

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Preparing a Child for First Penance/First Reconciliation

General Comments:

- Parents and the parish catechetical leader, with the pastor, are responsible for determining when children are ready to receive this sacrament.
- Readiness includes knowledge of the person of Jesus, the Gospel message of forgiveness, knowledge of sin and its effect, and an understanding and experience of sorrow, forgiveness, and conversion.
- Children must receive the Sacrament of Penance-Reconciliation for the first time prior to their first reception of Eucharist.
- Catechesis for the Sacrament of Reconciliation is to precede First Communion and be kept distinct by a clear and unhurried separation in order to identify each sacrament clearly.
- Before receiving First Communion, the child must be familiar with the revised Rite of Reconciliation and be at ease with the reception of the sacrament.
- Catechesis for children receiving this sacrament must always respect their natural disposition, ability, age, and circumstances.
- Since the family is intimately involved with the formation of a child's moral conscience and ordinarily integrates the child into the wider ecclesial communities, parents should be involved in the preparation of their children to affirm and reinforce frequent participation in the sacraments. They orient the child toward God and encourage continual growth in the understanding of God's mercy and love.

The child, through the help of good catechesis

- recognizes God's unconditional love for self and all people.
- seeks Christ and the Church for sacramental forgiveness and reconciliation.
- recognizes the presence of good and evil in the world.
- recognizes his/her capacity for both good and evil.
- understands the meaning of symbols, gestures, prayers and scriptures that are part of the Rite of Reconciliation.
- understands how to celebrate the Rite of Reconciliation.
- understands that "sacramental Confession" is a means offered children of the Church to obtain pardon for sin.
- understands that sacramental Confession is necessary if one has committed serious sin.

Learning about this sacrament is on-going. Children have the rights to a fuller Catechesis each year.

Adapted from the NDC, page 135-136.

Preparing to Celebrate First Reconciliation



Draw a happy face in the box when you talk about each concept!

General Concepts					
God's Creation					
The Gift of Family					
The Holy Trinity					
Baptism					
The Church Family					
Unconditional Love					
Mistakes vs. Sins					
Examination of Conscience					
Ten Commandments					
The Two Great Commandments					
Confession					
Absolution					
The Sacrament of Penance					
The Rite of Reconciliation					
Prayers					
Sign of the Cross					
Our Father					
Hail Mary					
Glory Be					
Act of Contrition					

Some Scripture to Read Together

Luke 2:22 and Mark 1:9-11 on baptism

Luke 15: 11-24...The Prodigal Son

Luke 15: 4-6...The Good Shepherd

Luke 19: 1-12...The Story of Zacchaeus

Exodus 20: 1-21...Ten Commandments

1John 4: 7-11, 16...We Must Love One Another

John 15: 16, Matthew 5:3-12 & Acts 2
Jesus Gives Us the Holy Spirit

Luke 6: 17-19 & Matthew 5: 3-12
The Beatitudes



Do you know what these words mean?

absolution act of contrition baptism

God's life in me = grace confess(ion)

holiness peace sorrow pardon

penance reconciliation sin

sacraments eucharist repent

examination of conscience mercy

Holy Spirit disciples forgiveness

Ten Commandments

