

Make-Up Work for “Confession Class 4”

for First Confession and First Communion Sacramental Prep

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

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

Confession Class 4

Read and discuss one of Jesus' parables

You'll find *The Lost Son* on pages 4-6 of this packet.

After you finish reading and discussing the parable, remind your child that, after spending/wasting all of his inheritance, the son decided to confess his actions to his father and ask for the father's forgiveness. The father loved his son so much that he gladly welcomed him home—and threw a party to do it! God loves us even more! When we sincerely confess our sins to God and ask for His forgiveness, He forgives us, and the saints in Heaven rejoice that we have returned to (restored) our loving friendship with God and are, once again, filled with His Grace!

***NOTE:** Going through that kind of experience teaches us how to forgive ourselves and others when they hurt us or our family/friends, damage our property, etc.*

Review the steps required in a Good Confession:

- (1) Before we enter the confessional, we must **examine our conscience**. It's actually better to do this before we arrive at church.

***NOTE:** During the **First Confession Retreat** (in January), we will lead the children through a **Children's Examination of Conscience** activity to help them determine which sins they must confess.*
- (2) Enter the confessional and be seated. Confession begins with **the Sign of the Cross**. As the priest makes the Sign of the Cross in the air, you will make the Sign of the Cross (on your body).
- (3) You speak first. Say: "Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. This is my first Confession. I have . . ." *(Use a recent Examination of Conscience to tell the priest which sins you have committed).* "For these and all the sins I may have forgotten, I am truly sorry." *(When you return to Confession, instead of saying "This is my First Confession," you will have to tell him how long it has been since your last confession. Example: "It has been one month since my last confession.")*
- (4) Listen well to the **penance** the priest gives you. *(The penance is usually a prayer or two (or more) that you must be willing to do to "show" God how sorry you are for committing sin and breaking your friendship with Him. (Pay close attention to what the priest tells you to do for your penance. You will do your penance after you leave the confessional.)*
- (5) When the priest prompts you, recite the **Act of Contrition** (loudly and slowly enough so the priest can hear you recite this wonderful prayer to God). *(Don't be nervous! If, for some reason, you "mess up," the priest will help you.*
- (6) If the priest believes that you are truly sorry and can see that you want to restore your friendship with God, he will give you **absolution** *(God's forgiveness)! (He will pray a special prayer that grants you absolution.)*
- (7) Confession ends when the priest makes **the Sign of the Cross** again. *(Don't forget to make the Sign of the Cross on your body while he makes the Sign of the Cross in the air!)*
- (8) Find a quiet place in church to **pray your penance!**

Reminders:

- a. We experience a brand new “beginning” after each Confession. Confession washes away the sins we have committed and confessed since our baptism (or our last confession). *(As Catholics, we believe that the “stains” left over from those sins must be purified by God in **Purgatory** before our soul will be pure enough to enter Heaven, God’s home. If we die with unconfessed mortal sin on our soul, our soul cannot go to Purgatory to be purified by God. That’s why it is important that we make good use of this wonderful **sacrament**! We should go to Confession as often as possible!)*
- b. We are members of God’s family in our church parish. The priest is the Head of the Body of Christ in our church parish. We are the Body of Christ. We must love and care for others as He does. Jesus isn’t here to do the work. We must help others who need our help. We are “His hands and feet.” Our priest loves all of us and makes decisions for the good of the entire church parish. We should trust and obey him.

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:

**After completing this make-up lesson,
please complete the form on the last page
and return it to our church office!**

(Teacher's Copy)

The Lost Son

(A children's version of Luke 15:11-32)

There was a man who had two sons. The younger son was not satisfied with his life and wanted to leave his father's house. He said, "Father, give me my share of your estate (*family's money*)." So the father divided his estate between the two sons.

A few days later, the son gathered his belongings and set off on a journey to a distant town where he lived a lifestyle filled with poor decisions and wasted all of the money he had received from his father. Just when he realized that he had very little money left, a severe famine struck that area. There was little food to eat and very few jobs. He finally found a job tending to the swine (*pigs*) on a farm. The farmer wanted him to feed the pigs and clean the pig sty (*pigpen*) every day. Because he had no money for a place to live, he had to sleep with the pigs under the roof of the pigpen! The farmer could not afford to provide much food for the young man to eat. He was so hungry that he wished he could eat some of the pigs' food! He said to himself, "My father's hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here I am, dying of hunger. I will get up, go to my father, and say, 'Father, I have sinned against Heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son. Please treat me like you would treat one of your hired workers.'" (*In other words, he was going to ask his father for a job in exchange for food to eat and a place to sleep. He didn't expect his father to welcome him back into the family.*)

The young man got up and walked back to his father's house. As he approached his father's house, the father saw him in the distance. Filled with love and compassion, the father rushed up the path to meet his son. He hugged him and kissed him. The young man said, "Father, I have sinned against Heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." Before he could say anything else, the father ordered his servants, "Bring the finest robe and put it on him! Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet! Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. We will celebrate my son's return with a feast because, for a while, he was dead, but he has come to life again! He was lost, but has been found!" Then the celebration began.

Questions/Answers:

1. At the beginning of the story, was the young man happy? *No. He wanted to leave and he wanted to take his share of the family's money with him because he wasn't planning to return home.*
2. Once he was living away from his father's house, did he spend his money wisely? *No. He wasted his money.*
3. What kind of job did the young man find when he ran out of money? *He had to work on a farm feeding and cleaning up after the pigs.*
4. Where did he live? *He had to sleep with the pigs.*

5. Was he happy doing this kind of work? *No. He realized that his father's hired workers had better places to sleep and better food to eat.*
6. What kind of plan did the young man make? *He decided to return to his father's house to apologize and ask to be treated like a hired worker.*
7. Did he expect to be treated like a member of the family? *No.*
8. How did the father react when he saw the young man? *The father ran out to meet him and wanted to throw a party to welcome him home!*
9. Did the father treat him like a hired worker? *No! He wanted to celebrate the young man's return to the family!*

Activity: If time permits, allow children to draw a picture of the young son feeding the pigs in the pig sty (*or* of the Father welcoming him home) on the back of the story sheet.

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Questions/Answers:

1. At the beginning of the story, was the young man happy?
2. Once he was living away from his father's house, did he spend his money wisely?
3. What kind of job did the young man find when he ran out of money?
4. Where did he live?
5. Was he happy doing this kind of work?
6. What kind of plan did the young man make?
7. Did he expect to be treated like a member of the family?
8. How did the father react when he saw the young man?
9. Did the father treat him like a hired worker?

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 #4.”**

Parent/Guardian's Printed Name

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Current Date