

Penitential Service

Sacrament of First Reconciliation for Children

Introductory Rite

Opening Hymn

Sign of the Cross † In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Greeting

Priest: Grace and peace be with you from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ who laid down his life for our sins.

All: And also with your spirit.

Opening Prayer

Priest: Father of mercies and God of all consolation, you wish the sinner to be converted and live. Come to the aid of your people, that they may turn from their sins and live for you alone. May we be attentive to your word, confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and be always grateful for your loving kindness. Help us to live the truth in love and grow into the fullness of Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Word of God

A reading taken from the gospel of Luke Chapter 15 verses 11-24 11 (*Celebrate and Remember Reconciliation*, Child's Book, page 12)

Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and

against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him." The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

Homily

Short period of silence

Catechist: This is a time of quiet prayer as you review your Examination of Conscience. Turn to page 84 in your book. Begin your time of prayer with the "Prayer to the Holy Spirit". Then review the questions on page 84 asking God to inspire your time of prayer. After your prayer time, you may go to the priest to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

QUIET REFLECTIVE MUSIC

An Examination of Conscience

Celebrate and Remember Reconciliation, child's book, page 84.

The individual children and any others who desire to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation may go to the priest.

The Rite of Reconciliation



HOW TO GO TO CONFESSION

Before Receiving the Sacrament

Spend some time quietly thinking about what you will confess. You can use the Examination of Conscience to see how you are living the Commandments. Say a prayer to the Holy Spirit. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you make a good Confession. Wait quietly until it is your turn to enter the confessional.

Steps in the Sacrament of Penance (Individual)

1. Sit with the priest or go into the confessional. Begin by saying, "Bless me Father for I have sinned."
2. Say, "This is my first confession." (For parents: "It has been since my last confession.")
3. Tell your sins to the priest and end by saying "For these and for all my sins, I am sorry."
4. The priest gives you a penance – something you do in order to make up for your sins and to show that you want to change your life.
5. The priest invites you to tell God how sorry you are. You pray the Act of Contrition.

ACT OF CONTRITION

**My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.
In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good,
I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things.
I firmly intend with your help,
To do penance, to sin no more
And to avoid whatever leads me to sin.
Our Saviour Jesus Christ suffered and died for us.
In his name, my God, have mercy.**

6. The priest prays the prayer of absolution. If you are making your Confession face-to-face, the priest will extend his hands over your head while he prays. As the priest blesses you, make the sign of the cross and answer, "Amen."

7. The priest says, "Go in peace."

After Receiving the Sacrament, return to your pew and wait for others to conclude and for the final prayers.

Concluding Prayer of Thanksgiving

Priest: God and Father of us all, you have forgiven our sins and sent us your peace. Help us to forgive each other and to work together to establish peace in the world.

Blessing

Priest: The Father of Mercies has given us an example of unselfish love in the sufferings of His only Son. Through your service of God and neighbor may you receive His countless blessings.

All: **AMEN.**

Priest: You believe that by His dying Christ destroyed death for ever. May he give you everlasting life.

All: **AMEN.**

Priest: He humbled Himself for our sakes. May you follow His example and share in His resurrection.

All: **AMEN.**

Priest: May Almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: **AMEN.**

Dismissal

Priest: The Lord has freed you from your sins. Go in peace

All: Thanks be to God.

Concluding Song