



FAITH FORMATION CENTER
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2017-2018

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

“The Lord Jesus Christ, physician of our souls and bodies,
Who forgave the sins of the paralytic and restored him to
Bodily health, has willed that his Church continue, in the
power of the holy Spirit, his work of healing and salvation,
Even among her own members.” (CCC 1421)

RECONCILIATION IMPORTANT DATES

Have your child wear their
GO SEEK FIND
T-shirt to class and to the parent/child meetings!

**Talk on Sacrament of Reconciliation
(Parent attend one)**

Sunday November 5, 2017 (4:00-5:00 p.m. FLC)
or
Tuesday November 7, 2017 (5:00-6:00 p.m. FLC)

**Examination of Conscience
(Parent and child attend one)**

Sunday Dec. 3, 2017 (4:00-5:00 p.m. FLC)
or
Tuesday December 5, 2017 (5:00-6:00p.m. FLC)

**You will receive a choice sheet
For your child's First Communion date at this meeting**

**Final Preparation for Reconciliation
(Parent and child attend one)**

Sunday January 7, 2018 from (4:00-5:00 p.m. FLC)
or
Tuesday January 9, 2018 from (5:00-6:00 p.m. FLC)

GO SEEK FIND FOLDER DUE AT THIS MEETING.
(NAME TOP RIGHT CORNER)

**FIRST CONFESSION GROUP
January 20, 2018 Church 9:00 a.m.
Arrive at 8:45 a.m.**

National Directory for Catechesis states:

(NDC #36.B, no. 2)

“...catechesis for the Sacrament of Reconciliation is to precede First Communion and must be kept distinct by a clear and unhurried separation. This is to be done so that the specific identity of each sacrament is apparent and so that, before receiving First Communion, the child will be familiar with the revised Rite of Reconciliation and will be at ease with the reception of the sacrament.”

Catechesis for first reception of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation helps children to

- Acknowledge God’s unconditional love for us
- Turn to Christ and the Church for sacramental forgiveness and reconciliation
- Recognize their need for forgiveness, not only from parents and others close to them, but from God
- Explore the meaning of the symbols, gestures, prayers and scriptures of the Rite of Reconciliation
- Understand how to celebrate the Rite of Reconciliation
- Understand that “sacramental Confession is a means offered children of the Church to obtain pardon for sin, and furthermore that it is even necessary *per se* if one has fallen into serious sin”

DIOCESAN FIRST PENANCE GUIDELINES:

1. Children shall be prepared for and given the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance before 1st Communion.
2. The age of discretion both for Penance and Holy Communion is the time when a child begins to reason, that is about the seventh year.
3. All the faithful having reached the age of discretion are bound to confess grave sins at least once a year. The faithful are also recommended to confess venial sins.
4. The child's readiness for the celebration of each of the sacraments is to be determined by the child, the parent, who is the primary educator of his/her child, and the pastor or his delegate. If the parent, catechist, pastor or his delegate deems the child is not sufficiently prepared or there is not a sincere commitment to receive the sacrament it may be recommended to the child and the parent that the celebration of the sacrament be postponed. Religious readiness for celebration of this sacrament should consider not only chronological age and school grade but also the child's preparedness to encounter Christ in this sacramental celebration.
5. Catechesis for children must always respect the natural disposition, ability, age, and circumstances of the individual. Special attention must be given to assist persons with special needs.
6. Some manner of assessment should be used to determine a child's readiness to enter preparation for and, after appropriate formation, celebration of the sacrament.
7. The parochial community is responsible for providing a focused, immediate preparation for the Sacrament of Penance just prior to the celebration of the Sacrament recognizing the validity of the preparation that has taken place in the home, parish religious education, and the Catholic School.

Is your child ready?

A child's readiness for the celebration of the sacrament is to be judged using the following criteria:

- * a trust in God's forgiving love
- * a sense of self-worth, a self-image based on a good relationship with God
- * a sense of belonging to the Church community
- * an understanding of forgiveness, a desire to receive and give forgiveness
- * an ability to say "I am sorry" to express a sense of repentance, contrition, metanoia (a spiritual conversion; a change of heart)
- * a sense of right and wrong and of the reality of evil
- * knowledge of sin, an ability to describe wrong doing in his/her own words
- * a desire for reparation, to make amends for wrongs done to God, & to others
- * ability to make a good examination of conscience
- * knowledge of how to confess sins to a priest
- * an awareness of God's grace
- * ability to pray the Act of Contrition (formal or in their own words)
- * understanding of the need for continual conversion & renewal
- * knowledge of the Rite of Reconciliation