

Make-Up Work for “Confession Class 3”

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:

1. Read and discuss a Bible story: **Zacchaeus, the Tax Collector** (see next pages)
Remind the candidates that, although other people did not like Zacchaeus, Jesus wanted to share a meal and spend time with him. It definitely was a good lesson for Zacchaeus to learn and for others to see! That day, Zacchaeus decided to become a good man. He made plans to return everything that he had stolen from other people! Zacchaeus learned to forgive himself and he made plans to ask others to forgive him, too. When others saw that Jesus was willing to spend time with Zacchaeus, some of them decided it was OK for them to spend time with Zacchaeus, too!
2. Discuss vocabulary words pertaining to the **Sacrament of Confession**. How do these words fit into Zacchaeus’ story?
 - **Sin:** the things we do (or choose not to do) that displease God
 - **Conscience:** the part of our brain that helps us know the difference between right and wrong
 - **Repent:** to have a desire to change our bad habits and ugly ways
 - **Contrite:** be truly sorry; that’s why we pray the **Act of Contrition!**
 - **Reconcile:** to make up (with God); that’s why this Sacrament is called Reconciliation!
 - **Forgive:** an act of giving (“**forgive**”) or sharing God’s love and mercy to others
 - **Mercy:** God’s great kindness

- **Examination of Conscience:** we prepare to go to Confession by thinking about all of the things we've done to displease God
- **Confess:** tell someone what you've done; tell the priest what you've done to displease God
- **Penance:** something we pray or do to show how sorry we are for displeasing God
- **Absolution:** God wipes our soul clean of sin; need to keep our soul clean so it can enter the Gates of Heaven after we die

Handout: Dress Code for **First Confession**

NOTE: The dress code should have been distributed at the first parent meeting a few weeks ago, but just in case, a copy is linked to the First Communion page of our church website:

<https://www.ololcatholic.com/first-communion>

(Parent's Copy)

Zacchaeus, the Tax Collector

(A children's version of Luke 19:1-10)

Zacchaeus was a tax collector. In fact, he was chief tax collector and a rich man. Tax collectors were hated because they sometimes stole money from people by collecting more tax money than they should have collected. They gave part of the money to the government and kept the rest for themselves. In many Bible stories, tax collectors are grouped with other sinners (*people who choose to disobey God's laws*). However, Jesus knew that many of them were teachable and ready to repent (*confess and change their lives to do good things*). Zacchaeus was such a man.

Everyone knew that Jesus was going to walk through the town of Jericho and Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, but he was not very tall. All his life he had trouble seeing over the heads and shoulders of people in crowds. He had an idea! He decided to run ahead of the crowd and climb up in the sycamore fig tree that was next to the path where Jesus would walk. What an excellent idea! From those tree limbs, he would have a great view of the path!

When Jesus approached the tree, he looked up at Zacchaeus. Jesus said, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house." Zacchaeus was so excited! He climbed down and welcomed Jesus.

People began to criticize Jesus because He was going to the house of a "sinner," but Zacchaeus was a repentant (*apologetic*) sinner. He was sorry for the bad things he had done. He told the Jesus, "I will give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will give back four times that amount!" Jesus was pleased with this little man's excellent attitude of heart. Jesus said, "Today salvation (*being rescued by Jesus' mercy and forgiveness*) has come to this house!"

Questions/Answers:

1. Was Zacchaeus a big man? *No. He was a small man.*
2. Was he a good man? *No. He was a tax collector who often took too much money from people.*
3. Did the people in town like Zacchaeus? *No, because he stole money from them.*
4. Why was Zacchaeus so excited? *Jesus would soon walk through town.*
5. How did Jesus surprise Zacchaeus? *Jesus called Zacchaeus to come down from the tree because he wanted to spend the day with him.*
6. What did the people in town think about Jesus spending the day with Zacchaeus? *They were upset that Jesus wanted to spend the day with a sinner.*

7. Jesus did spend some time with Zacchaeus that day. How did it affect Zacchaeus? *Because Jesus was so kind and loving towards Zacchaeus, Zacchaeus told Jesus how sorry he was about stealing the money from people and how he planned to give the money back to them.*
8. Was Jesus pleased with Zacchaeus' change of heart? *Yes!*

Activity: If time permits, allow children to draw a picture of Zacchaeus in the tree (*or* standing with Jesus) on the back of the story sheet.

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Everyone knew that Jesus was going to walk through the town of Jericho and Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, but he was not very tall. All his life he had trouble seeing over the heads and shoulders of people in crowds. He had an idea. He decided to run ahead of the crowd and climb up in the sycamore fig tree that was next to the path where Jesus would walk. What an excellent idea! From those tree limbs, he would have a great view of the path!

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People began to criticize Jesus because He was going to the house of a "sinner," but Zacchaeus was a repentant (apologetic) sinner. He was sorry for the bad things he had done. He told the Jesus, "I will give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will give back four times that amount!" Jesus was pleased with this little man's excellent attitude of heart. Jesus said, "Today salvation (Jesus' mercy and forgiveness) has come to this house!"

Questions:

1. Was Zacchaeus a big man?
2. Was he a good man?
3. Did the people in town like Zacchaeus?
4. Why was Zacchaeus so excited?
5. How did Jesus surprise Zacchaeus?
6. What did the people in town think about Jesus spending the day with Zacchaeus?
7. Jesus did spend some time with Zacchaeus that day. How did it affect Zacchaeus?
8. Was Jesus pleased with Zacchaeus' change of heart?

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-communion>

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 #3.”**

Parent/Guardian's Printed Name

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Current Date