



## The Community of St. Mark, Catonsville

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“We the members of St. Mark Parish, a Roman Catholic community, welcome all to celebrate and live as Jesus teaches us: to love one another, to worship and to witness, to learn and to teach, to be open and accepting, to share in God’s kingdom as we proclaim and perpetuate the Body of Christ.”

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### How to Make a Confession

- Prior to your confession you should recite the following prayer:
  - Come Holy Spirit into my soul. Enlighten my mind that I may know the sins I ought to confess, and grant me your grace to confess them fully, humbly, and with a contrite heart. Help me to firmly resolve not to commit them again. O Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, intercede for me through the passion of your son, that I may obtain the grace to make a good confession. All you blessed archangels, angels, and saints of God, pray for me, a sinner, that I may repent from my sins, and that my heart may be forever united with yours in eternal love. Amen.
  
- After entering the confessional, something similar to the following should occur:
  - Priest: In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.
  - Penitent: Bless me Father, for I have sinned. My last confession was (how long ago?). <Recite your sins.>
  - Priest: The priest will listen. He may ask questions or counsel you. He will generally give you a penance to perform and then ask you to make an Act of Contrition.
  - Penitent: Say an Act of Contrition
    - Oh, my God, I am heartily sorry for my sins. Because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell, but most of all because they offend thee my God who art all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of thy grace to confess my sins, to do penance and to avoid the near occasions of sin. Amen.
  
- Priest: Gives you absolution. He will generally offer you the sign of peace and then dismiss you. You should then perform your penance as soon as possible or else at the priest’s discretion.
  
- Penitent: Thank you, Father.