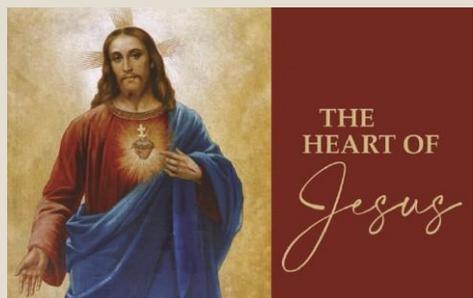




From the Desk of Father Peter

The Penitential Rite



After the opening greeting at Mass, we have a PENITENTIAL RITE so that we as a people would recognize God's mercy in the face of our sinfulness. Our prayers show God and ourselves that we are in the process of converting and that we are in need of reconciliation with God and others.

When the Presider (the priest who is leading the Mass) says, "Let us call to mind our sins and ask for God's mercy," it is a time for us to personally ask God to forgive anything we have done wrong or something good we failed to do. We then speak words together which either show that we as a people have sinned ("I confess to Almighty God and to you my brothers and sisters...etc.) or words that proclaim God's mercy (Lord have mercy") Like the sign of peace, this moment of mercy makes us think of Jesus' words, "If you bring your gifts to the altar and you recall that you are angry at your brother or sister, first go and make peace with him or her, then come and offer your gifts." This moment of mercy at the start of Mass is a strong interior moment that leads to peace with God and peace with one another. So please, now that you know what happens at the penitential rite, kindly avail yourself to the flow of the Spirit within you.



*With peace and love to all,
Fr. Peter Enyan-Boadu*