

Nightly Check-up!



Help your children to take a few moments to thank God for their day by saying this little prayer together:

*When bedtime has come, I look at my day,
To see if I've hurt Our Lord's heart any way.
I remember my words and the things that I've
done*

*So I know whether I have upset anyone.
I kneel and I pray asking mercy for all,
And for strength in my will to avoid the next
fall.*

*I know Jesus listens, and that He'll forgive,
And together, forever, in Heaven we'll live!*

~Theresa Hartman

What Does Scripture Say?



- “Then he said to her, ‘Your sins are forgiven.’ ... ‘Your faith has saved you, go in peace.’” (Lk 7: 48,50, NRSV)
- “All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation ...” (2Cor 5:18, NRSV)
- “And he (Jesus) is the atoning sacrifice for our sins and ... for the sins of the whole world.” (1Jn 2:2, NRSV)

And the Saints?

- “After confession, a crown is given to penitents.” St John Chrysostom
- “I will go to Confession very often ... Jesus and Mary will be my friends. Death rather than sin.” St Dominic Savio at age seven



- “Confession is an act of honesty and courage – an act of entrusting ourselves, beyond sin, to the mercy of a loving and forgiving God.” Pope Blessed John Paul II

MY PARISH HAS RECONCILIATION ON:

_____ AT: _____
(DAY) (TIME)

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The Working Parents Guide Sacraments on the Run



Reconciliation

As kids, we were taught to say we were sorry when we had done something wrong. Now that we are older we have more temptations than a child has. We are influenced by friends, the media, and the world. We have to be careful to maintain the desire to be good and do good things. So, Jesus gave us a way to be forgiven for our wrong-doings: the Sacrament of Reconciliation. What is the real purpose of Reconciliation? Is it to force us to be embarrassed for admitting to having done something wrong? Is it to listen to the advice of the priest who is hearing us at our worst? Actually, the goal of Reconciliation is well, *reconciliation* with God, others and ourselves. As the child who has been told not to play ball near houses breaks the neighbor's window through disobedience, so we too sin by insisting on our own way when it goes against God's rules. Just as the child feels sorry for breaking the window and seeks forgiveness, we too must look to express our sorrow for what we have done wrong. We must make it 'right' with those whom we have offended.



Why is Reconciliation so Important?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (1422-1498) helps us to understand this

Sacrament of Healing:

- +By receiving this Sacrament we are forgiven
- +We are more able to forgive and reconcile, or reunite, with others
- +We strengthen our desire to be holy to keep from sinning again
- +We become less likely to commit a serious sin due to the grace we receive

Which actions are sinful?

The Church says that there are three (3) things necessary for a venial— or less serious—sin to occur:



1. An action must **BE** a sin
2. The person must **KNOW** it's a sin
3. The person must **CHOOSE** to do it anyway

Mortal sin occurs when an action is also a **SE-RIOUS** offense.

The Ten Commandments and the Great Commandment tell how God wants us to live. While most of the time people, especially children, don't commit serious sin, we still need forgiveness from God for those times when we have not been loving.

Amazing Grace!



*God loves us enough to forgive ANY sin that we commit, no matter how bad! All we have to do is to ask for God's forgiveness! Reconciliation is where we receive God's grace and absolution! We are mystically transformed and a greater member of God's Church, the people of God!

Some Assembly Required!

Understand the necessary steps of Reconciliation for you and your child.

1. **Sinfulness:** If you or your child has committed a sin go to Step 2. If not, go to Step 8
2. **Remorse:** Reconciliation doesn't make a lot of sense if the person isn't sorry for their faults
3. **Confession:** Go to the church when the priest is having Reconciliation or make an appointment at another time, and confess your sins



4. **Penance:** Receive a penance (a prayer or action) from the priest that should be done as soon as possible after you receive the Sacrament



5. **Absolution:** Since Jesus works through the action of the priest and is the one who truly forgives our sins, only a Catholic priest can give absolution showing that the stain of that sin is taken away

6. **Restitution:** After doing your penance, "make it right" with the person whom you have hurt; this could be giving a hug, replacing an object, or apologizing for a misunderstanding



7. **Reconciliation:** It takes a short time to say we are sorry, but it often takes much longer to repair a relationship; reconciliation is a goal and the sacrament helps us to achieve that goal

8. **Praise God!** Whether we have sinned or not, we should always praise God for all that God has given us



"I forgive you of all of your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." (the "Words of Absolution")

