

# First Reconciliation Parent Packet 2018-2019



**Faith Formation Office**  
email: [faithformation@stleocatholic.org](mailto:faithformation@stleocatholic.org)  
phone: 336-724-0561  
Director of FF: Lauren Garner  
Asst. Director of FF: Kim Nichols

## **RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE, DATES & INFORMATION**

**FIRST PENANCE BOOK:** Candidates and parents complete this textbook at home together. Lesson Plans for each of the 6 sessions.

Home Preparation book “God’s Gift Together” is provided. We ask that you and your child take time to complete these sessions together.

- **Complete work in the “Reconciliation Workbook” provided.**
- **Due at retreat on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

**MASS JOURNALS:** Candidates need to complete at least 8 of 11 journals. Please write at least 3 complete sentences for Gospel/Homily discussion.

**Journals due at retreat on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

### **RECONCILIATION RETREAT:**

**December 2, 2018: Sunday: 1:30pm-4:00pm**

(Any parent interested in helping with the retreat please contact the Faith Formation Office.)

**INTERVIEWS:** (questions at end of packet)

**January 9, 2019 in Church**

**3:00pm.-4:30pm and 6:30pm– 7:30pm**

**CELEBRATION OF RECONCILIATION - tentative**

**January 19, 2019 @ 10am in the Church**

+++++

### **FIRST EUCHARIST PARENT MEETING:**

**January 23, 2019 @ 10:00am or 6:30pm in the Activity Center**

### **FIRST EUCHARIST RETREAT:**

**March 31, 2019 Sunday: 1:30pm -4:00pm**

### **FIRST EUCHARIST INTERVIEWS:**

**April 9, 2019 Church**

**3:00pm.-4:30pm and 6:30pm – 7:30pm**

**FIRST EUCHARIST REHEARSAL: Sunday, April 28, 2019**

**1:30pm (9am candidates) & 3pm (11am candidates)**

**FIRST EUCHARIST: May 4, 2019**

**9am & 11am (chosen by lottery the first week of February 2018)**

## Is My Child Ready for First Penance?

### Questions as You Prepare

The Church asks that the pastor and parents together discern a child's readiness to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Discerning your child's readiness for First Reconciliation is a wonderful opportunity to share God's love and forgiveness with your child. "Readiness for reception of this sacrament includes knowledge of the person of Jesus and the Gospel message of forgiveness, knowledge of sin and its effect, and understanding and experience of sorrow, forgiveness, and conversion." (*National Directory for Catechesis*, 135) As you journey through the immediate preparation for First Reconciliation with your child, take note of what your child is learning, and how he or she is responding to the process. Here are some starter questions to consider as you share the faith with your child.

#### **Does he/she know the difference between right and wrong choices?**

Consider whether your child has the capacity to acknowledge that there are times when he/she makes wrong choices.

#### **Does he/she know what sin is? Can he/she differentiate between a sin and a mistake?**

Consider if your child can discern times in his/her life when he/she makes deliberate choices that hurt God and others. Sin is any thought, word, or act that we freely commit even though we know that it is wrong. We choose not to obey God's commandments. Ensure that your child understands the difference between a sin and a mistake or an accident.

#### **Does he/she feel positive about receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation?**

By the time he/she finishes the immediate preparation for the sacrament, your child should have a sense that he/she will get something wonderful out of this sacrament: the grace of sacramental absolution.

#### **How does he/she feel about celebrating the sacrament?**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is an encounter with Jesus who offers his love and forgiveness, and should be presented as a joyful experience. If at the conclusion of the preparation process your child is extremely fearful or agitated about the sacrament, this may be a sign that he/she is not ready to celebrate it.

#### **Do's and Don'ts for Parents**

- **Don't** project any negative experiences you may have had with this sacrament in the past on your child.
- **Do** share with your child times when you have been strengthened and comforted by the sacrament.
- **Do** encourage your child to take part in the sacrament.
- **Do** deepen your own understanding of the Sacrament of Reconciliation by learning about it, reading about it, and taking part in it.
- **Do** enjoy this exciting preparation period with your child!

## **RECONCILIATION INTERVIEW REVIEW SHEET**

**Review with candidates how to begin their first confession.** Choose to go face to face or anonymously. Begin with the Sign of the Cross and say,

**“Forgive me father for I have sinned. This is my first confession.”**

### **1. WHAT ARE THE TEN COMMANDMENTS?**

The Ten Commandments are laws that tell us what God wants us to do. They help us to live healthy and happy lives. Be able to discuss some of them.

1. You shall honor no other god but me.
2. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
3. Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor’s goods.

### **2. WHAT IS SIN?**

Sin is freely choosing to do what we know to be wrong. It means disobeying God’s law on Purpose. All sins are wrong.

### **3. WHAT IS THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION?**

Reconciliation is the sacrament in which we celebrate God’s mercy and forgiveness of our sins.

### **4. Define “Contrition”.**

An expression of sorrow for our sins and our desire to do better in the future.

### **5. WHAT DOES “FORGIVENESS” MEAN?**

The gift of God that repairs our broken relationship with Him through the words of the priest.

### **6. WHAT DOES “ABSOLUTION” MEAN?**

God’s forgiveness of our sins.

### **7. WHAT IS “PENANCE”?**

A penance is a prayer or good work we do to show God we are sorry.

### **8. WHAT STEPS ARE ALWAYS PART OF THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION?**

1. We examine our conscience
2. We confess our sins
3. We receive a penance
4. We pray an act of contrition
5. We receive absolution

## 9. WHAT DO WE DO AFTER RECONCILIATION?

After Reconciliation, we share the peace of Jesus with our families, our parish community, and with everyone we meet.

## 11. WHAT IS AN EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE?

Conscience helps us to know what is right and what is wrong. Before we celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation, we ask God the Holy Spirit to help us remember our sins. This is called an examination of conscience.

## 12. BE ABLE TO SAY THE ACT OF CONTRITION AND TELL WHAT IT MEANS.

My God,

I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.

In choosing to do wrong

And failing to do well,

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.

*Optional additional ending*

Our Savior Jesus Christ

suffered and died for us.

In his name, my God, have mercy.

**We tell god we  
are sorry.**

**We promise not  
to sin again. We  
try to make up  
for our sins.**

**We ask God to  
forgive us in  
Jesus' name.**

## 13. BE ABLE TO SAY THE “HAIL MARY”.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you!

Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.

Amen.

## 14. BE ABLE TO SAY THE “OUR FATHER”.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy name;

Thy kingdom come;

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

Give us this day our daily bread;

And forgive us our trespasses

As we forgive those who trespass against us;

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil.

Amen.

## 15. BE ABLE TO SAY THE “GLORY TO THE FATHER”.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen