

# First Reconciliation Parent Packet 2017-2018



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## **RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE, DATES & INFORMATION**

**FIRST PENANCE BOOK:** Candidates and parents complete this textbook at home together. Lesson Plans for each of the 6 sessions.

Supplemental material is available online (see attached sheets) & from FF Office. Each lesson plan takes a parent through the session. We ask that you and your child take time to complete these sessions together.

- **Complete work in the “Reconciliation Workbook” provided.**
- **Due at retreat on December 3, 2017**

**MASS JOURNALS:** Candidates need to complete at least 8 of 11 journals. Please write at least 3 sentences for Gospel/Homily discussion.

**Journals due at retreat on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

### **RECONCILIATION RETREAT:**

**December 3, 2017: Sunday: 1:30pm-4:00pm**

(Any parent interested in helping with the retreat please contact the Faith Formation Office.)

**INTERVIEWS:** (questions at end of packet)

**January 10, 2018 in Church**

**3:00pm.-4:30pm and 6:30pm– 7:30pm**

**CELEBRATION OF RECONCILIATION - tentative**

**January 20, 2018 @ 10am in the Church**

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**FIRST EUCHARIST PARENT MEETING:**

**January 24, 2018 @ 10:00am or 6:30pm in the Activity Center**

**FIRST EUCHARIST RETREAT:**

**April 15, 2018 Sunday: 1:30pm -4:00pm**

**FIRST EUCHARIST INTERVIEWS:**

**April 18, 2018 Church**

**3:00pm.-4:30pmand 6:30pm – 7:30pm**

**FIRST EUCHARIST REHEARSAL: Sunday, April 29, 2018**

**1:30pm (9am candidates) & 3pm (11am candidates)**

**FIRST EUCHARIST: May 5, 2018**

**9am & 11am (chosen by lottery the first week of February 2018)**

## Is My Child Ready for First Penance?

### Questions as You Prepare

The Church asks that the pastor and parents together discern a child's readiness to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Discerning your child's readiness for First Reconciliation is a wonderful opportunity to share God's love and forgiveness with your child. "Readiness for reception of this sacrament includes knowledge of the person of Jesus and the Gospel message of forgiveness, knowledge of sin and its effect, and understanding and experience of sorrow, forgiveness, and conversion." (*National Directory for Catechesis*, 135) As you journey through the immediate preparation for First Reconciliation with your child, take note of what your child is learning, and how he or she is responding to the process. Here are some starter questions to consider as you share the faith with your child.

#### **Does he/she know the difference between right and wrong choices?**

Consider whether your child has the capacity to acknowledge that there are times when he/she makes wrong choices.

#### **Does he/she know what sin is? Can he/she differentiate between a sin and a mistake?**

Consider if your child can discern times in his/her life when he/she makes deliberate choices that hurt God and others. Sin is any thought, word, or act that we freely commit even though we know that it is wrong. We choose not to obey God's commandments. Ensure that your child understands the difference between a sin and a mistake or an accident.

#### **Does he/she feel positive about receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation?**

By the time he/she finishes the immediate preparation for the sacrament, your child should have a sense that he/she will get something wonderful out of this sacrament: the grace of sacramental absolution.

#### **How does he/she feel about celebrating the sacrament?**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is an encounter with Jesus who offers his love and forgiveness, and should be presented as a joyful experience. If at the conclusion of the preparation process your child is extremely fearful or agitated about the sacrament, this may be a sign that he/she is not ready to celebrate it.

#### **Do's and Don'ts for Parents**

- **Don't** project any negative experiences you may have had with this sacrament in the past on your child.
- **Do** share with your child times when you have been strengthened and comforted by the sacrament.
- **Do** encourage your child to take part in the sacrament.
- **Do** deepen your own understanding of the Sacrament of Reconciliation by learning about it, reading about it, and taking part in it.
- **Do** enjoy this exciting preparation period with your child!

or

<https://www.loyolapress.com/faith-formation/sacramental-preparation/gods-gift-2016/parents-and-students/primary-reconciliation-and-eucharist>

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## Primary: Reconciliation and Eucharist

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### Glossaries

[Reconciliation](#)

[Eucharist](#)

### Articles

A full range of online articles supports parents in their knowledge of the Catholic faith. Parents who would like additional background on the sacraments can browse useful articles, which can help to answer any questions parents may have as they help prepare their child to receive the sacraments.

### MEALBOX CONVERSATION STARTERS

### Crafts:

#### Eucharist:

[Handprints](#)

[Storyblock](#)

[Laced Picture Plaque](#)

[Symbols of Faith Magnets](#)

[Handprint Cloth for First Eucharist Celebration](#)

### **Reconciliation:**

- Coloring with Yarn Cross
- Works of Mercy Tree
- The Old Rugged Cross
- Forgiveness Chain

### **Activities**

A variety of resources are available for children and their families to enhance knowledge and reinforce lessons learned in class while helping the whole family grow in faith and knowledge of the sacraments. These fun activities (referenced in the Together Magazine) are a great way for the whole family to get involved in sacramental preparation. Parents and children can do these fun activities together to prepare for the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation.

- Friendship Field Day
- Torta Rolls Recipe

### **Games**

Fun **online games** complement the lessons. Children will enjoy reviewing God's Gift lessons with this fun word search.

### **Family Stories**

- God's Gift Family Stories: Best Lesson
- God's Gift Family Stories: Forgiveness Given
- God's Gift Family Stories: Forgiveness Received

### **More for Students and Families**

- Read about your Favorite Saint >
- Family Faith and Fun >

### **Membership**

- Register
- Sign In
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### **Popular Areas**

- 3-Minute Retreats
- Sunday Connection
- Daily Inspiration
- Saints Biographies
- Loyola Press Shop

### **Communities**

- Social Media
- Catechist's Journey ®
- IgnatianSpirituality.com ®

### **Company**

- Our Mission
- News and Authors
- Catalogs
- Employment

### **Curriculum**

- Christ Our Life
- Finding God
- Confirmed in the Spirit
- Voyages in English

# The Rite of Reconciliation

The parts of the Rite of Reconciliation lead us to receive God's forgiveness.

## 1. Greeting and Sign of the Cross

The priest welcomes the penitent. Together they pray the Sign of the Cross. The priest may read a passage from Scripture.

## 2. Confession of Sins

The penitent confesses his or her sins to the priest. Serious sin must be confessed as to kind and frequency. Bound by the seal of confession, the priest cannot reveal what has been disclosed to him. The priest may offer guidance and counsel to the penitent.

## 3. Acceptance of a Penance

The priest gives a penance—a prayer or an action to make amends for sin and to show a desire to change. The penitent accepts the penance and completes it soon after celebrating the sacrament.

## 4. Prayer of Sorrow

The penitent prays the Act of Contrition or another prayer of sorrow.

## 5. Absolution

The priest prays the words of absolution, forgiving the sins of the penitent in Jesus' name.

## 6. Dismissal

The priest dismisses the penitent with words of peace.



# The Choices We Make

## Conversation 1: Making Choices

The scenarios below describe situations that children might face. Ask a volunteer to read the story aloud. Then discuss these questions for each story:

- Who did something wrong? What did this person do?
- Do you think this was a sin? Why or why not?
- What can the person do to make things right?

### Members Only

At school, Anita and Grace play with a few special friends at recess. Only these friends may belong to their club. They will not let other classmates play with them or be in their club.

### Take That!

While they are playing in the backyard, Noah's younger brother, Connor, accidentally pokes Noah in the eye. Noah responds angrily and gives Connor a hard punch in the stomach.

### Slam the Door

Adam's mother hears a crash and runs to the kitchen to see her favorite bowl in pieces on the floor. Adam is alone in the kitchen. He tells his mother that he didn't drop the bowl, but his mother doesn't listen and sends him to his room. Later, Adam's little brother admits that he broke the bowl and then runs out of the kitchen.

### Tough Luck!

Each morning Mario takes a shower before school. When he's finished, he dawdles in the bathroom, playing with his hair in front of the mirror. When his sister knocks on the door to say that she really needs to use the bathroom, Mario says "Too bad. I was here first!"

## Conversation 2: Seeking Forgiveness

Once your group has discussed each of the scenarios above, continue the conversation. Using the questions below as a guide, talk about ways we can ask for forgiveness and show we are sorry.

- When you do something wrong, how can you show that you are truly sorry? (Hint: Think about ways the people in your family show others that they are sorry.)
- When you apologize to someone, what do you hope that person will say?
- When someone apologizes to you, what can you do or say to show that you forgive that person?

## **RECONCILIATION INTERVIEW REVIEW SHEET**

**Review with candidates how to begin their first confession.** Choose to go face to face or anonymously. Begin with the Sign of the Cross and say, **“Forgive me father for I have sinned. This is my first confession.”**

### **1. WHAT ARE THE TEN COMMANDMENTS?**

The Ten Commandments are laws that tell us what God wants us to do. They help us to live healthy and happy lives. Be able to discuss some of them.

1. You shall honor no other god but me.
2. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
3. Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor’s goods.

### **2. WHAT IS SIN?**

Sin is freely choosing to do what we know to be wrong. It means disobeying God’s law on Purpose. All sins are wrong.

### **3. WHAT IS THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION?**

Reconciliation is the sacrament in which we celebrate God’s mercy and forgiveness of our sins.

### **4. Define “Contrition”.**

An expression of sorrow for our sins and our desire to do better in the future.

### **5. WHAT DOES “FORGIVENESS” MEAN?**

The gift of God that repairs our broken relationship with Him through the words of the priest.

### **6. WHAT DOES “ABSOLUTION” MEAN?**

God’s forgiveness of our sins.

### **7. WHAT IS “PENANCE”?**

A penance is a prayer or good work we do to show God we are sorry.

### **8. WHAT STEPS ARE ALWAYS PART OF THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION?**

1. We examine our conscience
2. We confess our sins
3. We receive a penance
4. We pray an act of contrition
5. We receive absolution



## **9. WHAT DO WE DO AFTER RECONCILIATION?**

After Reconciliation, we share the peace of Jesus with our families, our parish community, and with everyone we meet.

## **11. WHAT IS AN EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE?**

Conscience helps us to know what is right and what is wrong. Before we celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation, we ask God the Holy Spirit to help us remember our sins. This is called an examination of conscience.

## **12. BE ABLE TO SAY THE ACT OF CONTRITION AND TELL WHAT IT MEANS.**

My God,

I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.

In choosing to do wrong

And failing to do well,

I have sinned against you

Whom I should love above all things.

**We tell god we**

**are sorry.**

I firmly intend, with your help,

To do penance,

To sin no more,

And to avoid whatever leads me to sin.

**We promise not**

**to sin again. We**

**try to make up**

**for our sins.**

### ***Optional additional ending***

Our Savior Jesus Christ

suffered and died for us.

In his name, my God, have mercy.

**We ask God to**

**forgive us in**

**Jesus' name.**

## **13. BE ABLE TO SAY THE "HAIL MARY".**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you!

Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.

Amen.

## **14. BE ABLE TO SAY THE "OUR FATHER".**

Our Father, who art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy name;

Thy kingdom come;

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

And forgive us our trespasses

As we forgive those who trespass against us;

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil.

Amen.

## **15. BE ABLE TO SAY THE "GLORY TO THE FATHER".**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen