

St. Francis Xavier Parish
Parent Handbook ~ First Reconciliation ~ 2021

love

bears all things,
believes all things,
hopes all things,
endures all things.
love never fails.

1 corinthians 13:7



Important Calendar of Events

First Reconciliation parent and student meeting (choose 1)

9/17/21 @4:00pm-5:30pm

9/17/21 @6:00pm-7:30pm

9/21/21 @6:30pm-8:00pm

Location: St. Francis Xavier Church

First Reconciliation (sign up TBD)

11/19/21 7:00pm-8:30pm

11/20/21 11:00am-12:00pm

First Communion parent and student meeting (choose 1)

9/18/22 @4:00pm-5:30pm

9/18/22 @6:00pm-7:30pm

9/21/22 @6:00pm-7:30pm

Location: St. Francis Xavier Church

First Communion Retreat (parent and student) (sign up TBD)

4/23/22 9:00am-11:30am

4/23/22 12:30pm-3:00pm

First Communion - You will be able to choose the date; sign up TBD

Saturday, April 30th 11:00am

Saturday, April 30th 1:00pm

Saturday, April 30th 5:00pm (outside, weather permitting)

Sunday, May 1st 8:00am

Sunday, May 1st 12:00pm

Blessings

<https://dynamiccatholic.com/blessed>

For the videos scroll down to "view program." They are all listed by session.

Session 1	You Are Blessed!	Week of 9/26
Session 2	The-Best-Version-of-Yourself	Week of 10/3
Session 3	God Sent Jesus to Save Us	Week of 10/10
Session 4	Forgiveness and Healing	Week of 10/17
Session 5	Your First Reconciliation	Week of 10/24
Session 6	It's Only the Beginning	Week of 10/31

*****ALL STUDENTS should turn in, to their teacher, their completed Reconciliation home study Blessed books by the week of November 8th***!**

PSR students please bring to class and turn in either on 11/8 or 11/10, depending on which day you attend PSR.

Day school students turn in by 11/12.

Students will turn in both their completed book and the leader's guide. You will get your child's book back to keep at their First Reconciliation after the teachers have checked it over for completion.

Sacrament of Reconciliation Format

Child: While sitting in the pew, take time to think about your sins. What are you truly sorry for? This is your examination of conscience.

Priest: Priest will greet the child. After the priest greets you in the name of Christ, make the sign of the cross.

Child: Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. It has been _____ (approximate number of weeks/months) _____ since my last confession.
Father, I _____ (tell sins) _____.

Priest: For your penance _____ (Example-say 1 Our Father or help your parents today.)

Child: (Recite the Act of Contrition)

My God, I am sorry for my sins.
In choosing to sin,
And in failing to do good,
I have sinned against you
And your church.
I firmly intend,
With the help of your Son,
To make up for my sins
And to love as I should.

Priest: Then the priest extends his hands over the penitent's head (or at least extends his right hand) and says "God, the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son, has reconciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church may God give you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit.

Child: Amen. Thank you, Father, and God bless you.

FAQ's

Q. How do I know if my child is ready to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

A. He or she should be able to:

1. Recognizes the difference between right and wrong
2. Understands the need to say "I am sorry" and tries to make amends with those whom he or she may have hurt
3. Forgives others when he or she is hurt by someone

Q. Will there be other children celebrating their First Reconciliation that day?

A. Yes, the second-grade PSR and second-grade day school children will be there on that day.

Q. What does my child wear to First Reconciliation?

A. Children may wear nice school clothes or dress clothes. Please do not wear shorts or flip flops.

Q. Can I invite family and friends to the Church? What about siblings?

A. Family, friends, and siblings are welcome. Please keep in mind that younger children may become restless while waiting. Please, no electronics to occupy them in the church while waiting; however, books are fine. (You might find more in the library bookshelves in the Washington Street vestibule. Check them out!)

Q. Will there be an opportunity for others to receive the Sacrament or just the second-graders?

A. Yes, other family members may receive the Sacrament. This can be done right after your child. In fact, this is encouraged, as it will help ease the nerves of your child and show him or her it is important to you as well.

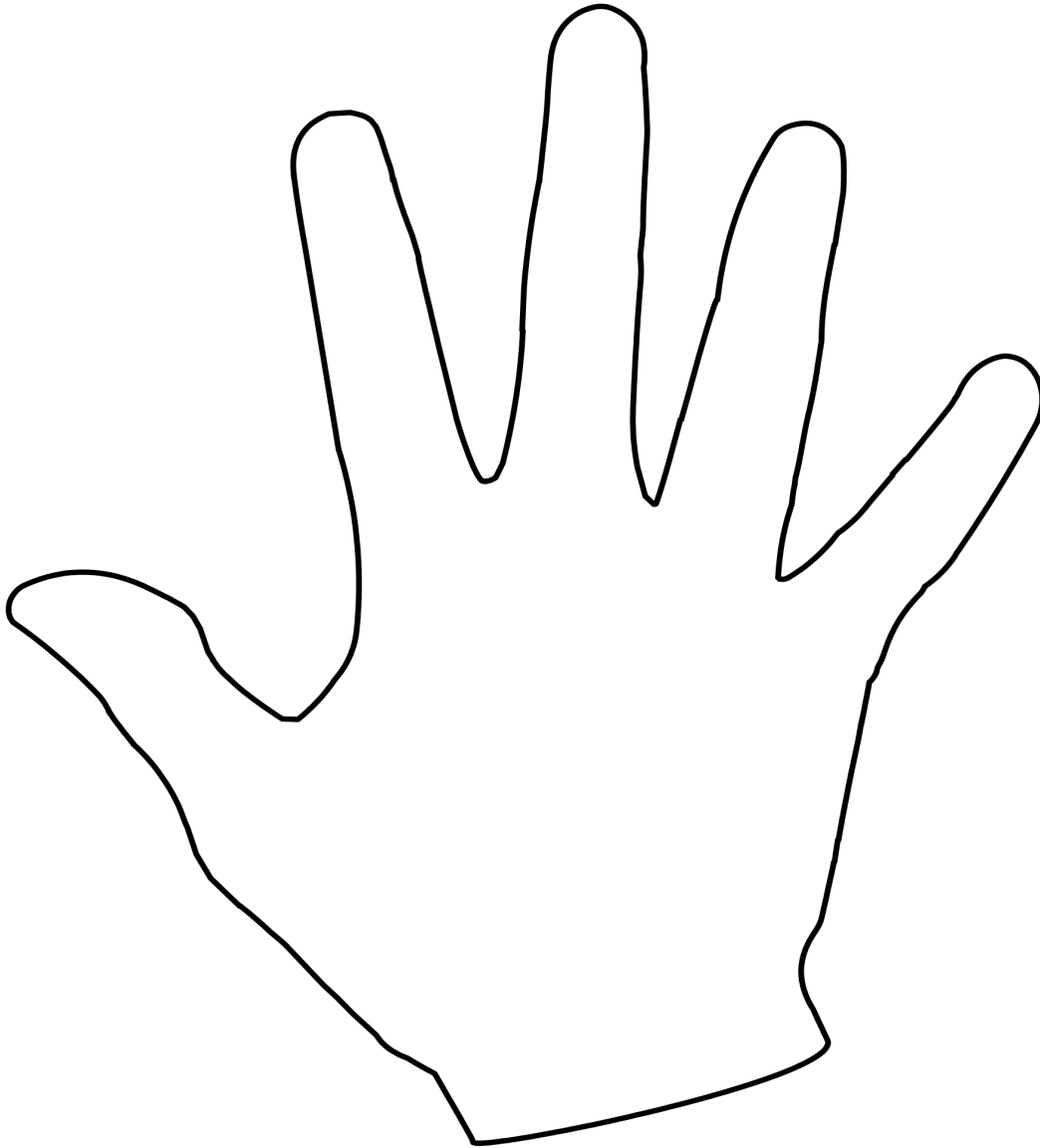
Q. Do we need to stay the entire time?

A. Once your child has celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and prayed any prayers that are given as penance, you are free to leave.

Q. Are family celebrations commonly held after the Sacrament, or is it considered more a time of reflection?

A. We tend to give a lot of attention to celebrating after Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation. Often it seems that this sacrament gets lost or treated as a stepping stone to other sacraments. It would be appropriate to go out to eat or give your child a small gift of remembrance. Of course, as Reconciliation is a sacrament of healing, it would be a more low-key celebration and gift, but it is worth making the day special.

This hand helps me to remember
what I need to do to receive
the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



A good way to begin:
"Bless me father for I have sinned."
(Make the sign of the cross)

Find out my sins
(examination of conscience)

Tell my sins to the priest
(confession)

Be sorry
(contrition)

Promise to try to do better
(contrition)

Do my penance

Day by Day Guide of Blessed (tear out and use to keep on track)

<https://dynamiccatholic.com/blessed>

For the videos scroll down to "view program." They are all listed by session.
There are 7 videos per session.

Session 1: You Are Blessed!

1. 9/26 Opening Prayer, Welcome
2. 9/27 You Are Blessed!
3. 9/28 Count Your Blessings/My Gratitude List
4. 9/29 My Journey With God
5. 9/30 From the Bible: Gratitude
6. 10/1 I Am Blessed. I Am Grateful.
7. 10/2 Show What You Know, Journal with Jesus, and Closing Prayer

Session 2: The-Best-Version-of-Yourself

1. 10/3 Opening Prayer, Happiness and Free Will
2. 10/4 Making Decisions
3. 10/5 The Greatest Commandment
4. 10/6 Temptation, Sin, and Grace
5. 10/7 From the Bible: Adam and Eve
6. 10/8 Follow Your Conscience
7. 10/9 Show What You Know, Journal with Jesus, and Closing Prayer

Session 3: God Sent Jesus to Save Us

1. 10/10 Opening Prayer, The Mess
2. 10/11 Jesus' Birth and Childhood
3. 10/12 Jesus' Ministry
4. 10/13 The Cross, The Resurrection, and Ascension
5. 10/14 From the Bible: Pentecost
6. 10/15 You and the Church
7. 10/16 Show What You Know, Journal with Jesus, and Closing Prayer

Session 4: Forgiveness & Healing

1. 10/17 Opening Prayer, God Loves Healthy Relationships
2. 10/18 Forgiveness
3. 10/19 What is a Sacrament?
4. 10/20 What is Reconciliation?
5. 10/21 From the Bible: Our Father
6. 10/22 God Will Always Love You
7. 10/23 Show What You Know, Journal with Jesus, and Closing Prayer

Session 5: Your First Reconciliation

1. 10/24 Opening Prayer, Great Moments in Life
2. 10/25 The Garden of Your Heart
3. 10/26 Preparation Matters
4. 10/27 The Five Steps
5. 10/28 From the Bible: The Prodigal Son
6. 10/29 First, but Not Last
7. 10/30 Show What You Know, Journal with Jesus, and Closing Prayer

Session 6: It's Only the Beginning

1. 10/31 Opening Prayer, So Much to Look Forward To
2. 11/1 The Will of God and Happiness
3. 11/2 The Prayer Process
4. 11/3 The Power of Great Habits
5. 11/4 From the Bible: Jesus Wants a Quiet Place
6. 11/5 Be Grateful
7. 11/6 Show What You Know, Journal with Jesus, and Closing Prayer

Books must be turned in the week of November 8th!