

PARISH WELCOME FOR FIRST RECONCILIATION

The parish welcome for First Reconciliation is a ceremony that can be used by the parish to acknowledge, support and welcome children who are beginning the preparation for First Reconciliation. It can also serve to remind the parish at large about the ongoing initiation of new members, the responsibility of the entire community to pray for members of the faith community who are preparing for the Sacraments, and the need to continually model Christian love and service.

The Parish Welcome for First Reconciliation may take place after the Homily.

PRESIDER: Parents, please stand with your children to present him or her as a candidate for First Reconciliation. (*Pause while parents and children stand.*) Parents, what do you ask of God's Church for your child?

PARENTS: The Sacrament of Reconciliation.

PRESIDER: Do you promise to cooperate to the best of your ability in preparing your child for this Sacrament?

PARENTS: Yes.

PRESIDER: Children, please come forward and line-up facing the altar. (*Pause until all of the children have come forward.*) Children, do you want to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time?

CHILDREN: Yes.

PRESIDER: Are you willing to do your best to learn and prepare for this most important Sacrament?

CHILDREN: Yes.

PRESIDER: We are happy that you are preparing to celebrate this sacrament in the Church. People of God, please stand. (*Wait for the congregation to stand up.*) These children supported by their parents and families have committed to preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Are you willing to carry these children and their families in your prayers that the grace and love of God be with them as the children prepare to receive this Sacrament for the first time?

PARISH CONGREGATION: Yes.

PRESIDER: I am praying for you, and I ask that you pray for one another. I also know that the people of our parish will be praying for you as you prepare to receive this Sacrament for the first time. (*Blessing over the children preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.*) May our gracious God who is rich in mercy draw you closer to Himself as you prepare to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. †Bless you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

PRAYING FOR THE CHILDREN BY NAME

If parents have provided permission for child's name to be distributed, a First Reconciliation Prayer list may be compiled. This gives the children and members of the parish a list of names of all those who are preparing for First Reconciliation and invites prayers for them. If possible, print these on cards and laminate them. Make extra cards available in the back of the Church for members of the parish who wish to pray for the children by name. If the parish is doing this, the presider may address the assembly as follows before the blessing over the children.

PRESIDER: If you would like to pray for these children by name, you are welcome to take a prayer list from the information table in the gathering area.

Resource 2-E from *Celebrate and Remember Reconciliation – Program Director Manual*:
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