

*“Our Savior Jesus Christ, when he gave to his apostles and their successors the power to forgive sins, instituted in his Church the sacrament of penance. Its purpose is that the faithful who fall into sin after baptism may be reconciled with God through the restoration of grace.” (The Rite of Penance, n.2 §3)*

## **Welcome to Holy Spirit’s Reconciliation process!**

We are happy to join your family as your child journeys toward the sacrament of Reconciliation. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is both a reminder and an experience of the reality that “God loves us no matter what.” During the process, parents will be invited to Parent Participation night, parent meetings, and student/parent retreats. Each piece of the preparation is intended to help you as parents assist your child as they make themselves ready to accept the sacrament.

## **Reconciliation Requirements:**

- Families of children preparing for a sacrament must be registered members of Holy Spirit.
- A baptismal certificate must be given to the FF office at the beginning of the year.
- Preparation for First Penance and First Eucharist begin indirectly in First Grade and continues through Second Grade. Students MUST have completed a year of Faith Formation prior to the year of sacramental prep.
- Attendance at necessary retreats and meetings.

## **DIOCESAN GUIDELINES FOR FIRST RECONCILIATION**

1. Children must be instructed in the Rite of Penance as decreed by the Congregation for Divine Worship (December 2, 1973). Catechetical materials should reflect this Rite.
2. The primary age child is to be provided with an appropriate catechesis for the sacrament of Penance distinct from the catechesis for the reception of First Eucharist since each sacrament is a special encounter with Christ (CIC 777 n.2).
3. Parents and those who have a parental role have the duty to seeing that their children are properly prepared for First Penance. In order to facilitate this involvement, each parish is to provide parents with learning opportunities concerning the Sacrament of Penance as they (the parents or guardians) catechize their children. These opportunities should provide parents with a renewed understanding of the sacrament which would then enable them to prepare their children for First Penance. (CIC 226 §2)
4. The pastor determines the readiness of the child in the reception of the Sacrament of Penance.
5. The decision on the actual reception of First Penance by an individual child must be arrived at through consultation by parents and the pastor (and/or his designee).
6. Teaching on the Sacrament of Penance should be continued after the first reception of the sacrament in order for children to be more deeply instructed. Parental involvement should be encouraged in the continuing faith formation of their children (CIC 777 n.3)
7. The celebration of First Penance should be separated from First Eucharist by a period of at least two months with sacramental confession preceding First Communion.

## Critical Outcomes:

The child

1. is able to distinguish between accidental and deliberate wrong.
2. is aware of the need for forgiveness and the child's trust in the forgiving love of Jesus.
3. is able to express wrongdoing and sorrow in his/her own words.
4. freely desires to receive the sacrament.
5. understands that the priest and the Church have a special role in bringing us God's forgiveness.
6. has completed a year of formal catechesis prior to the reception of First Penance.

## Holy Spirit Church---Sunday Mass Schedule

At the center of the Catholic Christian faith is the celebration of the Eucharist, the real presence of Christ in the bread, wine and the people who eat His Body and Blood. It is at Mass, at Liturgy, where we come together with all of our Catholic Christian friends to celebrate as one church. As the Eucharist is the heart of our faith, attending Mass every week is essential (and required) so you can spiritually prepare your child for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

### **Saturday**

5:00 pm

### **Sunday**

8:30 am

11:00 am

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