



His father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion....The son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son."

But the father said,.... "we must celebrate and rejoice, because [you] were dead and now [you] have come to life again; [you] were lost and have been found."

~Luke 15: 20, 32

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First Reconciliation Preparation Handbook and Calendar 2016



Dear Parents,

Soon your child will experience the fullness of God's mercy for the first time. Your child will learn in his/her First Reconciliation preparation classes what a wonderful gift Jesus has given us in Confession. You can support this learning by expressing your own appreciation and reception of this wonderful gift.

Included in this handbook is information that will come in handy as you begin the preparation process. If you have any questions that have not been addressed here, please do not hesitate to contact us.

- ◆ Preparation Schedule
- ◆ Recommended Chapter Schedule
- ◆ Frequently Asked Questions
- ◆ Guide to Celebrating Reconciliation
- ◆ Act of Contrition
- ◆ Helpful website links

May your child's First Reconciliation be the beginning of a lifetime of experiencing God's mercy with you and others in God's family.

Website Links

General First Reconciliation Info

<http://www.hfccmd.org/sacramental-preparation/first-reconciliation>

Online Resources

<http://sacraments.osv.com/reconciliation>



Guide to Celebrating Reconciliation

Preparing for the Sacrament:

- ◆ While waiting quietly, consider your actions, words, thoughts and habits since you last went to Reconciliation.
Are there any that you know were wrong and that you feel guilty about?
- ◆ Think about the 10 Commandments. Have your actions, words or habits caused you to break any of the Commandments?
- ◆ Think about Jesus' Law of Love: Love God with all your heart, all your soul and all your mind. Love your neighbor as yourself. Have your actions, words or habits caused you to break these laws?

Confession:

- ◆ Father welcomes me.
- ◆ I confess my sins.
- ◆ Start by saying something like:
Here is what I've done *or* This is what I want to confess
or These are my sins.
- ◆ Then tell the things you are truly sorry for and that you will try to avoid doing in the future.
- ◆ Finish by telling Father something like this:
Father, this is all I have to tell you *or* I don't have any more to confess *or* Father, that is all.
- ◆ Father gives me my penance. I listen carefully.
- ◆ I pray an Act of Contrition:
- ◆ Father gives me absolution. I accept God's forgiveness.
- ◆ I say "Thank you, Father," and quietly leave the Reconciliation Room.
Some people choose to begin doing their penance at this time, in the quiet of the Worship Space.

First Reconciliation 2016 Preparation Schedule

First Parent-Child Workshop

Wednesday, September 28 6– 7:30pm Legacy
Workbook and materials are distributed; process is explained; children tour confessional

Parent and Child Final Reconciliation Workshop

Wednesday, November 9 6:- 7:30 pm Church
Workbooks due; practice for First Reconciliation

Reconciliation Service

Saturday, November 12 10:30am Church



Recommended Chapter Schedule Encounter With Christ, Reconciliation

September

28 Lesson 1– We Are Made in God’s Image

October

5 Lesson 2– We Live in Covenant with God

12 Lesson 3– We are Called to Forgiveness

19 Lesson 4– We Come to Reconciliation

26 Lesson 5– We Confess & Do Penance

November

2 Lesson 6– We are Forgiven and We Forgive

Completed books are due by November 9 or earlier.
The Children’s Booklet and Parent Guide will not be
collected - they are for your use.

Act of Contrition

*My God,
I am sorry for my sins with all my
heart.
In choosing to do wrong and failing
to do good,
I have sinned against you
whom I should love above all things.
I firmly intend, with your help,
to do penance,
to sin no more,
and to avoid whatever leads me to
sin.
Our Savior Jesus Christ
suffered and died for us.
In His name, my God, have mercy.*