

God, through Nathan the prophet, forgave David the evil deeds that he confessed. He forgave Peter his denial when he wept bitterly, and the sinful woman who shed tears on His feet. He forgave the Publican and the Prodigal. May this same God, through me, a sinner, forgive you **N.** both in this age and in the age to come, and may He make you stand without condemnation before His fearsome judgment seat. May He-Who-Is be blessed, now and ever, and unto the Ages of Ages.

R: Amen.

The priest then dismisses you, saying:

Go in peace and sin no more.

or

As to what you have divulged, have no further care. Go in peace.

or

My brother / sister, in regard to all that you have now confessed, you must now be on your guard. For we have received a second baptism, according to the Mystery of Christ. We must see to it that, with God's help, we make a good beginning. Above all, we must not deal lightly with these things; for fear that we become a cause of scorn to others, for this does not befit a Christian. May God, by His grace, help us to live honorably.

The **M**ystery of **H**oly **R**epentance according to our **B**yzantine **T**radition



Saint Mary Byzantine Catholic Church
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Make the sign of the Cross, saying:

In the Name of the Father ✠ and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The priest then prays, saying:

Behold, my spiritual son / daughter, our Lord Jesus Christ invisibly stands here and receives your confession. Do not, therefore, be ashamed or afraid, and do not conceal anything, but without hesitation, tell all that you have done, and you shall receive pardon from our Lord Jesus Christ. Behold His holy icon is before you. I am but a witness, bearing testimony before Him of the things that you say. But, if you conceal anything, you shall have a greater sin. Take heed, therefore, lest having come to the Physician, you depart unhealed. Come, therefore, with faith and love and true sorrow and repentance, and leave purified and cleansed of all sin.

You continue by saying:

I confess to Almighty God, One in the Holy Trinity, to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Theotokos, to all the Saints, and to you, Father, all my sins. The last time I was to confession was...and these are the sins that I remember...

Now listen to any questions or instructions that the priest may direct to you. Then say the Act of Contrition.

~ ACT OF CONTRITION ~

For these and all my other sins which I cannot remember nor call to mind, I am sorry that I have offended God and have angered Him against me. I am sincerely repentant and promise, with the help of God, to better my life. For this I humbly ask of you, Father, salutary penance and absolution.

The priest then gives you a penance and placing his epitrichion upon your head, he says the following prayer for forgiveness.

*O Lord our God, You bestowed the forgiveness of sins upon Peter, and the harlot because of her many tears, and You justified the Publican who recognized his faults. Accept also the confession of Your servant **N.**, and in Your goodness forgive any sin, voluntary or involuntary, in word, deed or thought, for You alone have the power to forgive sins. You are a God of mercy, compassion, and loving-kindness, and we glorify You with your eternal Father and Your holy, good, and life-creating Spirit ✠ now and ever, and unto the Ages of Ages.*

R: Amen.

The priest continues...