

Sacramental Parent/Child Prep Reconciliation 2014

Reconciliation Date – Friday, December 5, 2014 at 5 PM & 6 PM
OR 12:30 PM on all Saturdays of Advent Season (December 2014)

Overview

School/Religious Education Program WITH Parent/Child Support at Home:

Nothing can replace your participation!!! We do a “mock” confession and tour of the confession rooms with the children. We will reinforce concepts of RECONCILIATION in our classrooms. Please review what they learned and become familiar with what words and concepts they are covering. **Recite the Act of Contrition EVERY DAY.**

PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR RECONCILIATION - It is a brochure for parents to review with the child preparing for First Reconciliation to ensure that the prayers and ceremony become familiar and natural. Parents are encouraged to read **WHY SHOULD I GO TO CONFESSION** as a refresher for all adults and family members as we welcome you to the sacrament of Reconciliation on the same day as your children. There will be visiting priests in the 2 back confessionals just for family. ☺ All children will confess with our parish priests outside the perimeter of our church pews.

Reflection Questions

Set the stage for a wonderful process for your child. Take a few minutes and reflect:

- Why do I want to hand on my Catholic faith to my child?
- What was my experience of preparing for sacraments?
- What do the sacraments mean to me?

Reconciliation Thoughts

What are we trying to accomplish?

Preparing children for the sacrament of Reconciliation is not just preparing for a ceremony.

- It is teaching them to see themselves in the light of God's love, allowing them to strengthen their self-confidence while also accepting their own limitations.
- It is helping them to discover that God is inviting us to be happy and is showing us the way through Jesus' example.
- It is encouraging them to form some simple habits that will help them to acquire a taste for the spiritual life, to discover the benefits of personal discipline and to little by little gain moral judgment and strength of character.
- It is inspiring in the children a deep trust in the love of God, who always forgives us.

Tips for Preparing Your Child for the Sacrament of Reconciliation

- **Memorize the Act of Contrition**
- **Role play** – Feel free to role play what happens in Confession using the brochures.
- **Give special attention to your children's day-to-day life.** You are helping your child through a period of “apprenticeship” in Christian living. It is important that you pay more attention than usual to his or her daily experiences. This is not so you can be more critical, just the opposite. It is to give you opportunities for encouragement. Encourage your child to put into practice what is learned.
- **Don't be overwhelmed by the sacrament.** It does not take a theologian to teach your children about forgiveness, God's love and mercy, and the basics of the sacraments. If you take some time with heartfelt attention to share stories with your children and look through the materials with them, you have all you need.
- **Remember to remind your child that whatever is told to a priest in confession is a secret.** They may not even tell you, the parent, what was discussed.
- **Don't forget to say “I forgive you” to one another after “I'm sorry” is said.**