



What to Expect at First Reconciliation

Be sure to sign up for an arrival time using the emailed link.

Wear your Sunday best and arrive on time to the east main door of the main church.

Bring the green Steps of Confession card that you received at rehearsal.

Pray the Examination of Conscience while waiting in line, and reflect on the Parable of the Merciful Father if you have time.

No photos, gum or candy in the church.

Families are welcome to wait in line with your student, then in a pew a respectful distance from the confessions.

We encourage all eligible family members to receive Reconciliation regularly, and especially prior to First Holy Communion. While there may not be enough time for everyone in your family to receive Reconciliation tonight, the sacrament is available every Saturday morning at 9am in the main church.

After your student has received the Sacrament of Reconciliation, go with your child to Baptismal font, to the side close to the stained glass wall. Parents, dip your fingers in the Holy Water and make the sign of the cross on your child's forehead (symbolizing their Baptism) while you pray the words:

"[Child's name],
you are made in the image of God.
May this water remind you
to keep your mind and heart pure and clean
until you enter eternal life in heaven."

Then, you are free to leave and live in celebration of God's mercy and forgiveness. Fill out the reflection on the reverse side as a keepsake of this day. Have a simple celebration for your child like the Father in the Parable.

The Parable of the Merciful Father **to read and reflect as you wait in line**

Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the inheritance.' And the father divided everything between them. A few days later, the younger son gathered all he had and journeyed into a far country, and there he wasted everything.

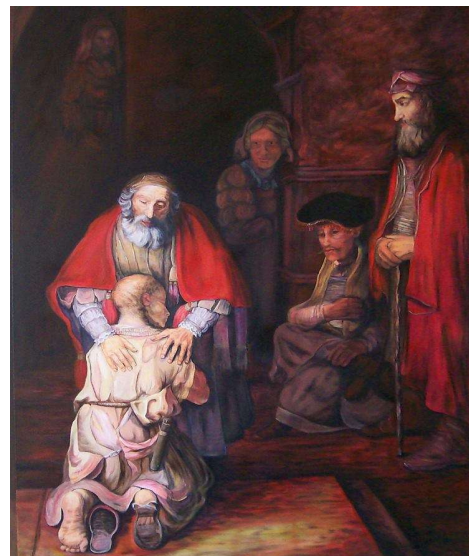
And when he had spent everything, he became poor. So he got a job feeding pigs. He was so hungry he would gladly have eaten the pig's food; but no one gave him anything. When he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's servants plenty of bread, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.' And he got up and went to his father.

But while he was still far off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and hugged him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry."

Read the story again and imagine yourself in the place of the son.

What parallels do you see between the story and the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

What does this story tell you about God, yourself, sin, and Reconciliation?



Looking Back...First Reconciliation Reflection Questions

Looking back on any significant event always gives us greater awareness and appreciation for the past experience. The same is true with your child's celebration of Reconciliation. Through the reflection on the experience and the rituals of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we are able to clarify and extend the meaning of the celebration of the sacrament. Therefore, following the celebration of the rite, take some time together to discuss your recollections. Keep for your records, scrapbook or memory album.

What do you remember about the celebration of the Sacrament?

When you picture the celebration in your mind, what was most special to you?

How did you feel?

What does this experience tell you about God?

What does this experience tell you about Jesus?

What does this experience tell you about the Holy Spirit?

Now that you have celebrated First Reconciliation, how will you act differently?

Parents: How was your faith affirmed as you prepared for and celebrated this sacrament with your child?