

A Parents part ~ Reconciliation

This is designed to inform parents/guardians whose children are preparing for the Sacraments of Reconciliation.

Since it is the primary responsibility of the parents to Baptize and educate their children in the Catholic faith, our Faith Formation Program here at St. Mary Magdalen has compiled this booklet to help and guide you through the necessary measures that are required to be filled so that your child is properly prepared to receive the sacraments.

Parents/Guardians Responsibilities and Commitments.

Parents/Guardians are required to make sure that their children learn the necessary basic prayers of our faith before receiving the sacraments.

Parents/guardians should be attending Mass *regularly* with their children. By attending Mass regularly your child will become familiar with the context of the liturgy & the purpose of the Eucharist and this will make their learning easier when they attend our program.

Parents/guardians should look over the lesson plan that their children has completed at each class session. Ask your children what they learned in class.

If additional classes need to be held to complete the book to properly prepare your child for First Communion, I will notify you as soon as I can.

Preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation

It is the policy of the Roman Catholic Church and the Archdiocese of Hartford that the Sacrament of Reconciliation be received before receiving the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

To help prepare your child for Confession, I have listed below some guidelines that will make learning about and receiving this sacrament a positive experience.

Help your child form a conscience. A document of the Second Vatican Council, "The Church in the Modern World" affirms that conscience is a person's most secret core and sanctuary. It is the place where God's law of Love is inscribed and heeded. It is the voice that whispers, "Choose love. Choose life. Do well. Shun evil."

Help them to know the difference of what is right and what is wrong. What is a sin and what is an accident. How to say "I am sorry". By doing this with your children you instill good Christian values that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives.

Practice their prayers with them. Spend 5 to 10 minutes a day learning to say their prayers. Bedtime is a great time for this. Every child will be asked to pray their "Act of Contrition: at the first Reconciliation service. (Below is the format for confession with a copy of the prayer in it)

Many children ask why they have to tell their sins to a priest. The answer is: We, all Catholics are a member of the Body of Christ. When we sin, we infect and hurt the Body of Christ. We not only sin against God, but against the whole Church. When we sin, we are not in a state of grace, which we should be in before we receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Priests are representatives of Jesus Christ here on earth. When we reconcile or say we are sorry and ask for forgiveness, we become healed and receive grace from God.

Priests take a sacred vow or oath that they can never reveal what is said during the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

It's all kept secret. It's between you and God and it's called the Seal of Confession. Jesus told His disciples, "Whose sins you forgive are forgiven". The Disciples were the first priests.

Practice an examination of conscience. Here are some examples:

- Have I used God's name in a bad way?
- Have I forgotten to show respect for others and myself?
- Have I taken anything that is not mine or treated others unfairly?
- Have I always told the truth?
- Have I hurt someone by what I have said or done?
- Have I refused to help people who need my help?
- Have I disobeyed the grownups that take care of me?

First Reconciliation

- Date:** Wednesday- January 30, 2019
Snow Date: Wednesday – February 6, 2019
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: In the church
Dress: Casually nice (we respect the Sacrament)

Procedure: We ask that at least one parent/guardian accompanies their child to the reconciliation service. Of course, other family members are more than welcome to attend. Children and their parents should go directly into the church. At 6:30 pm (sharp), we will have a short Reconciliation service. There will be other priests hearing confessions also. One parent will accompany their child to the confessional area, introduce them to the priest and then return to their seat. Parents and other family members are encouraged to go to confession as well as an example to their children. After confession, your child will go back to their pew and say their penance. When they are finished, you may pick up their certificate and leave.

FORMAT FOR CONFESSION

GREET THE PRIEST

MAKE THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

THEN YOU SAY

Bless me Father, for I have sinned. This is my first Confession and these are my sins.

YOU STATE YOUR SINS

You tell the Priest what you did that was wrong. These are your sins. Tell him why you did those wrong things.

PENANCE

The Priest will give you a penance to say when you have completed your confession. Remember what your penance is.

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 Savior, Jesus Christ, suffered and died for us.
In His name, my God have mercy.
Amen.

ABSOLUTION

Bow your head and the Priest will give you a sign in the name of God and the Church community that you are forgiven. This is your absolution.

Then the Priest will dismiss you.

You say, "Thank you Father"

You return to your pew, kneel, and say your penance that the priest gave you.

Then you give thanks to God for loving you and forgiving you.

This ends the celebration of Reconciliation.