**Our Father**
Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name;
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
Amen

**Glory Be**
Glory be to the Father
And to the Son
And to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning
Is now, and ever shall be
World without end
Amen

**Act of Contrition**
My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend with your help to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.
Amen
Schedule of Events

Parent Meeting October 7th  6:30
Retreat
Wednesday, December 2nd  6:00 pm
Social Hall
Parent(s) & Child First Reconciliation Retreat

At this retreat there will be preparation for celebrating the sacrament. Please bring student book to the Social Hall

Saturday, December 5th   9:00am
Sacred Heart Church

First Reconciliation Celebration
Following the service

Parents and children will be able to receive Reconciliation at this time

Talk about a play, story, book, or TV program in which someone shows genuine sorrow for having hurt someone else. Discuss ways we can accept apologies and show that we forgive those who have hurt us.

Read with your child, or the entire family, the biblical account of Peter’s denial of Jesus (Luke 22:54–62). Before the reading, recall that Peter loved Jesus deeply. At the Last Supper, he said he would die before he’d deny Jesus. But when he was faced with a tough situation, Peter couldn’t live up to his word. After reading the biblical narrative, point out that although Peter’s denial hurt Jesus, Jesus not only forgave Peter, but made him the head of his Church.
thoughts, about worries and joys, and about the need to seek forgiveness.

Accept accidents – the spilled milk, torn clothes, broken dishes – as inevitable in raising children. By being understanding about accidents, we help children make the distinction between accidents and purposeful misbehavior.

Discuss the subject of temptation. Assure your child that everyone is tempted sometimes – even Jesus was – but that temptation is not a sin unless we freely choose to do what we know to be wrong.

CELEBRATING RECONCILIATION.
Encourage children – as part of bedtime prayers – to think back over the day and consider how they have built or broken relationships, how they have not loved, or how they could have loved more. This is good preparation for the examination of conscience that is a part of the sacrament.

Have a little celebration when you have become reconciled after a family disagreement or quarrel. It might be a special meal or dessert, going to a movie together, or whatever suits you family’s tastes and interests.
Within the pages of your TOGETHER magazine you will find the framework for each lesson in a format that will help you confidently take your child’s hand and embark on a wonderful journey towards the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

For The Grownups

At the beginning of each session there are a few pages that are just for your reading, entitled For The Grownups. Please take a moment to read and reflect upon these pages before beginning a session with your child. These pages include Life Lessons, which provide insightful stories and lesson background to enhance sharing. Pray for Your Family invites you to be a prayerful role model for your children.

Other sections, such as Your Child’s Moral Development addresses concerns that parents face with helpful, practice articles that follow the values of the Catholic Church. Catholic Fact and One Family’s Story are included to give confidence in sharing the facts of the Catholic Church and real life family connections to the chapter’s concept.

SEEKING FORGIVENESS.

Realize that we all make mistakes in handling our children. When you make a mistake, take the first step toward mending broken relationships.

Pray specifically for forgiveness and the strength to be a person who “forgives and forgets.”

Arrange to give some private time to your child each day. This is difficult when there are a number of children in the family, but the benefits it reaps in keeping the lines of communication open makes it well worth the effort. Bedtime provides a good chance to talk quietly and privately with the individual child. It’s a time to talk about feelings and
who saves us from sin and helps us understand God’s love.

Get in the habit of settling family grievances quickly. Clear the air with apologies, supportive words, and hugs. Unless children experience forgiveness and peace-making in a family setting, they’re unlikely to appreciate fully the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

MAKING DECISIONS.
Whenever possible, involve children in making decisions about the rules they are to live by. See that rules are consistently applied. If you enforce rules sporadically, children become confused about their responsibilities and about the value of rules. When you make an exception to a rule, explain the reasons for doing so. If you make many exceptions, it’s time to revise or drop the rule. We know, for example, that a bedtime rule has to be revised as children grow older.

If you give children an allowance, give one that’s suitable for their age and in keeping with the family budget. Then let the children decide how to spend their money.

Involve family members in discussion about forthcoming decisions where they might reasonably be consulted and/or where the deci-

Grownups and Kids

Pages entitled Grownups and Kids are step-by-step instructions and easy to implement activities that will help walk you through your child’s lesson. Each lesson includes 4 steps that very importantly open and close with prayer.

Step 1 3-minute Family Retreat
This step allows you, as a family to enter into the lesson. Take time to really make this section important as it will set the tone for the entire lesson.

Step 2 Let’s Imagine...
This section offers creative prayer exploration of the lesson themes thorough family preparation, imagination, and thought provoking questions.

Step 3 Let’s Dig In
During this part of the lesson you will get the chance to really apply the objective to real life situations.

Step 4 Let’s Pray
This part of the lesson allows you to reflect on the lesson and help you pray with a shared purpose.

Ideas for Living the Lesson
This section provides meaningful activities that reinforce the concepts. Take time to do one or do them all!
Helpful Hints

During each lesson, be there with your child, listening to him/her read...helping to read...listening to answers to the questions...reading and praying Scripture together...guiding him/her with completing each exercise.

IMPORTANT!!! This program is best implemented over a long period with plenty of time to develop a routine and prayer and study as well as place importance on the sacrament. Please do not wait until the last minute to complete the materials!

WHAT CAN WE DO AT HOME

BEING IN TOUCH WITH GOD.

Associate God with the happy events in your family. Joyful family get-together friendly mealtimes, and heartfelt conversations reveal the love and concern other have for us and also reveal something about God. God is love, and we experience this love through the care and kindness we show one another.

Avoid the idea that God is a law enforcer. Remarks such as “God won’t love you if you’re not good” or “God’s going to punish you if you keep teasing your brother” are untrue and may instill a negative image of our Creator as a “cop in the sky.” Lifelong “God and I” relationships are best built on freely-chosen responses to love rather than on responses born of fear.

Develop the habit of prayer in a way that seems right and natural for your family. Experiment a bit: try formal prayers, speak your own spontaneous prayers, read short passages from the psalms or a favorite inspirational book. At meals, candlelight helps create both a festive and reverent atmosphere. It reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world.
THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Guidelines for parents/guardians who are helping their child/children to Celebrate Reconciliation.

The surest way to help children understand that God’s love is to love them unconditionally. There will be times when we disapprove of what they do, but they need to know that our forgiveness is forthcoming and our love constant. Through their experience of being loved and forgiven, children can comprehend a loving, forgiving God. Such a God inspires a personal, committed relationship.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation reinforces the idea that God never stops loving us. We want our children to understand that no matter what we do, God forgives us and invites us to be reconciled. When we accept God’s invitation in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we experience the warmth and joy of a son or daughter returning home to a loving parent. It is a sacrament that heals and strengthens, helping us make wise moral decisions as we begin anew in our efforts to become the people God calls us to be.

How Parents Can Help Children Appreciate The Sacrament Of Reconciliation

Help them grow in love for the sacrament by helping them to experience reconciliation in daily events.

Help them to grow in the use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Help them to understand that the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a sacrament of Hope.

Help them to recognize that growth and change are possible; that we can rely on God and our Church to help us become the best people we are capable of becoming.

Help them to understand that the sacrament is a sign of God’s gift of peace.

Help them to see God as a loving parent who lovingly welcomes them “home’.

What we want to develop in children is an inner morality, not an outer conformity, but above all we want to instill self-control.