

Updated Preparation for 1st Reconciliation (Confession)

In order to ensure that your child is properly prepared to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time, we need your assistance. Since we are not meeting weekly in our traditional classroom setting, it is important that you work with your child at home. Celebrating 1st Reconciliation is an important step in receiving 1st Communion later on; **your child will not be able to continue forward in their preparation for 1st Communion until they are able to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation.** We want to make sure that your child is confident and ready to receive this sacrament, to underscore the importance of this sacrament in their lives of faith, so please take the time to really practice everything.

If you have any questions as you go through these expectations, please contact Jonathan (jgalo@falmouthcatholic.org), Fr. Steve (frsteve@falmouthcatholic.org), or Fr. Ryan (frryan@falmouthcatholic.org).

In order to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time, the following will be expected from each child:

- **Prayers- Our Father, Hail Mary, Act of Contrition**
 - Practice these prayers every day/night so that your child can commit it to memory.
 - You may want to break it down line by line to help them learn it easier.
 - A complete prayer document can be found on our website at www.falmouthcatholic.org/first-communion
 - If for some reason your child is not able to memorize the prayers, please contact me personally so that we can make other arrangements.
- **Once your child is comfortable with their prayers, you may either record a video of them reciting the prayers from memory and send it to me or schedule a time to meet with me in person. This should be completed by Wednesday, February 10 to allow for time to schedule the celebration of 1st Reconciliation.**
 - Videos can be recorded via smartphone, tablet, webcam, etc. Please submit your video using the website www.WeTransfer.com.
 - To transfer a file to me via WeTransfer simply go to www.wetransfer.com and on the left side of the screen (desktop) or at the top of the screen (mobile) click to add a file and then put my email address, jgalo@falmouthcatholic.org, in the "Email to" section, and then put your email address and a brief message in the remaining fields and then hit transfer. I will receive a notification that I received your video and you will receive an email notification when I download it.
 - I will also send you a separate email confirming that I received your video
 - If you are having trouble uploading the video to WeTransfer, please let me know
 - If you choose to meet in person instead, please send me an email when you feel your child is ready and we will meet briefly so that they can say their prayers for me. Our meeting should only take 5-10 minutes.
- **Practice how to go to confession** (see "Rite of Reconciliation" sheet)

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- Take the time to practice step by step how to go to confession so that your child feels comfortable on the day of their 1st Reconciliation.
 - The “Rite of Reconciliation” can also be found on our website at www.falmouthcatholic.org/first-communion
- ****NEW** Once you have submitted your prayer video or met with Jonathan in person, schedule a time to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation for your child.**
 - Fr. Steve and Fr. Ryan have reserved several dates in the coming weeks to celebrate the sacrament.
 - Jonathan will have a list of dates/times available and will coordinate with you a meeting slot once your child has shown that they are ready to receive the sacrament.
 - There will be **no communal celebration** of the sacrament as originally planned.
 - We will be sending out a short prayer service video that you may watch with your child before they celebrate the sacrament individually
 - **1st Reconciliation should be celebrated no later than Saturday, February 20th.**
 - **If your child is planning on receiving their 1st Communion, they must first celebrate their 1st Reconciliation.**
- **Attend the remainder of our scheduled monthly sessions**
 - Since we are meeting only once a month, it is important that your child be present for **all of our sessions**. This becomes particularly important in the coming months as we will be finishing up our preparation for 1st Reconciliation and will begin our preparation for 1st Communion.
 - We will be providing updates about our plans for the celebration of these sacraments during the remainder of our sessions, **so it is important that a parent be in attendance with their child.**
 - Due to the increased concern with the COVID-19 pandemic, we have temporarily moved our sessions online via Zoom.
 - If you are having difficulties accessing the Zoom session, please email me (jgalo@falmouthcatholic.org)
 - When we do meet again in person, our Collaborative strives its best to maintain a safe environment for our students which includes safe social distancing practices, mask wearing, sanitizing of surfaces, etc. Each of our churches have also been recently outfitted with air purifying systems which will help in our safety measures.
- **Continue working on your “Meet You at the Altar” Journals**
 - Please visit our website at www.falmouthcatholic.org/faithformation if you have any questions about our “Meet You at the Altar” program
 - **Failure to consistently turn in a journal entry may result in the delay of receiving the sacraments.**