

Dear Parents,

Congratulations! Your child will celebrate his/her First Reconciliation on Saturday, January 31st at 10:30 am in the Church. Below is some information concerning the event. If you have questions, please contact Jim Hynes at the parish office at 942-6237.

- The celebration begins at 10:30am; please arrive in good time, before 10:15am.
- Please have your child dress appropriately, as they would for any church service.
- Please collect a name tag for your child when you arrive, so that the priest will know the names of the children, and we will know if any children are missing.
- Certificates will be given to the children on the day.
- There is no seating plan; you may sit anywhere in the church. Children will be sitting with their families.
- When the time comes to go to the priest, your child will be called forward by an usher, so they will not have to form a queue.
- While waiting, children will be asked to read through an Examination of Conscience, which will be provided on the day
- The children will have been taught the proper procedure for Reconciliation, but if they ask you, this is what they should do:

Instructions for Individual Confession

1. Make the sign of the cross and say "Bless me father; this is my first celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation"
2. Tell the priest your sins
3. Receive a penance from the priest
4. Receive absolution from the priest
5. Return straight to your family

Everybody will be asked to say the Act of Contrition before the children come forward. The text, which will be in the service booklet, is as follows:

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In His Name, my God, have mercy.

- Children only are invited to come forward for Reconciliation during the service. Unfortunately, we cannot invite parents or other family members to do so, because it will make the service take too long.
- Families are asked to remain in their places after their children receive Reconciliation, until after the Prayer of Thanksgiving and Closing Song.
- Please make this a special day of celebration for your child, and include a meal together or a small party after the Church service.

Jim Hynes
Director of Elementary and Adult Faith Formation