Family Reconciliation Night Guide

What is Family Reconciliation Night?
Throughout the season of Lent, Catholics are encouraged to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. They may hear again and again this invitation in homilies, announcements, the bulletin, etc. In many parishes, extra hours are added to the Confession schedule. However, families may still be hesitant to take advantage of these opportunities. A variety of factors may be holding them back. Perhaps some members have not been in sometime and worry that they have forgotten how to go. Perhaps parents with young children are unsure of what to do with their little ones while they are in the confessional. Perhaps older children are not eager to spend an evening sitting in quietly in church while they wait for confessions to be heard. Reconciliation Nights hopes to address some of these concerns. These evenings are designed with families in mind.

What does Family Reconciliation Night involve?
At its heart Family Reconciliation is simply a night where families are invited to experience God’s mercy. However, in addition to a priest ready to hear confessions, at Family Reconciliation Night there will be several other things that it is hoped will make it easier for families to participate. There will be guides available for adults, teens, and youth who may need a refresher on how to make a good confession and people on hand to answer any questions. Lenten activities will be provided for youth who are waiting to go Confession themselves or are waiting for other family members to go. Child care will be offered so that parents are able to take advantage of the sacrament without worrying about their little ones.

Why should we participate in Family Reconciliation Night?
The Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the most wonderful things about being Catholic. In this sacrament we able to receive Christ's forgiveness for any and all sins we may have committed and start afresh. While, understandably, everyone enters the confessional alone, going to the church for confession as part of group can help to alleviate some of the nerves people may feel about approaching this sacrament. What better group to go with than your family? Coming as a family to Reconciliation allows parents to model for their children that admitting to faults and seeking forgiveness is an important part of being a Christian. Seeing that their parents also go to confession can help children become more comfortable with it themselves.
Family Reconciliation Night Reflection

Family Last Name: ________________________________

First Names of Adult Participants: ____________ ____________

First Names of Youth Participants: __________________

Did Family Reconciliation Night make coming to Reconciliation more appealing to you and your family? Why or why not?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Did you find the extra offerings at Family Reconciliation to be helpful? If so, how?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Did Family Reconciliation Night help you to connect with God and/or our parish community? If yes, how? If not, why not?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

What is one thing about Lessons and Carols that you would like to share with others?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________