

Holy Trinity Catholic Church

Parish guidelines for

First Reconciliation

Holy Trinity Parish works in partnership with families as they journey with their child toward the first reception of this sacrament. The focus of this preparation is not only for “first” Reconciliation but more importantly for a lifetime of being healed and forgiven in the sacrament of Reconciliation. We desire families experience in daily life the revelation of a God who is good and full of tenderness, who forgives us and calls us to forgive.

“Jesus began His risen life by giving His apostles power to forgive sins. The Sacrament of Reconciliation continues His work of forgiving and reconciling...Frequent participation in this sacrament, even though one has not committed a serious sin, is a highly desirable way of celebrating ongoing conversion and making progress in holiness.” (National Catechetical Directory).

Instruction

To be admitted to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, each child in 2nd grade (or older) must participate in spiritual formation. This can be done through our Holy Trinity Grade School, Growing in Faith Together, GIFT-home study, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd programs, or by other means. **Specific sacramental preparation is in addition to this foundational learning.** Please contact the parish office or check the website if you need information about registering for a particular program.

Components of our preparation/celebration process

- A.) Parent information session – usually in Sept. - an overview of our preparation process, receive materials to use at home with your child and the opportunity to ask any questions.
- B.) Two Parent/child sessions
- C.) Materials to work through at home
- D.) Celebration before First Eucharist

Policy statements from the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas and the National Catechetical Directory say children must receive the sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation for the first time prior to their first reception of the Eucharist.

We ask children celebrating Reconciliation know the Our Father, Hail Mary and Act of Contrition.

Expectations

FROM THE NATIONAL CATECHETICAL DIRECTORY

It is expected that the child will understand the following truths:

- The relationship of the sacrament to the child's life.
- An understanding of sin, the difference between good and evil.
- God is merciful and loving; and that His gift of faith is a call to conversion from sin.
- Everyone needs this sacrament, for pardon and peace, and to celebrate our unity with the healing, merciful Christ and His Church.

FROM THE PARISH

The parish has four guidelines to be followed in sacramental preparation for our faith community.

- Respect the natural ability, age and circumstances of individual children.
- Provide a formation process for the children within a partnership of parents, priests and teachers/catechists.
- Provide sacrament preparation programs which demand the involvement of parents, priests, and teachers/catechists.
- Provide for the liturgical celebration of the Sacrament of First Reconciliation

FOR THE FAMILY

- Families have an essential role in the preparation of their children for the reception of a sacrament.
- Preparing for a sacrament may seem like an overwhelming task. The parish offers support to families through appropriate materials and gatherings.
- The scheduled sessions are an opportunity for both parents and children to deepen their understanding of the sacraments.
- Nurturing the relationship between God and your child is one of the most important tasks of parenting.