

Information for Reconciliation

- ✝ Review the **Prayer of Sorrow** with your child.
- ✝ Please affirm your child and remind him/her that this is a sacrament of God's love and healing.
- ✝ Please plan on staying at the church that day until 11:00 am.
- ✝ Please arrive at the church by at least **8:50 am**. Breakfast foods can be brought downstairs into the church hall. The children will sit as a community in reserved seats in the front. Family members can sit in the seats behind the 2nd graders.
- ✝ The plan is for us to have two priests there to hear the children's individual confessions:
- ✝ Please bring a special **family candle** to place on a table near the altar when you arrive. Label the bottom of this candle, especially if you plan on bringing your child's baptismal candle. If you bring a taper candle, please provide a candle holder. The children will go two at a time into side rooms to celebrate the sacrament. Parents will remain in the seats to await your child. Quiet music will be playing to encourage a quiet and reverent mood. When your child returns from this beautiful sacrament, please greet them by the sacristy door. Proceed with your child to the seats to the right of the altar so that your child can pray their penance. **It is now time to light your family candle.** This signifies that each time we ask God for forgiveness, we head from darkness into the light. Now it is time to head down to the party! Please take your candle home with you after the refreshments.
- ✝ The priests will be happy to hear any adult or other family member confessions after the 2nd graders are finished.
- ✝ Please practice the following with your child prior to Reconciliation:
 - When you enter the Reconciliation Room:
 - Bless yourself with the Sign of the Cross (“In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”)
 - Then say “Bless me Father for I have sinned. This is my first confession and these are my sins. _____ I am sorry for my sins and I will try not to sin again.”
 - Father will talk briefly with you, give you a *penance* (prayers to say or good deeds to do after you leave), and then Father will give you *absolution* (God's words of forgiveness).