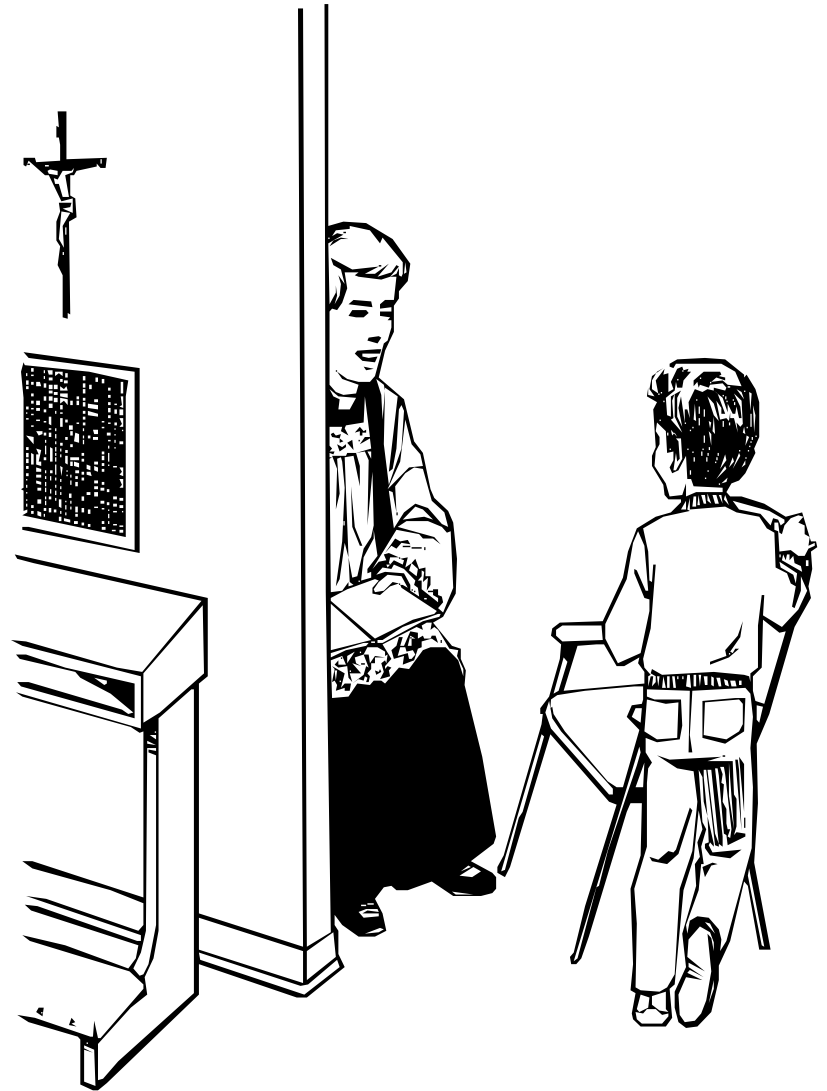


First Reconciliation



Parish Guidelines



IMPORTANT DATES

Orientation/Information Session *Parents only*

Fr. Quigley Center, 2nd floor

September 23, 2010; 7-8:30pm

OR

September 25, 2010; 9-10:30 am

True Vine presentation *Parents and child;*

Fr. Quigley Center, 2nd floor

October 12, 2010 7-8 pm

“Structure” of the sacrament *Parents and child*

Church

November 9, 2010; 7-8 pm

First Reconciliation - Church

A-K November 15, 2010 - 7:00 PM

L-Z November 16, 2010 - 7:00 PM

HOLY TRINITY PARISH

LENEXA, KANSAS

Parish Guidelines, Rev. 7/10

Family Expectations

We stated earlier that preparation and formation for reception of sacraments demands a partnership between families and the parish. In this partnership families have an essential role, since they are primarily responsible for the spiritual journey of their children. Remember, it is within your family that your children have first come to faith and it is within your family that they will continue to live out their faith. We understand that families often have many concerns: “Are we capable? Who is going to help us? Where can we find ideas?” To address these questions we will be hosting several sessions for both parent and child. These sessions are an opportunity for parents and children to together deepen their understanding of the sacraments .

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



The Parish Celebration of First Reconciliation is held prior to the Advent season. This year’s celebration will be on Monday, November 15th for those whose last names begin with A-K, and on Tuesday, November 16th for those whose last names begin with L-Z. Both of these celebrations will be held in the Church at 7:00 PM. More information will follow at a later date.

FIRST RECONCILIATION HOLY TRINITY PARISH LENEXA, KANSAS Parish Guidelines

To encourage reverent and informed participation in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Holy Trinity Parish works in partnership with families as they journey with their child toward the first reception of this sacrament. This journey is not only to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, but also, to experience in daily life the revelation of a God who is good and full of tenderness, who forgives us and calls us to forgive. Preparation begins in September, using RCL’s text, *Reconciliation*. This sacramental program: a) is rooted in solid sacramental theology, b) includes the elements of ritual, prayer, Scripture, doctrine, and reflection, and c) is centered in “the community, which lives, celebrates and bears witness to the faith” (General Directory for Catechesis 68). 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. Such preparation is not only about cognitive learning but especially about a period of spiritual preparation.

“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).



Guidelines

FROM THE PARISH - - The parish has set up four guidelines which must be followed in sacramental preparation for our faith community.

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



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. First Holy Communion is celebrated during the Easter season. At Holy Trinity parish, children prepare for and celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation during the fall. It is encouraged that the children receive the sacrament at this time, but if parents feel that their child would have a better understanding and appreciation of the sacrament later, they may delay the reception of reconciliation.



FROM THE NATIONAL CATECHETICAL DIRECTORY

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

- 1) *Catechesis for children seeks to make clear the relationship of the sacrament to the child's life.*
- 2) *The child has an understanding of sin, the difference between good and evil.*
- 3) *God is merciful and loving; and that His gift of faith is a call to conversion from sin.*
- 4) *Everyone needs this sacrament, for pardon and peace, and to celebrate our unity with the healing, merciful Christ and His Church.*

Instruction

To be admitted to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, each child in 2nd grade (or older) must be involved 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.

A parent-child text, *Reconciliation*, along with a Family Guide will be distributed at the parent orientation/information meeting. Details on how the parish and the family will partnership in preparing the children for the sacraments will be discussed at that meeting.