

We finish by praying or singing a song of praise and thanks to God for this wonderful gift of being able to live in peace with God and with others.

THANK YOU GOD!



Reconciliation

Lesson 5

Name _____

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a special way that we celebrate God's forgiving love.

When we join in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we remember that God loves us and wants to help us make things right with one another . . .
. . . it's like we all come home together as one family . . .

And that is a time to **CELEBRATE**

To get ready for the Sacrament of Reconciliation we start by finding a quiet place to think and pray. We ask the Holy Spirit to help us look honestly at our lives: At home . . . At school . . . After school . . . In my sports and games . . .

Have I been like Jesus?

Did I show that I cared about others?

Was I kind?

Was I fair?

Did I help others when they needed it?

Did I hurt anyone by what I said or did?

Did I think about God and remember to talk with God (pray)?



Then we gather in the church . . .

And the priest welcomes us.

He wants to help us know that God never stops loving us and wants us to live our lives with our hearts full of love.

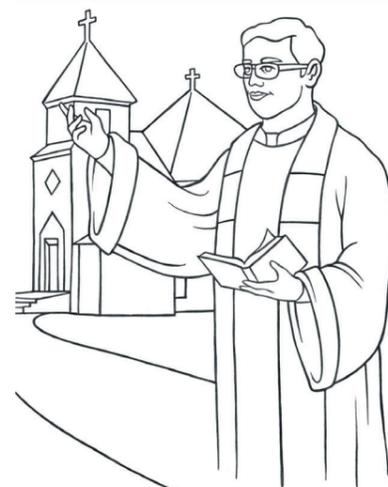
We start by singing and praying together . . .

And we listen to stories from the Gospels that remind us of how much God loves us and wants to be close to us.

Then we think about the times we have made wrong choices. We tell God we're sorry that we haven't always chosen to be the best person we can be. We pray for peace in our hearts.

We pray the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
Amen.



Then, one at a time, we go to talk to the priest about the wrong choices we have made . . .

When it's my turn, this is what happens . . .

The priest is really happy to see me! He is like the father in the story about the prodigal son.

We begin with the sign of the cross.

I tell him about some of the times when I haven't chosen to care, or be kind or fair . . .

He understands. He's big now, but he used to be a child just like me!

Sometimes we might talk about what I did wrong and try to figure out how I can change and be more like Jesus.

Then we will think about what I could do to help make things right - and to help me grow more caring and kind and fair.

I say a special prayer . . .

God I am sorry for the times I have made wrong choices and have hurt others. Please help me to try to always make good choices.

Then the priest prays a special prayer asking God to bring peace and joy into my heart through the love of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit. (we call this 'absolution')

The priest's words bring me very close to God and to others.

