

Procedure for Celebrating First Reconciliation

1. As you enter the reconciliation room you have the choice of kneeling behind the screen or sitting face to face.
2. The Priest welcomes you.
3. You make the Sign of the Cross.
4. You begin by saying, "Bless me father, for I have sinned, this is my first confession and these are my sins."
5. Then you begin to tell your sins to the Priest.
6. The Priest may give you advice. Then the Priest will give you a penance – a prayer or something to do.
7. At this time you say the Act of Contrition:

Act of Contrition

O 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, forgive me. Amen.

8. The Priest recites the words of absolution (forgiveness).
9. As the Priest says, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit," you make the Sign of the Cross.
10. The Priest will dismiss you by saying "Go in Peace" or similar words, to which you respond, "Thanks be to God."
11. You leave the room and say or do your penance as soon as possible.

St. Joseph Church First Reconciliation & First Eucharist 2011

First Reconciliation

The Second Grade students of the Saint Joseph CCD program will be making their First Reconciliation on Tuesday, January 25, 2011. The service will be held at 3:45pm in St. Joseph Church.

Parents are encouraged to attend and share this special sacrament with their children.

** Please help your child to learn the form and prayers for the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The form can be found on the back of this pamphlet.

First Eucharist

First Communion Mass has been scheduled for Saturday, May 7, 2011 at 12:00 noon

Practice for the First Communion Mass is *mandatory* for all students.

Practice will take place in the Church on Thursday, May 5, 2010 at 6:30pm.

Why do we have Reconciliation?

- We all need God's forgiveness from our sins, children as well as adults.
- Knowing this, Jesus passed on the power to forgive sins to Priests in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Why confess at the Second Grade level?

- Most children at this age are able to know the difference between right and wrong and to say that they are sorry.
- Children form habits at this age and asking God's forgiveness is a habit that should be formed early in life, one that will benefit them spiritually for the rest of their lives.

What if my child is afraid of Confession?

- If your child is a little nervous, this is normal. We take the children on a tour of the Reconciliation rooms to lessen the fear. We also stress a positive attitude concerning the Sacrament. (We ask that you do the same.) Being forgiven for the wrong that one has done is something to celebrate, not fear. If a child forgets a prayer the Priest will help him or her.
- If your child shows a real fear about the Sacrament, it may be best to postpone First Reconciliation for your child.

What happens at the First Reconciliation Service?

- We begin with a brief prayer service for the children. The children sit with their families and go, one by one, to the Reconciliation room. As each child leaves the Reconciliation room, they go to the altar to light a candle with their parents and say a prayer of thanksgiving and the penance that was given by the Priest. The form of Confession that the children have learned is on the back of this pamphlet.

Why do we have Holy Communion?

- We have Holy Communion because Jesus gave us His Body and Blood in the form of bread and wine at the Last Supper when He told us to take and eat, and to take and drink and said: "Do this in memory of me."

How can young children understand this mystery?

- To believe that the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus *is* a mystery, which even adults need faith to accept and believe. But, we take this mystery on the words of Jesus and the faith of the Church. It is sufficient for a young child to know that Communion is a special and holy time because it is really Jesus who comes to us when we receive it.

What do the children wear for First Communion?

- Boys – White shirts, white tie, dark pants and shoes. No jeans or sneakers.
- Girls – White dress and veil. No gloves. Low heeled shoes are recommended.

Where can I buy First Communion Clothes and Gifts?

- Maryheart Crusaders Store, 531 West Main St, Meriden
- Patrick Baker & Sons, 1650 West Main St., Southington
- JC Penny, store, catalog, or on-line.