

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 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 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. Our 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 within 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 be 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 during the 40 years the Israelites (Hebrews who had been enslaved by Pharaoh, the Egyptian leader, before Moses was sent to lead them out of slavery). *(Some of our elementary children may remember the story of Moses from a previous Elementary Summer Religion Program.)*
- We actually used a craft activity in the classroom to help guide us through this discussion. Perhaps your child can draw a pair of stone tablets on paper and write each Commandment on the tablets as you read through the following discussion.
- **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 truly 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 entire **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 Heaven after our earthly bodies die. At Mass, if we are free of mortal sin, we can receive nourishment*

*for our souls in the **Eucharist**, the **Body of Christ** in **Holy Communion**. He provides food for our spiritual 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 show our 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. In most cases, our parents love us and take care of us, so we easily honor them with love and respect. However, even when our parents struggle to perform their parental duties towards/for 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 revenge or for entertainment. Killing animals for food is acceptable and, on homesteads and in some cultures, it is expected. 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 sometimes "kill" their personalities and reputations with mean and ugly words. God gave each of us certain characteristics (freckles, poor vision, overweight, etc.), talents, and skills. When we tease people 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: *When speaking with teenagers and adults, Mrs. Frances often uses a brief explanation reminding them that there are a wide variety of sexual sins—whether a person is alone or not—that constitutes adultery. The bottom line is quite simple: If we are not planning to make a baby, we should be doing something else! Physical pleasure for the sake of physical pleasure puts our personal desires before God. In the parent meetings, she also explains 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, she gives the parents the following examples of what we will say to their children as we explain adultery to our youngest children. (Of course, if parents prefer to go into more detail when discussing adultery at home, that's certainly their right.)*

 - Every time 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 Christ's Body and Blood**! Many documented Eucharistic miracles have occurred and been investigated in the past (*and we'll discuss a few of them at our next parent meeting*), so we really shouldn't be surprised to see the priest treat the consecrated host and wine so reverently: (1) He gently brushes any loose crumbs from the paten into the chalice of consecrated wine and drinks it instead of pouring it down a drain or allowing the crumbs to be picked up by a dirty vacuum cleaner, and (2) he places the remaining consecrated hosts in the

Tabernacle (a sacred, locked cabinet) so no one can “play with” or “steal” Jesus from our church. His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity is much too special for that! *(Putting the remaining consecrated hosts in the tabernacle also provides the opportunity for **Extraordinary Ministers of Homebound Communion** to pick up the consecrated hosts—the Body of Christ—and bring it to our sick parishioners in the hospital and at home.)*

- When we are finally ready to receive Jesus in Holy Communion (hopefully after a good, 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 and holy 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 that particular student!*
 - *God does not want us to “steal” (cheat) our way to good grades. Regardless of our age, 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. So, 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 what happens to everybody. We should never spread lies about anyone. We should always tell the truth. We should never gossip (stretch the truth or repeat a lie). 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:** *In Commandment #6 (adultery), I have already explained 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 typically give the parents the following examples of what we will say to their children as we explain Commandment #9:*

- 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 also 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 in the days, months, or even years) leading up to the wedding), perhaps the sacramental wedding should not have taken place. A **Declaration of Nullity** (formerly known as an **annulment**) is not, by any means, a “Catholic divorce” and has absolutely no effect on the legitimacy of any children born into that family, but in those situations where necessary “sacramental” criteria were not met, it may be worth taking time to make an appointment and 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 the couple through the proper steps to prepare the necessary paperwork. In the Diocese of Lafayette, there is no fee for a Declaration of Nullity, however, the process is lengthy and takes time. The patience and time spent in this endeavor is certainly worth being able to receive the Sacraments (Confession, Communion, Matrimony, etc.) in the future!*
 - ❖ *We should also remember that, when a couple is civilly married (by the Justice of the Peace or by pastor in another faith denomination), it is often possible to have their marriage **validated** (“blessed”) in the Catholic faith if certain criteria are met. Speak to a Catholic priest! Once again: The patience and time spent in this endeavor is certainly worth being able to receive the Sacraments (Confession, Communion, Matrimony, etc.) in the future!*
- **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.

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 #2.**”

Parent/Guardian’s Printed Name

Parent/Guardian’s Signature

Current Date