

FIRST RECONCILIATION



©LPi

The Sacrament of Reconciliation, or Penance, is a wonderful opportunity to heal the brokenness in our relationship with God that comes with sin. Children of about seven years of age are not really capable of meeting the standards for serious sin, and some might question whether they are capable of any sin at all. But the truth, for every human person, is that the reality of sin will come soon enough. When it does, we need to be prepared to seek God's forgiveness, to receive His forgiveness, and to strive to do better.

Preparing your child for Reconciliation is a family (Domestic Church) process, supported and encouraged by the parish Faith Formation program. These guidelines will help ensure that you have the information you need to talk about this beautiful experience with your child, and to grow together in your understanding of Reconciliation and your love for Christ and the Church.

In order to celebrate Reconciliation, your child - or any person - must prepare with an examination of conscience, a sense of true sorrow for sin, a firm resolution to avoid sin in the future, and then the sacrament itself. Reconciliation includes a confession of sin, absolution from sin given by the priest in the name of Christ, and the assignment of a penance - some prayer or action that helps to signify the resolution to turn away from sin.

Everyone who is prepared to celebrate a sacrament may do so. The preparation is not a way of "earning" the sacrament; rather, the sacrament is God's gift to us. Our preparation is the way we show gratitude for God's goodness, by striving to appreciate as best we can the gift we are given.

To be fully prepared for reconciliation, your child will learn the concepts of sin, sorrow, forgiveness, and the celebration of forgiveness. In Faith Formation, these topics recur in the years following this one, so as your child grows in the ability to understand the concept of responsibility for one's actions and the choosing of right or wrong, they will be able to put these important concepts into practice.

To ensure the best possible preparation for your child, you are asked to see that he or she knows, understands, or is familiar with the following. The parish Faith Formation program, the First Reconciliation materials, and your own formation will help you to have the information and tools you need to support your child's preparation for this sacrament.

For questions and assistance in supporting your child's preparation for First Reconciliation, please contact me at anytime.

God Bless,
Alisha Giles

Director of Faith Formation
alisha.giles@stpeter-douglas.org, 269-857-7951 ex 4

WORSHIP & FORMATION

- ◆ Weekly participation at Mass and Holy Days of Obligation.
- ◆ Participation in the Children's Liturgy of the Word
- ◆ Participate in Kids Club

KNOWLEDGE OF THE SACRAMENT

Your child should be able to respond in an age-appropriate way to these questions:

- ◆ What does Reconciliation mean to you?
- ◆ How might you be different, once you have celebrated Reconciliation?
- ◆ Why do you think Jesus provided a way for us to know our sins are forgiven?
- ◆ Why do you want to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

The *Renewed: Your Journey to First Reconciliation* at-home program and the child/parent meetings and retreat will help you and your child to develop appropriate responses to the above questions.



PARTICIPATION

- ◆ Complete, at home, *Renewed: Your Journey to First Reconciliation*
- ◆ Parent/Child Meeting, Sunday, September 17 at 9:10am
- ◆ Parent/Child Meeting, Sunday, January 21 at 9:10am
- ◆ Parent/Child Retreat, Saturday, March 23 from 10:00a - 1:00pm
- ◆ First Reconciliation Celebration, Saturday, March 23 during the retreat for those who are ready.

CATHOLIC LIFE

- ◆ Complete one service project of your choosing.

This includes acts of kindness, rooted in faith, in everyday life. The Corporal Works of Mercy serve as a guide, but parents will need to adapt these principles to apply them to children.

Feed the hungry
Shelter the homeless
Clothe the naked
Visit the sick and imprisoned
Bury the dead
Give alms to the poor

- ◆ Learn and understand the Ten Commandments
- ◆ Be able to discuss, at an age-appropriate level, what these mean in your child's life.

PRAYER

Know common Catholic prayers. Ideally, pray together each day, perhaps at bedtime or on the way to school.

- ◆ Sign of the Cross
- ◆ The Lord's Prayer (Our Father)
- ◆ The Hail Mary
- ◆ The Doxology (Glory be...)
- ◆ Act of Contrition



We are excited to introduce our First Reconciliation preparation program, *Renewed: Your Journey to First Reconciliation*. The goal of the program is to offer your child a powerful, life-changing experience as he or she prepares to receive God's mercy through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

It is our hope that *Renewed* will not only offer your child a thorough knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith but also win over their hearts at this critical time in their lives. The program has been carefully designed to address and answer your child's fundamental questions about life, forgiveness, and mercy and to call your child to embrace a life of faith.

Let's face it - our world is full of distractions and detours that can easily set a young person on the wrong path. Nothing can take the place of a strong faith in God. It is our faith that gives us our identity and our direction in life. The Church recognizes that you, as parents, are the primary educators of your children in matter of faith and morals - and the *Renewed* program offers you a unique opportunity to join your child as he or she journeys through the Catholic Faith.

Lesson Overview

Unit 1: Who Created the Universe?

Lesson 1.1: God's Plan for Creation

Lesson 1.2: What Happened to God's Plan?

Unit 2: How Did God Show His Love for His People After the Fall?

Lesson 2.1: From Adam and Eve to the Exodus

Lesson 2.2: From the Ten Commandments to the Promised Savior, Jesus Christ

Unit 3: Who is Jesus?

Lesson 3.1: Jesus Heals Us, Teaches Us, and Saves Us

Lesson 3.2: Jesus Gives Us the Church to Continue His Work

Unit 4: Why Did Jesus Give Us the Sacraments?

Lesson 4.1: The Sacraments Bring Us God's Love

Lesson 4.2: The Sacraments Throughout Our Lives

Unit 5: Why Did Jesus Give Us the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

Lesson 5.1: Our Need for Forgiveness

Lesson 5.2: Our Friendship with God

Unit 6: How Do We Live Out the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

Lesson 6.1: Our First Reconciliation

Lesson 6.2: Living the Life God Wants for Us

Each lesson has a

Saint
Main Concept
Key Words
Prayer
Short Video

Complete Lessons before the retreat on Saturday, March 23.

At Home

A classroom will be available on Sunday's when only CGS is in session.