

**Most Holy Redeemer
School of Religion
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January 30, 2012

Dear Parents,

“God is love, and whoever remains in love, remains in God and God in him.”— John 4:16

Do you still hold fast to the idea that the Sacrament of Reconciliation is about confessing our sins? This is true but there are other dimensions to this sacrament that are equally important. First, it is a celebration. Like the parable of the Prodigal Son, it is more important to celebrate than to focus on the sins.

In 1 John 4:20, John says “You can’t say you love God while you hate your brother.” You can’t have a relationship with God unless you enter into relationships with others. Our relationship with God is one that can never be broken. Our Lord wants us to be forgiven. When our relationship with Him is broken He wants to re-establish that relationship, to reconcile with us. That is what we want to celebrate for we are sinners who have been saved.

As parents you will come together as community to learn more about this relationship with God. As parents of 3rd and 4th graders, you are required to attend this meeting to be held on Wednesday, February 8, at 7 p.m. in church.

We will have the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation for all 3rd graders and their families on Tuesday, March 13; and for the 4th graders and their families on Wednesday, March 7, at 7 p.m. in church.

Real contrition, that is true sorrow for our sins, is a matter of understanding God’s love and care for us. If we as adults understand and live out this love and forgiveness then our children will learn by our examples about this love and forgiveness. The children continue to study about the Sacrament of Reconciliation and will review before they receive the sacrament, but your love and forgiveness always reinforces the love of God. Enclosed is a sheet listing the Rite of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please use this to review for yourselves and with your children.

Please remember these dates:

Parent meeting on Wednesday, February 8, at 7 p.m. in Church.

3rd grade reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Tuesday, March 13, at 7 p.m. in Church.

4th grade reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Wednesday, March 7, at 7 p.m. in Church.

If you have any questions please feel free to call the Office of Religious Education at 346-8185.

Your sister in Christ,

Arlene Astrowski
Director of Religious Education

Rite of Reconciliation

Bless me father, for I have sinned! This is my first confession and these are my sins:

List sins ~ Any unloving or unkind actions which hurt others.

I'm sorry for all these sins, please forgive me.

Father gives penance ~ A prayer or action to make up for hurting others.

Father gives absolution ~ The forgiveness of Jesus.

Father will ask you to say the Act of Contrition

O my God, I am sorry for my sins. In choosing to sin, and failing to do good, I have sinned against You and Your Church. I firmly intend, with the help of Your Son, to make up for my sins and to love as I should. Amen.

Sign of the cross ~ In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.