

First Reconciliation Guidelines

Going to confession begins with a sincere desire to deal with the sin in our lives. Sin is something most people don't like to think about. In fact, many people try to say that there's no such thing as sin. A sin is something we say, do, or desire that goes against God's eternal law of love. Sin is saying "no" to God. To prepare our hearts to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation;

- We search our souls and hearts to identify our sins-those things that keep us from God.
- We think and pray about our relationship with God and others. This is called an "examination of conscience." The best guide to a good examination of conscience are the Ten Commandments.
- We are truly sorry for the sin in our lives. We regret having done wrong; we regret having failed to do good. We pray for the strength to be more loving.
- We do what it is needed to repair any harm we've done.

The point of confession is not to make a list of all the things that make us awful human beings. Rather, the sacrament of reconciliation is a place of forgiveness, a place where we can begin to set our lives right with God and with others. It is a place of conversion, where we receive a new heart and a chance to begin again.

An Examination of Conscience

- Do I love God with all my heart, soul, and mind?
- Have I remembered to pray to God every day?
- Have I said God's name in a bad or unkind way?
- Do I laugh if someone uses God's name in a bad or unkind way?
- Do I remember that Sunday is God's day?
- Do I say the Mass prayers as best I can?
- Have I been disrespectful to my parents or other adults who take care of me?
- Have I been angry or mean to anyone?
- Have I done anything to hurt my own or someone else's body?
- Have I taken anything that belongs to someone else?
- Have I cheated in my school work or at home or during games?
- Have I lied to anyone?
- Have I failed to tell someone something that I know I should have?
- Have I been jealous of what others have?
- Have I been jealous of another person's family or lifestyle?

How to Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Parent(s) will present their child to the Priest.

"This is _____ and I/we believe he/she is prepared to make his/her first confession..

Parents will leave the confessional

CHILD: "Bless me, Father, for I have sinned (while making the sign of the cross). This is my first confession and these are my sins."

(Tell your sins)

"For these and all my sins, I am sorry."

The Priest will then give you your penance and ask you to say an Act of Contrition:

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. Amen

The Priest offers you Absolution by placing his hands over your head.

CHILD: Amen

(You will leave the confessional and do your penance)

After all students have made their First Reconciliation, parents and guests are invited to go to confession.

Reception to follow in the multi-purpose room.

*"Return without fear to the arms of your Heavenly Father,
who is rich in mercy, who awaits you!"*

Pope Francis

What to Wear to First Reconciliation

We are often asked what the children should wear for this special occasion. Please have them dress appropriately for Church- "nice" casual clothing. Please no blue jeans or sweat pants.

Who Should Attend With Me?

Children and at least one parent should arrive at the church no later than 6:15 p.m. on Monday, March 23, 2020. If it isn't possible for a parent to attend perhaps you could invite a grandparent, godparent, or other adult family member. Adults will have the opportunity to go to confession after the children.

Important Reminder!

If your child ***was not*** baptized at St. George Church we will need a copy of their baptismal certificate for our records.

Thank you!