to attend and celebrate as a parish family with Honored Artist of Ukraine Mrs. Iryna Lonchyna. More information is attached to our bulletin.**

**Dear Parishioners: ANNOUNCING our 2nd parish pilgrimage: A MARIAN PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY SITES OF EUROPE is scheduled from April 23<sup>rd</sup> to May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Only 43 seats are available.** Join us on a ten day spiritual journey focusing on the apparitions of the Mother of God in Lourdes and Fatima. As St. Louis Marie DeMontfort, author of *True Devotion to Mary* said, “To Jesus Through Mary.” **VISIT 3 COUNTRIES – STAY IN 10 CITIES – ALLOW YOURSELF TO BE SHOWERED WITH GOD’S BLESSINGS!** We invite you, not just on another trip, but a spiritual journey you will never forget. **For more information ask Fr. Popovici.**

**House Blessing:** *It is the custom among many Ukrainian and Eastern Christians to have their homes blessed with the holy water sanctified on the feast of Theophany (the feast which commemorates the Baptism of the Lord in the Jordan River). **The Purpose:** The annual blessing of homes is a custom of special beauty and significance. We again ask Christ to bless and enter into our homes and our lives. We ask Him to be with us, as we desire to be with Him. We ask that by the sprinkling of blessed water, the Holy Spirit renew us, our families and our lives in our homes. As Christ brought salvation to the house of Zacchaeus; we ask the same for all those who dwell in our homes. Theologically speaking, the blessing of home constitutes an invocative blessing, meaning that by prayer and by the sprinkling of the Holy Water the priest invokes God's protection upon the home and those living in it. One of the prayers used in the blessing of homes declares: “Now, You, O Lord, protect also all those who dwell in this house from all harm and injury; grant them Jordan's blessing, purifications, which are for their salvation and life eternal.” As our souls, so also our homes become tainted by the sins of those living in them and, consequently, lose God's protective power. Every year then, at the Feast of Theophany, they should be blessed again to secure for them God's blessings and protection. **If you would like your home blessed, please write your name and daytime contact telephone number on a sheet of paper and drop it in the Sunday collection or call Fr. Popovici for an appointment. House blessings can be done through February 15, 2017.***

## Ten Facts Most Catholics Don't Know (But Should!)

By Gary Zimak

Every time I hear someone claim to be an “ex-Catholic”, a sense of sadness comes over me. In just about every case, people leave the Catholic Faith due to a lack of understanding. After all, if Catholics truly believed that they were members of the one, true Church founded by Christ (and necessary for their salvation), nobody would ever leave! In an effort to help clarify what the Catholic Church teaches, I have compiled a list of 10 important facts that every Catholic should know. More than simply Catholic trivia, these are important concepts that can help us to better understand and defend our beliefs. In no particular order, these items have been compiled based upon my work at Following The Truth and my own study of the Catholic Faith.

**1. Women Will Never Be Priests** – Often incorrectly lumped in with the subject of married priests, this is a doctrine that has been infallibly decided and will not change. In 1994, Pope John Paul II issued an Apostolic Letter, *Ordinatio Sacerdotalis*, in which he declared once and for all that “the Church has no authority whatsoever to confer priestly ordination on women and that this judgment is to be definitively held by all the Church’s faithful.” Unlike the issue of married priests (which could possibly change), women’s ordination is an impossibility that will not happen. It is not a “glass ceiling” or the Church’s attempt to hold back women. Instead, it is an infallible recognition that men and women have different roles and that Christ instituted a male priesthood.

**2. Fridays Are Still Days Of Penance** – Ask almost anyone and they will tell you that Catholics are no longer required to abstain from meat on Fridays throughout the year. However, the current Code of Canon Law (CIC) states that, with the exception of solemnities, “All Fridays through the year and the time of Lent are penitential days and times throughout the entire Church.” (CIC 1250) Furthermore, “Abstinence from eating meat or another food according to the prescriptions of the conference of bishops is to be observed on Fridays throughout the year unless they are solemnities.” (CIC 1251) In the United States, the bishops have declared that it is permissible to substitute some other form of penance, but we are still urged to fast from “something” in remembrance of the Lord’s death on the cross. It is preferable to abstain from animal flesh and if desired, the faithful may also refrain from some other lawful pleasure as an additional penance for their good or in behalf of others.

**3. The Bible Is A Catholic Book** – Did you ever wonder how the Bible came into being? A little known, but easily documented fact is that the books of the Bible were compiled by the Catholic Church. For many years after Christ ascended into Heaven, there was debate about which scriptural writings were inspired by God. The canon of Scripture (the books of the Bible) was first formally decided at the Synod of Rome in 382. This decision was upheld at

the Councils of Hippo (393) and Carthage (397). At these Catholic Church councils, the same 46 Old Testament and 27 New Testament books that appear in today’s Catholic Bibles were declared to be inspired by God. As a side note, approximately 1200 years after this decision was made, Martin Luther and the Protestant reformers removed 7 books from the Old Testament. As a result, most Protestant Bibles are still missing these 7 books.

**4. The Mass Is The Same Sacrifice As Calvary** – The biggest mistake that many Catholics make is treating the Holy Mass as “just another church service”, similar to those of other religions. In the Mass, Christ’s Sacrifice on the Cross is reenacted and its saving power is applied. The Council of Trent teaches that Christ left a visible sacrifice to His Church “in which that bloody sacrifice which was once offered on the Cross should be made present, its memory preserved to the end of the world, and its salvation-bringing power applied to the forgiveness of the sins which are daily committed by us.” When we attend Mass, we are mystically transported to Calvary, where we can unite ourselves with the Lord’s Sacrifice to the Father!

**5. Annulments Are Not Catholic Divorces** – Unlike the legal process known as “divorce” (in which a marriage is terminated), a declaration of nullity (annulment) states that a valid marriage never existed. This decision is based upon the finding that on the day that marriage vows were exchanged, some essential elements were lacking. This process is completely in conformity with the Catholic teaching regarding the indissolubility of marriage. Incidentally, the granting of an annulment does not render children illegitimate.

**6. In Vitro Fertilization Is Morally Unacceptable** – Many Catholics suffering from infertility utilize this process in the hopes of conceiving children, while remaining unaware that the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) declares it “morally unacceptable”(CCC 2377). In the Vatican Instruction, *Donum Vitae*, the Church states “...in conformity with the traditional doctrine relating to the goods of marriage and the dignity of the person, the Church remains opposed from the moral point of view to homologous ‘in vitro’ fertilization. Such fertilization is in itself illicit and in opposition to the dignity of procreation and of the conjugal union, even when everything is done to avoid the death of the human embryo.”

**7. There Is No Salvation Outside Of The Catholic Church** – Originally stated by St. Cyprian, the Latin axiom “Extra Ecclesiam nulla salus” reminds us that there is no salvation outside of the Catholic Church. This dogma was declared at the Fourth Lateran Council and is a source of confusion for Catholics and non-Catholics alike. According to the Catechism, all salvation comes from Christ the Head through the Church which is His Body. It does not mean that non-Catholics cannot achieve salvation. Individuals who are unaware that the Catholic Church is the one, true Church may still achieve salvation through the merits of the Church, despite their lack of knowledge.

**8. In An Emergency, Anyone Can Baptize** – Although the ordinary ministers of Baptism are bishops, priests and deacons, anyone can baptize in an emergency, even a non-baptized person. This extraordinary decision can be attributed to the necessity of Baptism for salvation and the Church's desire to make it readily available to all. (The person who administers Baptism must, however, use natural water, baptize in "the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost", and must have the intention of removing original sin.)

**9. Hell And Purgatory Still Exist** – Contrary to the belief of many Catholics, the Church has always taught and teaches that "the souls of those who die in a state of mortal sin, descend into hell, where they suffer the punishments of hell, eternal fire." (CCC 1035) Furthermore, "all who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation, but after death they undergo purification, so to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven." (CCC 1030) This purification process, formally declared by the Church at the Councils of Florence and Trent, is known as Purgatory.

**10. Catholics Don't Worship Mary And The Saints** – Many Catholics are confused about the role of the Blessed Mother and the Saints. Should we pray to Mary and the Saints or should we go "right to the top" and pray to God? In a nutshell, the Catholic Faith teaches that we must worship God alone. Mary and the Saints are to be honored, not worshipped. However, their intercession can be extremely powerful and emulating their virtues can put us on the road to Heaven.

## A GUIDE TO THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

**Discover God's Love Anew:** Pope John Paul II, asked "for renewed pastoral courage in ensuring that the day-to-day teaching of Christian communities persuasively and effectively presents the practice of the Sacrament of Reconciliation" (*Novo Millennio Ineunte*, 37). A renewed devotion for this wonderful Sacrament is needed for a return to the life of grace and for our spiritual growth. All Catholics should make frequent use of this Sacrament and are required to confess, at the very minimum, at least one time per year during the Easter season.

### What is Sin?

Too many people have lost sight of what it means to sin or what is sinful. The moral conscience of many people is seriously clouded and they think they can do whatever they wish without considering or fearing the consequences. Yet we know that sin is a terrible evil which all of us must come to understand and with which all of us must struggle. According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, sin "is an offense against God as well as a fault against reason, truth

and right conscience. Sin is a deliberate thought, word, deed, or omission contrary to the eternal law of God" (CCC 1849, 1853). In other words, sin is willfully rejecting good and choosing evil. This is a wound to the soul of the sinner. In judging the degree of sin, it is customary to distinguish between mortal and venial sins. "Mortal sin," the *Catechism* teaches, "destroys charity in the heart of man by a grave violation of God's law . . . Venial sin allows charity to subsist, even though it offends and wounds it" (CCC1855).

### What is Confession?

The Sacrament of Penance (Confession) is to accuse ourselves of our sins to a priest. This Sacrament was instituted by Christ whereby the sins which we have committed after Baptism are forgiven once the priest pronounces the words of absolution. Our Lord instituted the Sacrament of Penance when He breathed on His Apostles and gave them power to forgive sins, saying: 'Whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven.' John 20:23. Besides forgiving sin, the Sacrament of Penance increases the grace of God in the soul. Thus, the church's insistence that we should avail ourselves of this Sacrament on a regular basis. For those who make a worthy confession the effects are: first, the restoration or increase of sanctifying grace; second, the forgiveness of sins; third, the remission of the eternal punishment, if necessary, and also at least of part of the temporal punishment, due to our sins; fourth, the spiritual help to avoid sin in future; fifth, the restoration of the merits of our good works if they have been lost by the committing of mortal sin. The Sacrament of Penance also gives us the opportunity to receive spiritual advice and instruction from our confessor. Three conditions for forgiveness are required on the part of the penitent - *Contrition, Confession, and Satisfaction*. Contrition is a hearty sorrow for our sins, because by them we have offended God Who is all good and goodness itself. Contrition includes a firm purpose of amendment, meaning the penitent is resolute in his desire to avoid, by God's grace, not only sin, but also the occasions of sin. If we lack true sorrow for our sins we should pray in earnest to be shown the grievous nature of the offense we give to God when we sin. We should consider God's infinite love and goodness toward us. Those who sin grievously 'crucify again to themselves the Son of God, making Him a mockery'. Heb. 6:6. (It is sufficient when we confess to have sorrow for our sins because by them we have lost heaven and deserve hell.)

### What is perfect contrition?

Perfect contrition is sorrow for sin arising purely from the love of God. Perfect contrition has this special value: that by it our sins are forgiven immediately, even before we confess them; but nevertheless, if they are mortal, we are strictly bound to confess them afterwards.

### **What Constitutes a Good Confession?**

To make a good confession, and receive the sacrament of Penance worthily, we must: first, examine our conscience; second, be sorry for our sins; third, have the firm purpose of not sinning again; fourth, confess our sins to the priest; fifth, be willing to perform the penance the priest gives us. Penitents should make a sincere effort to call to mind all of the mortal sins committed since their last worthy confession. Recall how you may have sinned against the Ten Commandments, the Precepts of the Church and your particular duties of your state in life. (The two great precepts of Charity are: 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart, and with thy whole soul, and with thy whole mind, and with thy whole strength'. And 'Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself'. Mark 12:30, 31). If a person wilfully conceals a mortal sin in confession, the sins one confesses are not forgiven; moreover he commits a mortal sin of sacrilege. What must a person do who has knowingly concealed a mortal sin in confession? A person who has knowingly concealed a mortal sin in confession must confess that he has made a bad confession, tell the sin he has concealed, mention the sacraments he has received since that time, and confess all the other mortal sins he has committed since his last good confession. If after having gone to confession, through no fault of ours, we recall a mortal sin that we neglected to confess, we may receive Holy Communion because we have made a good confession and received absolution. *However*, we must confess the sin the next time we go to confession. We should not allow shame or fear to prevent us from confessing a mortal sin because the priest represents Christ, and is bound by the seal of the Sacrament of Penance and can never reveal to anyone what has been confessed therein.

### **What is satisfaction?**

Satisfaction is performing the penance given us by the priest. The penance is given in order that the penitent may make some atonement to God for the sins committed, to receive the spiritual help to avoid future sin, and to make some satisfaction for the temporal punishment that is due to them. The penance given by the priest does not always make full satisfaction for our sins. We should therefore add to it good works, penances, and indulgences.

### **What is an indulgence?**

An indulgence is a remission, granted by the Church, of the temporal punishment which often remains due to sin after its guilt has been forgiven. There are two kinds of indulgences, plenary and partial. A plenary indulgence is the remission of all the temporal punishment due to our sins. A partial indulgence is the remission of part of the temporal punishment due to our sins. By means of indulgences, the Church remits the temporal punishment due to sin by

applying to us, from her spiritual treasury, part of the infinite satisfaction of Jesus Christ (by His death on the Cross) and of the superabundant satisfaction of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of the saints which they gained during their lifetime but did not need, and which the Church applies to their fellow members of the communion of saints. To gain an indulgence for ourselves we must be in the state of grace, have at least a general intention of gaining the indulgence, and perform the works required by the Church. (We cannot gain indulgences for other living persons, but we can gain them for the souls in purgatory, since the Church makes most indulgences applicable to them.)

### **3. Why is Confession necessary?**

We need the sacrament of Penance because each of us sins. When we recognize that we have offended God who is all deserving of our love, we know we must make things right. Like the prodigal son in the Gospel, we long to know again the loving embrace of a forgiving father who patiently waits for each of us. Jesus himself has established this sure and certain way for us to receive God's mercy and to know that our sins are forgiven. By virtue of His divine authority, Jesus gives this power of absolution to the apostolic ministry. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says, "in imparting to his apostles his own power to forgive sins the Lord also gives them the authority to reconcile sinners with the Church". We need to know that our sins are forgiven. There is something in our human nature that calls out for the assurance that our sins are actually forgiven. Confession is the visible manifestation of God's mercy that provides us, in human terms as well, the clear awareness that God has forgiven us.

### **What is the source of the forgiveness of our sins?**

It is Christ, the Good Shepherd, who offers us forgiveness and the grace to turn away from sin. Writing to the Corinthians, Saint Paul reminds us that sin came into the world through Adam and Eve, but that grace and new creation come to us through Jesus Christ. Death came through a human being, but the resurrection of the dead came through God in the form of a human being. As in Adam all people die, so in Christ all shall be brought to life - a fullness of life, a new creation already beginning in us through grace (cf. 1 Cor 15). This is the message we proclaim when we face the evil of sin. Just as Adam brought sin, death, disharmony, confusion, disruption and struggle into our lives, Christ, the new Adam, gives us grace, redemption, new life and salvation. It is in Jesus Christ that we find the beginnings of the new creation. He leads us back to the Father, overcomes death and restores harmony. Jesus gives us newness of life in grace that begins to restore our relationship with God and that will lead to full communion with God in glory. Grace is the beginning of a new creation for all of those baptized into Christ. In short, Jesus' passion and death will give new life to those who accept and cooperate with His grace.