

PENITENTIAL RITE

The Penitential Rite is normally celebrated on the Second Sunday of Lent and forms an important moment in the Church's Lenten journey. It is a time when the community, already engaged in prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, is invited more deeply into conversion and preparation for the celebration of Easter.

Within the process of Christian initiation, the Penitential Rite may serve as part of the Lenten purification of baptized who are preparing to receive the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist, or to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church. It is a grace-filled moment in which the Church prays over them and supports them as they move toward full sacramental life.

The Penitential Rite may also assist candidates in preparing for the Sacrament of Penance, helping them to grow in awareness of sin, the mercy of God, and the ongoing call to conversion. In this way, it is both a communal and personal moment of repentance, healing, and renewed readiness to celebrate the saving mysteries of Christ more fully.