

# PENITENTIAL ACT

*After the Procession and opening greeting,  
the Presider invites the faithful to the Penitential Act by saying:*

"Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins,  
and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries."

*A brief pause for silence follows.*

*Then all recite together the formula of general confession:*

I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and  
in what I have failed to do,

*And, striking their breast, they say:*

through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;

*Then they continue:*

therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord, our God.

*The absolution by the Presider follows:*

May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life.

*The people reply:*

Amen.