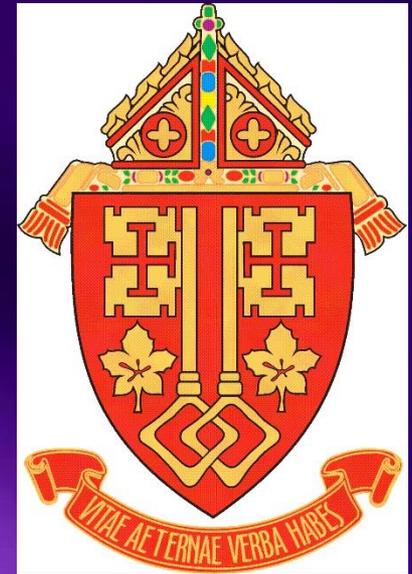


PARENT SESSION
for
First Reconciliation
Sacramental Preparation



October – Living Spirituality

OPENING PRAYER

In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Open our eyes to see clearly the wonders of your teachings. We offer this prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Introduction

Tell us a little bit about yourself and your child who is preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Overview

- The city of Peterborough parishes piloted a new parish-based sacramental preparation program in 2015-2016.
- The pilot has expanded to the Diocese. Improvements continue.
- Each week, you will receive an Exit Card and we encourage you to fill it in.
- Feedback helps us to make the sessions better for children and their parents and it will be used in the review of the program.

First Reconciliation

Four Sessions for Parents

- October - Living Spirituality
- November – Spirituality and the Church
- December - Living out the Sacraments
- January - Following the Path to the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Five Key Points

- The Roman Catholic Church proclaims the good news of salvation rooted in the authority of Jesus passed on through Peter and the popes to His Holiness Pope Francis.
- We are invited into a personal and loving relationship with Jesus.
- The Church helps us to live out our relationship with Jesus in community.

Five Key Points

- The story of Adam and Eve reflects the dynamic tendency of human beings towards the independence from God and self-interest that we call Original Sin.
- The moral authority and witness of the Church help guide our lives, though Jesus, to the truth, the goodness and the beauty which is God, the Father of Jesus and the Source of our life.

Watch the DVD

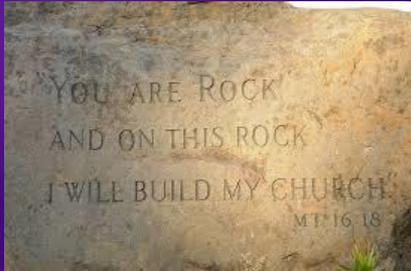
Part 1: Knowing the Faith

Episode 2: Divine Revelation



Review of Five Key Points

1



2



3



4



5



FAITH WITNESS



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



- In what ways, do we search for meaning and attempt to express the spiritual dimensions of our lives?
- How do we as adults see the role of the Church in supporting our spiritual lives and search for meaning?
- What do you see as the gifts that the Church can offer to support a person's spiritual development?
- How does your child express in word and/or action her/his belief in Father, Son and Holy Spirit?
- How do you see the Church guiding and supporting the faith development of your child?

Session 1

Your child will pray the sign of the cross; learn the Scripture story about first sin and the need for forgiveness; learn that God loves us and is ready to forgive us; understand that Jesus gives us the Sacrament of Reconciliation to bring us back to God when we sin; apply to their life experience to the need to seek and offer forgiveness; pray the “Glory Be”; pray for God’s mercy and a change of heart; learn the scripture story about the Forgiving Father; learn that God sent His Son to save us from sin; learn what it means to be sorry for our sins; learn that God forgives us and promises new life in Jesus; understand that sins can be forgiven in the Sacrament of Reconciliation; see the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a gift from God that brings us back into right relationships; and pray for a forgiving heart.

HOME ACTIVITY

Your child's faith journey at home.

All About Me – opening pages at the beginning of the student text (no page #s) have spots for six pictures of the child, the family, the parish, etc. With your child, fill in the boxes with photos if you have them or drawings.

Student Text pages 6 & 7 – The Sacrament of Reconciliation - see family activity on page 7 and talk with your child about a word to describe how they feel about the sacrament (see page 7 of the student text)

Student text – page 8 – talk with your child about forgiveness and how they feel after resolving a conflict and coming to peace

Student Text Page 12 The Forgiving Father – see the note for families on page 13 and there is an activity in the student text on page 19.

There is an activity on pages 13 and 19 which parents can complete with their child.

The Forgiving Father Scripture story will be discussed in the November session

HOME ACTIVITY

Your child's faith journey at home.

Student Text pages 18

God's gift of new life – talk with your child about their baptism and the moment of receiving God's life.

Family Activity on a saint – page 19 – selecting a favourite saint to be the saint of forgiveness for the child and their family – this will be discussed in the November session.

Student Text Page 20 – We Pray for Forgiveness

Resource pages for Families – student text – pages 81 to 93

HOMework FOR NOVEMBER

- Student Text Page 12 The Forgiving Father – see the note for families on page 13 and there is an activity in the student text on page 19. There is an activity on pages 13 and 19 which parents can complete with their child.
- Family Activity on a saint – page 19 – selecting a favourite saint to be the saint of forgiveness for the child and their family – this will be discussed in the November session. Parents and children may want to look into the lives of the saints for which family members are named or the saint for whom their parish, etc.

Parent Discussion

- How do you plan to approach the home activities with your child?
- Do you have any questions about the home activity assignments?
- Which home activity topics do you anticipate will be easily understood by your child?
- Which home activity topics do you think may pose a challenge for your child? How will you talk about these topics with your child?
- Are you clear on the home activity which will be reviewed at the child's next session of sacramental preparation?

EXIT CARD

In what ways did this session help you in your faith and your role as a parent supporting your child's faith journey?

For next time, what would you like to see included in the session to address your questions of faith and help you in your child's faith journey preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

Are there other things we need to know to assist you, your child and family?

CLOSING PRAYER

In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.