

RECONCILIATION



Reconciliation

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Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the most unique and beautiful aspects of Catholicism. Jesus Christ, in His abundant love and mercy, established the Sacrament of Confession, so that we as sinners can obtain forgiveness for our sins and reconcile with God and the Church. The sacrament “washes us clean,” and renews us in Christ.

“Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.’ And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained’” (John 20:21-23).

Reconciliation

Reconciliation is also known as Confession or Penance

CCC 1422 -1498

http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p2s2c2a4.htm

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the healing sacraments of the Church. This healing is associated with the forgiveness of sins to return the soul to a state of grace.

The Sacrament provides for the forgiveness of sins by a Priest or Bishop as being the physical representative of Jesus.

Reconciliation

A repentant Catholic, who wishes to confess his or her sins and be restored to life in Christ, cannot do so without a Priest.

CCC 1462

[http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/___P4E.
HTM](http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/___P4E.HTM)

CCC 905

[http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG1104/___P3G
.HTM](http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG1104/___P3G.HTM)

RECONCILIATION

“Those who approach the sacrament of Penance obtain pardon from God’s mercy for the offense committed against him, and are, at the same time, reconciled with the Church which they have wounded by their sins and which by charity, by example, and by prayer labors for their conversion.”

(Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1422)

Reconciliation Schedule

Schedule

- Before Saturday evening mass:
 - For the 4:00 Mass during the school months (September through May) Confessions begin at 3:00 pm
 - For the 6:00 pm Mass during the vacation months (June through August), Confessions begin at 5:00 pm
- Any time by appointment with one of the priests
 - Call 632-2541 to make an appointment

Reconciliation Services

- Each Advent and Lent, the parish celebrates a Communal Reconciliation Service, which includes a Liturgy of the Word, communal prayer and song, and a time for individual confession and absolution from one of multiple priests available to celebrate the sacrament.
- Announcements of upcoming Advent or Lenten Communal Reconciliation Services will be advertized in the St. Agnes Church Bulletin

Benefits of Reconciliation

- Conscience is purified.
- Grace is increased.
- Will is strengthened.
- Self-knowledge is increased.
- More rapid growth in virtue takes place.
- Humility grows.
- Bad habits are assisted in being overcome.
- A spirit of mediocrity or lukewarmness is assisted in being overcome.
- Greater self-control is achieved in daily living.

<http://www.beginningcatholic.com/sacrament-of-reconciliation>

Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation occurs in a room (the confessional) with only the person seeking forgiveness for sins and a Priest present in the presence of the Lord.

The sins confessed during the Sacrament of Reconciliation are confidential. The Priest may not reveal to anyone the sins confessed by a person.

Forms of Reconciliation

Traditional

- Upon entering the penitent kneels at the screen with priest on the other side
- This traditional provides for some anonymity as the priest will not easily see the penitent through the screen.

Face to Face

- Upon entering the confessional the penitent sit in a chair facing the priest
- This method allow for the penitent to experience a human connection of the Priest with more detailed counseling

Parts of the Sacrament of Reconciliation

- **PREPARATION:** Before going to confession, take some time to prepare. Begin with prayer, and reflect on your life since your last confession. How have you—in your thoughts, words, and actions—neglected to live Christ’s commands to “love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind,” and to “love your neighbor as yourself” (Mt 22:37, 39)? As a help with this “examination of conscience,” you might review the Ten Commandments or the Beatitudes (Ex 20:2-17; Dt 5:6-21; Mt 5:3-10; or Lk 6:20-26).

Parts of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, cont.

- **GREETING:** The priest will welcome you; he may say a short blessing or read a Scripture passage.
Confession of sins
- **THE SIGN OF THE CROSS:** Together, you and the priest will make the Sign of the Cross. You may then begin your confession with these or similar words: “Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. It has been [give days, months, or years] since my last confession.

Parts of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, cont.

- **CONFESSION:** Confess all your sins to the priest. If you are unsure what to say, ask the priest for help. When you are finished, conclude with these or similar words: “I am sorry for these and all my sins.”
- **PENANCE:** The priest will propose an act of penance. The penance might be prayer, a work of mercy, or an act of charity. He might also counsel you on how to better live a Christian life.

Parts of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, cont.

- **ACT OF CONTRITION:** After the priest has conferred your penance, pray an Act of Contrition, expressing sorrow for your sins and resolving to sin no more. A suggested Act of Contrition is:

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. (Rite of Penance, no. 45)

Parts of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, cont.

- **ABSOLUTION:** The priest will extend his hands over your head and pronounce the words of absolution. You respond, “Amen.”
- **PRAISE:** The priest will usually praise the mercy of God and will invite you to do the same. For example, the priest may say, “Give thanks to the Lord for he is good.” And your response would be, “His mercy endures for ever” (Rite of Penance, no. 47).
- **DISMISSAL:** The priest will conclude the sacrament, often saying, “Go in peace.”

Preparation for Reconciliation

One of the most important parts of preparing for Reconciliation is to reflect on the sin that you have committed since your last Confession.

A common tool used is the Examination of Conscience Guide which is a list of questions that delve into actions and words that have led to sinning against God.

The following are examples of Examinations of Conscience that may be helpful:

Examples of Examinations of Conscious

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/sacraments-and-sacramentals/penance/examinations-of-conscience.cfm>

A Child's First Reconciliation

- First Reconciliation & Holy Communion
- Children's Expectations:
Regular attendance for grades 1 & 2. Attendance at three celebrations: First Reconciliation; First Holy Communion. Attendance at the First Communion Retreat.
- Parent's Expectations:
Attendance at three parent's meetings. Attendance at the three celebrations. Attendance at the First Communion Retreat.
- <http://catholicmom.com/2015/01/19/5-ways-to-prepare-your-child-for-first-reconciliation/>

An Adult's First Reconciliation

- An adult who is not Catholic and is interested in receiving the Sacraments should enroll in the upcoming Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults program
- The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (**RCIA**) is a process developed by the Catholic Church for prospective converts to Catholicism who are above the age of infant baptism. Candidates are gradually introduced to aspects of Catholic beliefs and practices.

Act of Contrition

O my God,
I am heartily sorry for
having offended Thee,
and I detest all my sins,
because I dread the loss of heaven,
and the pains of hell;
but most of all because
they offend Thee, my God,
Who are all good and
deserving of all my love.
I firmly resolve,
with the help of Thy grace,
to confess my sins,
to do penance,
and to amend my life. Amen.

Prayers Associated with Reconciliation

- <http://www.catholic.org/prayers/prayer.php?p=43>

Reconciliation Resources, cont.

<https://goodconfession.com/>

<http://www.catholicscomehome.org/your-questions/what-is-the-sacrament-of-confession/>

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/sacraments-and-sacramentals/penance/>

Reconciliation Resources, cont.

<http://bustedhalo.com/video/googling-god-video/confession-101-part-one>

[http://diopitt.org/sites/default/files/COLOR A%20Short%20Guide%20to%20Confession,%20revised%20for%20Advent%202013_Finalized_Layout%201_2.pdf](http://diopitt.org/sites/default/files/COLOR_A%20Short%20Guide%20to%20Confession,%20revised%20for%20Advent%202013_Finalized_Layout%201_2.pdf)