



Preparation Curriculum

Our primary resource for the preparation process is from “Loyola Press” publishers. It is called:
God's Gift: Reconciliation

Session 1: God Calls Us Friends

God created us for friendship with him. God created Adam and Eve and when they lost the gift of God's grace, we were then all born with original sin. We are told God will send a Savior.

Bible Story: Adam and Eve

Vocab: grace, temptation, original sin, Savior, reconcile

Session 2: Jesus Saves Us

We all need help and guidance at times. God sent Jesus to be our Savior and we were given sacraments to assist us for a life of faith. Students will discuss Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist (all Sacraments of Initiation).

Bible Story: Joseph's Dream

Vocab: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation, sin, Sacraments of Initiation

Session 3: Jesus Forgives Us

We receive a gift of having another chance to do better because Jesus forgives us. Children will identify steps for making good moral choices and will discuss how to apply those steps with everyday decisions. Youth will also be introduced to the mortal and venial sins.

Bible Story: Jesus' Call of Matthew

Vocab: moral choices, mortal sin, venial sin

Session 4: Jesus Heals Us

The Sacrament of Reconciliation heals us through forgiveness of sins. We are all surrounded by people who love and care for us and desire to be reconciled when we have hurt them. God gave us priests to act in the form of Jesus so we can confess our sins. Youth will discuss the effects of reconciliation and the two ways we celebrate the sacrament.

Bible Story: Healed Through Forgiveness

Vocab: forgiveness, confess

Session 5: The Holy Spirit Guides Us

The Holy Spirit is with us as we prepare for and celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. God welcomes us back through the sacrament like a father welcoming back his sons and daughters. Children will be introduced to an examination of conscience, using the Ten Commandments as a guide. They will also be discussing the steps to go through reconciliation.

Bible Story: Prodigal Son

Vocab: conscience, examination of conscience, penance, absolution.

Session 6: God is Always with Us

Children will describe feelings of being lost and being found. God is always ready to welcome us back and is like the shepherd in the Jesus' parable. Youth will investigate and discuss examples of sins of omission and sins of commission.

Bible Story: Good Shepherd

Session 7: Tour/Q and A/Practice – Possibilities

For the last session, during this time of COVID-19, there are some possibilities that we can consider. Some options are: allowing the children to visit the Reconciliation room and not meet on Zoom, practice the routine of reconciliation with a parent and review via Zoom. We could also try to provide a questions and answer session for half an hour either with Father Joe (depending on what his schedule looks like). During the questions and answers time, the children can inquire about anything they wonder about the sacrament.

