


# Mass of Atonement

## Archdiocese of Milwaukee

*“I lay down my life for my sheep.” John 10:15*



Atonement – “at-one-ment” – comes through Jesus Christ. Through Him, in His loving act of sacrifice, we receive the gift of reconciliation with God and one another.

Reconciliation through atonement – the unity of men and women with God and with one another – is pure gift from God, not earned by us.

We are invited to respond to this grace and show gratitude for God’s work in Christ by renouncing whatever is the source of pride and sin, so that the harmony of creation may be restored.

As a Church we are called to move forward in God’s loving embrace. The Church can do so only by seeking pardon for the sins of her past that grew out of pride.

Christ stretched out His arms on the cross and reconciled us to one another and to the Father. He brought God and humanity together in his body. As the Good Shepherd, He wraps His arms around our broken lives and restores us to the harmony that exists in His love.

God of endless love,  
ever caring, ever strong,  
always present, always just:  
You gave your only Son  
to save us by the blood of His cross.

Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace,  
join to your own suffering  
the pain of all who have been hurt  
in body, mind, and spirit  
by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.

Hear our cries as we agonize  
over the harm done to our brothers and sisters.  
Breathe wisdom into our prayers,  
soothe restless hearts with hope,  
steady shaken spirits with faith:  
Show us the way to justice and wholeness,  
enlightened by truth and enfolded in your mercy.

Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts,  
heal your people's wounds  
and transform our brokenness.  
Grant us courage and wisdom, humility and grace,  
so that we may act with justice  
and find peace in you.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.