

## NOTE TO PARENTS

Help your children to memorize the following prayers: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be to the Father, Prayer of Sorrow (Act of Contrition).

Please bring your child's birth and Baptism certificates and a \$20.00 donation to cover the cost of the book, Reconciliation pin and prayer card.

### HOW TO CELEBRATE FIRST RECONCILIATION:

1. Make the sign of the cross and say: "Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. This is my First Reconciliation and these are my sins."
2. Tell your sins to the priest. (If you need help, just ask him.) When you are done, say: "**I am sorry, Father, for my sins. Please** forgive me."
3. Listen again to the priest. (Father will give you a penance to say or do.)
4. Say the **Prayer of Sorrow**.  
"Dear God, I am sorry for doing wrong. Please forgive me. I know you love me very much. Help me love you more and care for others as you do. Amen."
5. Listen as the priest forgives you in the name of Jesus. (This is what we call **absolution.**)
6. Make the Sign of the Cross as the priest forgives you and when he is done, you answer "**Amen**".
7. Before you leave, say "**Thank you, Father.**"
8. Go to a vacant seat in the Church, kneel and pray the prayer or do the penance that the priest asked you to do. Thank God for forgiving you of your sins and washing your soul clean.

# FIRST RECONCILIATION

Spring Sessions 2017

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### 1.) PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT

Thursday - April 20, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

St. Theresa Church – 7508 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue,  
Edmonton, Alberta T6K 3Y8

### 2.) FIRST RECONCILIATION PREPARATION SESSIONS

Saturday - April 29 at 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Saturday - May 06 at 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Classes will be held at St. Theresa's Church  
(Parents, please sign in when you come for the  
Saturday classes with your children)

### 3.) FIRST RECONCILIATION CELEBRATION

Saturday - May 13 at 10:00 a.m.

After First Reconciliation, parents and children  
are encouraged to go to confession on their own.  
Confession is celebrated at St. Theresa's  
Church on:

**Saturday from 9:45 - 11:00 am  
and 30 minutes before all weekday  
Masses except Monday morning**

**Parents are encouraged to  
attend the sessions with their  
child(ren)**

# FIRST RECONCILIATION



**Repent, then, and turn to God, so He  
will forgive your sins.  
Acts 3:19**

## ST. THERESA'S PARISH

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## PREPARING FOR FIRST RECONCILIATION (Confession)

In following Jesus, we discover the ways of God and we find a special joy: *the joy of God's love and forgiveness.*

We were first invited to walk on the path of God when our parents presented us for Baptism. *The Church teaches that the Sacrament of Baptism is the first step on our journey of faith. Baptism points the way to God.* (adapted for children from the **Catechism of the Catholic Church # 1253**).

We are on a journey that is taking us closer to God. We are on our way to celebrating God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Jesus teaches that when we have done something wrong, we should always return to God our Father because God never stops loving us. Many times during His life, Jesus forgave people who had sinned. He gave us a special sign of forgiveness. It is the Sacrament of Reconciliation. **GOD FORGIVES US WITH LOVE WHEN WE ARE TRULY SORRY FOR OUR SINS.** God also wants us to ask those we have hurt to forgive us. God wants us to treat others with respect.

### WHAT IS SIN?

When we do something wrong on purpose, we turn away from God and hurt others. This is called SIN.

God does not want us to sin because when we do, we hurt others and ourselves, too. God is always ready to forgive us because He never stops loving us.

## HOW CAN WE TELL RIGHT FROM WRONG?

We can tell right from wrong because God has given us a conscience. Conscience is the small inner voice that God placed in our hearts to help us know right from wrong. One of the ways we form our conscience is by remembering the Ten Commandments. Another way is by remembering the teachings of Jesus in the Gospels. The Gospel teachings are guidelines that Jesus gave us to stay close to God. Jesus is the shepherd who leads us to God. When we turn away from God through sin, we are like the lost sheep. When we turn our hearts once again to God, it's time for a happy celebration when we receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

### WHY GO TO RECONCILIATION?

Any sin hurts our relationship not only with God but with the rest of humanity. That is why we should confess our sins and receive God's forgiveness for it from the priest who acts in the name of Jesus and all the people we have offended.

### WILL THE PRIEST TELL OTHER PEOPLE WHAT I HAVE DONE?

No!!! The priest will not tell other people the sins you have committed. He is bound by the "seal of confession". This means that anything he heard during confession or reconciliation can never be repeated. What is told to him by the person going to confession will stay with him until death.

## WHAT IS PENANCE?

After we have told the priest our sins, he will give a penance. This is a particular action or prayer that the priest asks us to do. It shows that we are willing to repent from our sinful actions by doing something that will show our love for Jesus, other people and/or ourselves.

### WHAT IS AN ACT OF CONTRITION?

An act of contrition is a prayer of sorrow. We need to be truly sorry for the sins we have committed.

### WHEN CAN MY CHILD MAKE HIS/HER FIRST RECONCILIATION?

Your child can make his/her First Reconciliation when he/she is in Grade two or older.

### WHAT DO I DO AS THE PARENT?

Help your child prepare for First Reconciliation by attending the First Reconciliation classes and teaching him/her the lessons explained in the First Reconciliation book, "We Prepare For Reconciliation" following the Family Guide or lesson plans printed in the middle of the book.

Hand in an **updated** registration form and **Baptism certificate**. If you want to postpone your child's First Confession, fill out a NEW registration form for the next session when he /she will go to confession.

Please call Sister Adrialen Vallecera, RVM (780) 463-8646 ext. 2224 or send an email to: [sradrialen@strcp.com](mailto:sradrialen@strcp.com) if you have any questions. Thank you very much.