



## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: FAMILY INFORMATION

Through the Sacraments of Initiation, believers are drawn into the communion of the Holy Trinity. They become partakers in God's own life, are incorporated into the Body of Christ, and are strengthened for discipleship by the Holy Spirit.

Ever present in the Sacraments of Initiation, however, is the sacrifice of Christ, which has reconciled the believers to the Father through the action of the Holy Spirit. This constant awareness of the redemptive sacrifice of Christ in the sacraments of initiation reminds the faithful of their need for conversion, penance, and forgiveness, because they "hold this treasure in earthen vessels." This treasure of new life in Christ can be gradually squandered or lost entirely by sin. (*National Directory for Catechesis, p 131*)

The repairing of our relationship with God and others is what the Sacrament of Reconciliation is about. It is more than just confession of sins, it is a process of healing. Briefly, these are the essential elements of the sacrament:

1. **Conversion** - Conversion is to have a change of heart. It expresses a profound change of the whole person to conform more with Christ's values. Without this no amount of penance or number of visits to the confessional will heal your relationship with God and others.
2. **Confession** - The penitent makes a declaration of his/her guilt in the presence of the priest and makes an expression of sorrow.
3. **Absolution** - God uses visible signs to express God's love and mercy. The prayer of absolution is such a sign.
4. **Act of Penance** - God's gift of forgiveness is free and unconditional. We do not do penance to change God's heart and obtain forgiveness. We do penance to change our own hearts and set things right with God and others.

## EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

There are three realities in a child's life: home, school and recreation. Have them reflect on each of these areas:

**Home** – What are the things at home that I get in trouble for? (Quarreling, being unkind, being disrespectful, not doing what I am told, being selfish, lying, etc...)

**School** – What sort of things get my teachers upset. (Not doing my homework, not trying my best, disturbing others, interrupting, cheating, being disrespectful, disobeying, etc...)

**Recreation** - What are some of my actions that make friends angry or displeased with me? (selfishness, meanness, cheating in a game, telling lies, bragging, making fun of them, fighting, calling others names...)

**The child should also examine their relationship with God.**

Do I go to Mass every week? Do I pray to God every day? Do I remember to thank God for the good things He does for me? Do I accept unpleasant circumstances without complaining. Do I say sorry when I offend God.

The **WHY** of sin becomes increasingly important as we grow older. Try to help them think about why they might have done something. We are not talking about excuses (I hit my brother because he's annoying and was bugging me about giving him a piece of my Halloween candy) but the sinful tendency that underlies the sinful choice (I was being selfish and didn't want to share, I hit my brother because I lost my patience and let anger take control) It's good to help them work through what they could have done instead – (I could have shared my candy, I could have left the room when I felt myself getting angry )

Please see the Examination of Conscience and the How to go to Confession papers as well.

### **FEE**

There is a \$20.00 fee payable by cash or check. Checks should be made out to Our Lady of Grace.

### **WALLET SIZE PHOTO**

We need a wallet size phot of your child which will be placed on a banner and displayed duing and after the First Reconciliation service. Please turn in by February 5.

### **FOR THE DAY OF FIRST RECONCILIATION**

Please arrive at 6:45, so that your child can be seated and ready to begin at 7:00. Children will be seated in the front pews with their teacher. Please bring your child to where their teacher is sitting. Parents may sit in other sections of the Church. Students should dress in their "Sunday best." Please observe respectful silence during the service. We hope that you will take this time to go to confession yourself after the children are done.

### **IMPORTANT DATES FOR FIRST RECONCILIATION**

<b>Nov. 12</b>	<b>7:00 PM in Church</b>	<b>1st Reconciliation Parent Meeting</b>
<b>Feb. 2</b>	<b>Saturday 10AM-12:30PM In school cafeteria</b>	<b>1st Reconciliation Retreat</b>
<b>Feb. 5</b>	<b>Hand in to school or PREP</b>	<b>Information Sheet, baptismal certificate, fee and photo due</b>
<b>Feb. 19</b>	<b>During PREP Class School will do at teacher's discretion</b>	<b>1st Reconciliation Interviews</b>

### **CELEBRATION OF FIRST RECONCILIATION**

<b>March 4</b>	<b>7PM in Church (arrive 6:45)</b>	<b>OLG School and PREP Late Session</b>
<b>March 11</b>	<b>7PM in Church (arrive 6:45)</b>	<b>PREP Early Session</b>

## **An Examination of Conscience for Children using The Lord's Prayer.**

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by Thy name.

- *Do I think about God every day?*
- *Do I say my prayers?*
- *Do I pay attention and participate at Mass?*

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

- *Am I kind to others?*
- *Do I do what Jesus wants me to do?*
- *Do I share with others?*
- *Am I helpful to my family?*
- *Do I show respect to my teachers and classmates?*

Give us this day our daily bread

- *Do I remember to say thank you?*
- *Am I sometimes greedy?*
- *Do I appreciate the good things I have in my life?*
- *Do I think of ways to help those who have no food?*
- *Do I take things that don't belong to me?*

Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

- *Do I say I'm sorry when I have been wrong?*
- *Do I forgive and forget when someone does something bad to me?*
- *Do I help solve problems between my friends or do I cause more trouble?*
- *Do I say bad things about people who have hurt me?*

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil

- *Do I play fairly in sports and games?*
- *Do I cheat in school?*
- *Do I tell the truth?*
- *Do I set a good example by my kindness?*
- *Do I let other kids tempt me to do things I know I shouldn't do?*

# FIRST RECONCILIATION INFORMATION SHEET

\_\_\_\_\_  
CANDIDATES LAST NAME FIRST NAME MIDDLE INITIAL

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHURCH OF BAPTISM

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE OF BAPTISM

*Please attach a photocopy of your child's baptismal certificate – We need this even if you have turned it in before and even if your child was baptized here at OLG.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME OF CHILD'S TEACHER

\_\_\_\_\_  
PREP or OLG SCHOOL  
(Please Circle One)

\_\_\_\_\_  
PARENTS/GUARDIAN NAME

\_\_\_\_\_  
FAMILY STREET ADDRESS

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY

\_\_\_\_\_  
STATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
CELL PHONE

\_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL

\$20.00 Fee

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Cash \_\_\_\_\_

Check \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN FORM WITH BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE, FEE AND  
WALLET SIZE PHOTO  
ON OR BEFORE  
FEBRUARY 5, 2019**