

RECONCILIATION PREPARATION

Dear God,
May your sweet words fill our minds and direct our thoughts. Help us release our hurts and begin to love as Jesus loves. We understand there are no levels to your love. Your desire is our happiness. Let us open our hearts and minds to your endless love and comforting mercy.
Amen

Reconciliation Services

Wednesday, January 29th @ 6:30pm

OR

Thursday, January 30th @ 6:30pm

OR

Sunday, February 2nd @ 6:30pm

ST. ANDREW RECONCILIATION PREPARATION

The gift of forgiveness



Please work on this preparation booklet with your children. Remember to describe this sacrament as a beautiful gift; forgiveness is a way for us to reconnect with God.

Reconciliation Preparation

During the children's Reconciliation preparation we focus on Reconciliation as a gift from God. We get *do-overs* because God has endless love for us.

We discussed sin as a bad choice. Each day we can make good choices and bad choices. Bad choices move us away from God and one another.

Sin is choosing something we know God does not want us to do. Sin harms our friendship with God and with other people.

Remember God's beautiful love for each of us.

At our preparation gathering in church we used a gem and a flashlight, to show God's love shining through us.

Reconciliation is a "gift" from God; a gift given generously, but requiring a little work on our part too.

Please discuss the demonstration with your children, to make sure they understood the analogy.

- Gem (Us)
- Flashlight (God)
- Marker (Sin)
- Gift box (Reconciliation)
- Tissues (Penance or the "work" of Reconciliation)

For addition support, find these videos on YouTube:

- Reconciliation demonstration video: English First Reconciliation
- Ascension Presents: Helping Kids Feel Confident about Confession

7 Step of Reconciliation

1. The Priest will welcome me.
2. We will make the Sign of the cross together.
3. I will confess my sins to the priest (*you may write them down below to remind yourself*).

4. The priest may give me some words of advice or encouragement. Then He will give me my penance (prayer or acts of service)
5. The priest may invite me to pray an Act of Contrition (*Prayer of Sorrow written below*). This is where I tell God that I am sorry and that I will try not to do those things again.

*Dear God, I am sorry for all my sins with all my heart.
With your help I can do better.
I promise to try to be more loving and follow Jesus.
In the name of Jesus, I ask your forgiveness.
Amen*
6. Finally the Priest will extend his hands over me and gives me absolution in the name of Jesus. My sins are forgiven! I will make the sign of the cross with the priest.
7. Goodbye, I will say thank you, and leave the Reconciliation room.

*You have received the **GIFT** of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. As you light your candle, say a prayer of thanks, and place it in the sand. Do your penance as soon as possible and go in peace and love.*

Examination of Conscience for Children

Every day we make mistakes or “bad choices.” Some of those mistakes are sins, actions which hurt the Body of Christ. Every night when we go to bed, we should take some time to think about our day and ask how we may have failed to love God and each other. Below you will find questions to help your children with their discernment. This should also be done prior to the Reconciliation service.

How is my relationship with God?

Do I pray?

Do I go to Mass on Saturday or Sunday?

Do I try to pay attention during Children’s Liturgy?

How is my relationship with others?

Do I help others?

Do I treat them and what belongs to them with respect?

Do I help them tell the truth?

Do I refrain from bullying?

How is my relationship with myself?

Am I brave enough to admit when I’m wrong?

Do I know God loves and forgives me?

Do I recognize that I have special gifts?

Do I understand that I can come back to feeling good even after I mess up or when others have hurt me?

Explaining the Our Father

God’s children Heaven needs hears merciful
good grace strength greater holy

By Praying this...

We can know this...

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Our Father | 1. We are _____ of God. |
| 2. Who art in Heaven | 2. To be with God means to be in _____. |
| 3. Hallowed be Thy Name | 3. God is _____. |
| 4. Thy Kingdom come | 4. We want _____ kingdom of peace, and joy to spread to all people. |
| 5. Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven | 5. God wills only what is _____. |
| 6. Give us this day our daily bread | 6. God provides for our _____. |
| 7. And forgive us our trespasses | 7. God is _____. |
| 8. As we forgive those who trespass against us | 8. With God’s _____ we can and must show love and mercy to others. |
| 9. And lead us not into temptation He _____ | 9. God gives us free will, but us when we ask for help to avoid sin, and He gives us _____. |
| 10. But deliver us from evil | 10. God is _____ than evil. |

Parents: Please read these Bible stories with your child. Think about what Jesus is saying in each of the stories. On the next page you will find a brief summary explaining the story. Be sure to give your child the opportunity to think about how the scripture speaks to them personally.

Children: Please look up and read from the *New American Bible* the way in which Jesus taught about forgiveness: Write down your thoughts about these scriptures.

Luke 15: 1-7

Luke 7:36-50

Luke 15: 11-32

The B I B L E, yes that's the book for me!



Luke 15: 1-7

We can be certain that God will seek us out when we stray; also, we can be God's instrument to lead others back to God.

Luke 7:36-50

No sin is too large that it cannot be forgiven. We can always bring our failures to God.

Luke 15: 11-32

When we have made wrong choices, God always desires to forgive us and welcome us back with love and celebration.