

Final Preparation Prior to Our Reconciliation Service:

Parents: Please read these Bible stories with your child. Think about what Jesus is saying in each of the stories. Under each scripture verse you will find a brief summary explaining the story. Be sure to give your child the opportunity to think about how the scripture speaks to them personally before giving them the answers.

Luke 15: 1-7

We can be certain that God will seek us out when we stray; also, we can be God's instrument to lead others back to God.

Luke 7:36-50

No sin is too large that it cannot be forgiven. We can always bring our failures to God.

Luke 15: 11-32

When we have made wrong choices, God always desires to forgive us and welcome us back with love and celebration.

Every day we make mistakes or "bad choices." Some of those mistakes are sins, actions which hurt the Body of Christ. Every night when we go to bed, we should take some time to think about our day and ask how we may have failed to love God and each other. Below you will find questions to help your children with their discernment. This should also be done prior to the Reconciliation service.

Examination of Conscience for Children

How is my relationship with God?

Do I pray?

Do I go to (or watch) Mass on Saturday or Sunday?

Do I pay attention when we attend (or watch) Mass?

How is my relationship with others?

Do I help others?

Do I treat them and what belongs to them with respect?

Do I tell the truth?

Do I refrain from bullying?

How is my relationship with myself?

Am I brave enough to admit when I'm wrong?

Do I know God loves and forgives me?

Do I recognize that I have special gifts?

Do I understand that I can come back to feeling good

even after I mess up or when others have hurt me?

The final page is for your child to review the 7 steps of reconciliation. There is space for them to write down their thoughts and they are welcome to bring the paper with them to their individual confession.

7 Step of Reconciliation

1. The Priest will welcome me.
2. We will make the Sign of the cross together.
3. I will confess my sins to the priest (*you may write them down below to remind yourself*).

4. The priest may give me some words of advice or encouragement.
Then He will give me my penance (prayer or acts of service)
5. Act of Contrition (*We will say the Prayer of Sorrow together prior to individual confession.*) This is where I tell God that I am sorry and that I will try not to do those things again.

Dear God, I am sorry for all my sins with all my heart.

With your help I can do better.

I promise to try to be more loving and follow Jesus.

In the name of Jesus, I ask your forgiveness.

Amen

6. Finally the Priest will extend his hands over me and gives me absolution in the name of Jesus. My sins are forgiven! I will make the sign of the cross with the priest.
7. Goodbye, I will say thank you, and leave the Reconciliation room.