

# Make-Up Work for “Confession Class 2”

## for First Confession and First Communion Sacramental Prep

(for Candidates in Grades 2-5 on Thursday evenings)  
Revised October 2016

**Notes to Parents for Make-Up Work:** (1) 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. (2) 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). (3) 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.

### In case you’ve misplaced your 2017-18 Schedule of Classes:

**Most of our Thursday evening classes are held in the Religious Education Classrooms from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted on the schedule below.**

*This schedule does not include other religious education classes (Sunday Sessions, EDGE sessions, or IGNITE! sessions)! Our full schedule of religious education and Sacramental prep classes may be found on our website’s Current Events page.*

Description of Class	Date
<b>Meeting #1 for parents of all First Communion Candidates and “Welcome to Sacramental Prep” Class for candidates</b>	<b>October 12</b> Parents <u>and</u> candidates will gather in the Church Parish Hall at 6:30 p.m.
<b>Confession Class 1</b>	<b>October 26</b>
<b>Confession Class 2</b>	<b>November 9</b>
<b>Confession Class 3</b>	<b>November 30</b>
<b>Confession Class 4</b>	<b>December 14</b>
<b>First Confession Retreat</b> <i>(NOTE: This class will end at 7:30 p.m.)</i>	<b>January 11; 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.</b> Rel. Educ. Classrooms and Church
<b>First Holy Confessions</b> <b>(The Sacrament of Reconciliation)</b>	<b>January 25</b> 6:30 p.m. in church
<b>Meeting #2 for parents of all First Communion Candidates and Communion Class 1 for candidates</b>	<b>February 8</b> Parents <u>and</u> candidates will gather in the Church Parish Hall at 6:30 p.m.
<b>Communion Class 2</b>	<b>February 22</b>
<b>Communion Class 3</b>	<b>March 8</b>
<b>Communion Class 4</b>	<b>March 22</b>
<b>First Communion Retreat</b> <i>(NOTE: A parent <b>must</b> attend the rehearsal at 9:15 a.m.)</i>	<b>Sunday, April 8</b> 8:00 a.m. – Noon (includes a rehearsal for Mass)
<b>First Communion Mass (and Cake/Punch Reception)</b>	(same day as the First Communion Retreat) <b>Sunday, April 8</b> 5:00 p.m. Mass followed by reception

## Confession Class 2

We read and discussed **Lesson 5 (Our Own Sins)** in our First Communion Catechism textbook. Your child's book will remain in the classroom until the end of the school year. The following information will help you review what was read and discussed in the classroom:

- Original sin, committed by Adam and Eve, is not the only kind of sin. Because we are human, we, too, commit sins every day. These sins are called **actual sin**.
- There are two categories of actual sin: **mortal sin and venial sin**.
  - **Mortal sin:** a big sin committed on purpose; often called “deadly” sin because it kills God’s Grace in our soul and it “crucifies Christ in us”
    - We commit mortal sin when we love ourselves more than we love God.
    - When we commit mortal sin, our soul has no power to love God.
    - **Reminder:** Our bodies will someday die (hopefully many, many years from now), but God created our soul so that it will live forever. He loves us and wants our souls to live with Him in Heaven for eternity.
    - Those who die in mortal sin are punished forever. Their soul must spend the rest of eternity away from God and Heaven. We call this separation “hell.”
  - Venial sin: a lesser (smaller) sin; doing a small “something” that God doesn’t like
    - Sometimes we commit venial sin without thinking. It does not offend God if we displease Him by accident or without thinking. However, if we commit venial sin on purpose, it does offend God.
    - We must be sorry afterwards and understand why we committed the sin. (Remember: Sin is always a choice.)
    - Venial sin does not make us enemies of God, but it does weaken our soul. It makes it easier for us to sin again (and again and again).
    - Venial sin makes God sad.

### Review the Ten Commandments:

- Explain: God gave Moses Ten Commandments on Mt. Sinai.
- Explain: **The first three Commandments teach us how to show our love and respect for God.**
  - Commandment #1: I am the Lord, your God. You shall not have any other gods before me. *Explain: Anything that takes our focus off of God becomes a god for us. If we prefer to play computer games rather than pray, then our computer games have become our god. If we prefer to go shopping on Saturday or Sunday instead of going to Mass, then shopping has become our god. We must remember that it is possible to do these things in moderation—a little bit now and then, but we can’t let these actions rule our lives day after day, week after week, and take us away from God our Father.*

- Commandment #2: You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.
 

*Explain: God's name is holy. We should speak His name only in a loving tone with kind and gentle words. Shortly after his arrival in our parish, Father Melancon commented that efforts to substitute other words for God's name in common phrases (examples: "OMG" or "Oh, my gosh!") are useless. Our brain processes it as God's name (probably because our conscience knows that our true intention was to use His name). When I asked if there was anything we could use as a substitution, he suggested taking a deep breath without saying a word (to clear our mind), create a pause in the current conversation, and, sometimes, a change of topic in the current conversation.*
- Commandment #3: Remember to keep holy the Sabbath Day.
  - *Explain: We spend time with our parents, brothers, and sisters as often as possible. We visit our grandparents, other family members, and family friends as often as possible, too. If God is our Father, why shouldn't we visit with Him in His house at least once a week! The only way we can build a strong friendship with Him is to visit Him as often as possible. He asks us to visit Him in His house at least once a week for a Sunday Mass. We should keep the rest of day holy as well.*
  - *Explain: The **Mass** is a **prayer of thanksgiving**. We thank God for the sacrifice He freely offered (the death, Resurrection, and Ascension of His only Son) to give us an opportunity to get our souls into the gates of Heaven after our earthly bodies die. At Mass, if we are free of mortal sin, we can receive nourishment for our souls in the Body of Christ in Holy Communion. He provides food for our journey towards Heaven! Of course, our souls' entrance into Heaven is not guaranteed. It's up to us to follow God's Ten Commandments to get our souls through the Gates of Heaven.*
- Explain: **The rest of the Ten Commandments teach us how to love and respect our neighbors as ourselves:**
  - Commandment #4: Honor your father and your mother. *Explain: God allowed us to be born into a family where our mother and father could care for us here on earth. Our parents love us and take care of us, so we must honor them with love and respect. Even when our parents struggle to perform their parental duties towards us, we should love and honor them because they gave us birth.*
  - Commandment #5: You shall not kill. *Explain: We know that God doesn't want us to kill people or animals out of anger or for entertainment. Killing animals for food is OK. There are also special circumstances that allow us to defend ourselves and others. However, there's another way that we should avoid "killing" people. We "kill" their personalities with mean and ugly words. God gave each of us certain characteristics (freckles, poor vision, overweight, etc.), talents, and skills. When we tease them because of those characteristics, we "kill" the spirit of their personality. Gossip "kills" a person's reputation.*

- Commandment #6: You shall not commit adultery.
 

*NOTE: I have already explained to the parents that there are certain words/topics that we will not discuss in detail with young children, and knowing that these Commandments encompass much more than they can (or should) be able to handle at this age, I gave the parents the following examples of what we will say to their children as we explain the following Commandments:*

  - When we go to Mass, a wonderful miracle takes place right in front of our eyes! Jesus speaks to us when the priest repeats His words, “This is my Body. This is my Blood.” The bread and wine are immediately transformed into Jesus’ Body and Blood! We know that the consecrated hosts and wine are sacred (holy) and precious because we see the priest (1) gently brush any loose crumbs into the chalice of consecrated wine and drink it instead of pouring it down a drain or allowing the crumbs to be picked up by a dirty vacuum cleaner, and (2) place the remaining consecrated hosts in the **Tabernacle** (a sacred, locked cabinet) so no one can “play with” or “steal” Jesus from our church. He’s much too special for that!
  - When we are finally ready to receive Jesus in Holy Communion (hopefully after a recent Confession), we receive Him and His wonderful characteristics into our body. Our body becomes a **living Tabernacle**! From that moment on, we need to keep our body as pure as possible because Jesus is inside our bodies! Like Jesus, we should think only good and pure thoughts, speak good and pure words, and perform good and pure actions and deeds to help others. We should keep our bodies pure and holy every day! We should not allow outside influences (people, TV shows, music, magazines, etc.) to put impure thoughts into our minds.
 

*NOTE: As they grow older, we can add more details to that explanation.*
- Commandment #7: You shall not steal. *Explain: God wants us to contribute to the overall good of all people living on the earth. He wants us to help others rather than take things that do not belong to us. He wants us to do an honest day’s work for an honest day’s pay. We should not take things that do not belong to us.*
  - *While we are young enough to attend school, an honest day’s pay is a **good education**! God wants us to use the intelligence he has given us to help others. Granted, some people are capable of learning and remembering more than other people, but nonetheless, if a “C” is the best grade a student can earn on a test after paying full attention and participating in class, asking questions when he/she doesn’t understand, and studying/doing homework at home, then that is an honest day’s work for a student.*
  - *God does not want us to “steal” (cheat) our way to good grades. We should do our own work.*
- Commandment #8: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. *Explain: “False witness” means to “lie.” We should not lie about our neighbors. Who are our neighbors? Everyone in the world is our neighbor because we are all God’s*

*children! Even though we don't know them by name or see them, we should still care about everybody. We should never spread lies about anyone. We should always tell the truth. We should never gossip (stretch the truth). If you don't know if something is true, don't talk about it. Change the subject of the conversation! Silence is better than gossiping!*

- Commandment #9: You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.  
*REPEAT: I have already explained to the parents that there are certain words/topics that we will not discuss in detail with young children, and knowing that these Commandments encompass much more than they can (or should) be able to handle at this age, I gave the parents the following examples of what we will say to their children as we explain the following Commandments:*
  - Once again, this commandment encompasses much more, but to keep the explanation as simple as possible: A husband should not desire to have another wife. A wife should not desire to have another husband. When children and parents argue, children should not desire to have other parents, nor should parents desire to have other children. God has placed us in the family with whom He wants us to be. **We should learn to be loyal, kind, and loving with our family members.**
    - ❖ *When I discuss this Commandment with adults, I remind them that certain criteria must be present for a sacramental marriage to occur in the Catholic Church. If/When certain criteria are not present on the day of the wedding (or days leading up to the wedding), perhaps the sacramental wedding should not have taken place. An annulment is not, by any means, a "Catholic divorce," but in those situations where necessary "sacramental" criteria were not met, it may be worth taking time to discuss that situation with a Catholic priest! He will be able to determine whether or not an annulment is possible. If so, he will guide them through the proper steps to prepare paperwork.*
- Commandment #10: You shall not covet your neighbor's goods. *Explain: We should not desire what other people have. We should not be envious or jealous.*

### **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 between October and January.

### **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 #2.**”

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Parent/Guardian's Printed Name

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Parent/Guardian's Signature

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Current Date