

# **Make-Up Work for “Confession Class 1”**

## **for First Confession and First Communion Sacramental Prep**

(for Candidates in Grades 2-5 on Thursday evenings)  
Revised Spring 2021

### **Notes to Parents for Make-Up Work:**

- Please try to remember to begin and end each “make-up class” with a prayer. Although the use of spontaneous prayer is allowed, the children will have to memorize/recite the memorized prayers (Grade 1 and/or Grade 2) from the prayer sheets we’ve provided. Please review/pray those prayers often throughout the year.
- Please **read and discuss the following information** with your child. If you have questions, please don’t hesitate to call Mrs. Frances at our Church Parish Office (937-6888).
- Please complete the last page of this make-up packet and **return it to our church parish office** so Mrs. Frances can update the attendance chart.

### **Please read through the rest of this packet with your child/candidate:**

We read and discussed **Lesson 3 (The Blessed Trinity)** in the New Saint Joseph First Communion Catechism textbook. (Your child’s textbook will stay in our classroom until the date of our last class.) The following information will help explain some of the topics that were discussed.

Jesus taught many things that were difficult to understand, but everything He taught revealed **God’s unconditional love for each one of us**. Even though we don’t understand some of the things He taught, we should believe Him (because Jesus would never lie to us).

- **Jesus taught His disciples (and us) that there is only one God.**
- While it may be easy to understand that there is only one God, it’s much more difficult to understand that there are **three Persons in one God**:
  - † **God the Father**
  - † **God the Son** (Jesus Christ),
  - † and **God the Holy Spirit** (the helper that Jesus promised to send to His Apostles after He ascended into Heaven)
- We imagine **God the Father** to be a kind and gentle father, but He is really a spirit. We cannot see or touch Him. He always was, is now, and always will be. (Because He is not a man, He was never born.)
- **God the Son** (Jesus Christ) was born in a humble stable and lived on the earth. He was a kind and gentle man who taught us how to love and respect God with our whole heart, mind, soul, and strength, and love our neighbors as ourselves.
- When Jesus knew that He would soon ascend into Heaven to be with His Father, He promised to send an advocate (a helper), His **Holy Spirit**, to His Apostles (and to us).

- Each one of them is God, and all together, they are God. All three are equal. None of them are more important or better than the others. We don't know how it happens, but when we have faith, we know that we can trust Jesus to teach us God's Truth.
- The three Persons in one God is called the **Blessed Trinity**. The Blessed Trinity is God's family. All is love in His family. They never argue or fight. They are always happy.

We also read and discussed **Lesson 4 (The First Sins)** in the New Saint Joseph First Communion Catechism textbook. Once again, the following information will help explain some of the topics that were discussed.

Although it's often an unpleasant thought, the fact is that, someday, hopefully a long time from now, our bodies will die, but if we have faith in God, we know that our **souls** will continue to live! God wants our **intangible** (*can't be seen or touched*), **immortal** (*will never die*) souls to spend eternity with Him in Heaven, and He knows that we need His help to prepare our souls for that possibility.

**Sin** is disobedience to God's laws. When we choose to do or say something that God would not want us to do or say, **or** when we choose not to do or say something that He would want us to do or say, we make a choice to ignore God. Our bad choice shows Him that we love ourselves more than we love Him! Regardless of who makes those bad choices, when they are made, or why they are made, our bad choices offend God.

In Lesson 1 of our textbook, we learned that God created the **angels**. (*Extra note: He created all of the angels He will ever need, and each of the **Nine Choirs (categories) of Angels** has its own set of responsibilities. We will never become angels. Instead, God wants us to become **saints** so our souls can be with Him in Heaven.*) The angels were created to serve God, but some of them loved themselves more than God. They chose not to serve God. They committed the **First Sin**. We call the "**bad angels**" devils. At God's command, **St. Michael, the Archangel**, drove the "bad angels" out of Heaven.

**Additional note:** The **Prayer to St. Michael** is a wonderful prayer to help protect us from evil in today's world. Children enrolled in our religious education program will learn it in Grade 4.)

### **Prayer to St. Michael, the Archangel**

St. Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle.  
 Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil.  
 May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,  
 and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Hosts,  
 by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits  
 who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.  
 Amen.

Adam and Eve committed the **first sin on earth**. God put them in the Garden of Eden where they could live in the beauty and abundance of God's creation without the need for hard work. He gave them only one rule: Do not eat the fruit of one particular tree in the garden: The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. He told them its fruit would make them die. Like the fruit on the other trees, the fruit of that tree looked delicious. Disguised as a **serpent** (*snake*), the devil spoke to Eve and told her that, if she ate the fruit of that tree, she would "be like God." She ignored God's rule, ate the fruit, and gave some to Adam. (*By disobeying God's rule, they expressed the fact that they loved themselves more than they loved God!*) Their sin is called **Original Sin**.

Their sin had consequences. They had eaten the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Immediately, their innocence and purity "died" and they knew it had happened because they realized that they were naked and they had to make clothes for themselves using leaves. They even hid from God when He called their names! When they came out of hiding, God made them leave His garden! They were no longer welcome to live in His presence! They would now have to "**toil**" (*work*) for their food, clothing, and shelter, and feel suffering and pain.

As members of God's family, we are descendants of Adam and Eve. Their sin is passed onto each one of us when we are born. (*We are born without God's Grace—His life in us—in our soul!*) Baptism washes this sin off of our souls, but Original Sin leaves our souls weak. We often think of pleasing ourselves more than pleasing God. We often love ourselves more than we love God!

In order to free everyone from sin, God knew He would send His only Son to earth. He wanted His Son to have a good mother, so He made the best mother He could make for His Son. The **Blessed Virgin Mary** was born free of Original Sin! We call this Mary's **Immaculate Conception**. As she grew older, her soul was always turned towards God and her heart was always full of love for God. She always did what God (and her parents) wanted her to do—no questions asked; no hesitation. One day, God sent Gabriel, the Archangel, to speak with her. He explained that God wanted her to be the mother of His Son. Although she probably didn't understand what it all meant for her future life and, knowing that she had some concerns, she trusted God and agreed to do it! (Her response was "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done unto me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). We call her "yes" response her **Fiat**. (*Fiat is a Latin word meaning "let it be done unto me."*) She didn't know everything that would someday happen to Jesus, but she was willing to give birth to, raise, and support God's Son. God's plan for Mary and Jesus also included St. Joseph, who was a good husband to Mary and a **foster father** for Jesus here on earth once He was born.

#### Closing prayer:

- Please review the **Glory Be** prayer with your child. He/She will have to memorize and recite it for one of our Prayer Partners before the **Sacrament of Confession** is administered. The text of the prayer is at the top of the next page:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen.

- **Glory:** to give great honor and praise
- Remind your child that God never had a birthday—and He will never die! Although Jesus was born and lived (with flesh and bones) as a man, God is a spirit, not a man. He was always here, is still here now, and will be here forever! *(Do we understand how He did/does that? No! Does it matter that we don't understand it? No! Faith is believing without seeing! All we need to do is have faith and believe!)*

**Parent:**

If you haven't yet done so,  
**you** (or your spouse) will have to attend a  
**parent meeting to review the Sacrament of Reconciliation**  
(also called **Confession** or **Penance**).  
If you need to make up this meeting,  
Mrs. Frances will contact you at some point.

In addition, please don't forget to schedule  
**Prayer Appointments** for your child!  
A list of current available prayer appointments  
is linked to the First Communion page of our church website:  
<https://www.ololcatholic.com/first-communication>

**Parent:**

**Please complete the form on the next page  
and return it to our church office!**

**Dear Parent/Guardian:**

**Please complete this page and return it to our Church Parish Office as soon as possible so Mrs. Frances can update our attendance records to indicate that you have helped your child make up the work that was missed during the class identified below.**

My child, \_\_\_\_\_, and I have read and discussed all information included in this make-up packet for the First Communion Prep “**Confession Class #1.**”

---

Parent/Guardian's Printed Name

---

Parent/Guardian's Signature

---

Current Date