

First Penance Supplemental Resources



Your Child's First Penance (Book) Luebering, Carol, St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2000. I'm sorry. Your child first heard those words from you very early in life. You spoke them in a moment of carelessness or impatience, and your little one soon learned to echo them. Soon your child will say "I'm sorry" to God and to the whole Church, represented by its priest, in the Sacrament of Penance.

The need for forgiveness is a constant in family life and in our lives as believers because we are imperfect beings who often distance ourselves from God and from one another. Family members learn together to seek and give forgiveness and to keep from hurting each other. Jesus also helps his brothers and sisters learn to live together through word and example, and through the outpouring of grace we receive all the sacraments. Your Child's First Penance will help you prepare your child to make First Penance a joyful experience.

Learning Centers for First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, And the Whole Community (Book) Murphy, Doris, Twenty-Third Publications, 2007. These thirty-seven creative and formative centers for children preparing for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist share church teaching, Scripture, prayers, conversation, and a fun activity that reinforces teachings about the sacraments. She also offers eight "gatherings" for the whole community that help children experience the Learning Centers with the support of the wider parish family.

Gathering Together: First Celebrations of Reconciliation and Eucharist: A Family Preparation Program (Binder) Loyola Press, 2003. Gathering Together is a resource-rich, easy-to-implement faith-formation program for use with parents whose children are preparing for First Communion and First Reconciliation. It can be used as a supplement with any religion or sacramental preparation curriculum. The program includes four gatherings designed for adults only, plus two additional retreats for parents and their children. The four parent gatherings include one session each on sacraments and Reconciliation, plus two sessions on the Eucharist. There is one parent-child retreat for Reconciliation and one for Eucharist. All resources come in a convenient three-ring binder manual.

Adaptive First Reconciliation Preparation Kit: For Children with Autism and Other Special Needs (Kit) Loyola Press, 2012. The Adaptive First Reconciliation Kit will enable many children with autism and other special needs to participate fully in their faith, children who might not be able to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation. Kit Includes: The Reconciliation Flip Book; I'm Sorry Cards; The I Am Forgiven Sequence Puzzle; Jesus Forgives Instructional Story Card; Jesus Wants Us to Make Good Choices Matching Puzzle; The Good Choice/Bad Choice Cards; Examination of Conscience Instructional Card; I Celebrate Reconciliation Picture Book; Act of Contrition Instructional Card; The Helper Guide; Backpack.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation: Past and Present (DVD) Chesto, Kathleen O., Twenty Third Publications, 2007. This video provides parents with an understanding of the way the sacrament of reconciliation has developed and changed within the church.

A Child's First Penance: Joyful Reconciliation (DVD) Liguori Publications, 2012. Fr. Jim talks with students about sin, true repentance, and God's unconditional love and forgiveness. As they learn what sin is, they'll discover how their sin affects others and changes their relationship with God. They'll explore the prayers, rituals, and gestures of the rite—and learn why reconciliation is a time for repentance, healing, and joy. Parents will learn how the rite has changed over the years and recognize their essential role in teaching and modeling the faith for their children.

First Reconciliation: A Family Journey (DVD) Videos with Values/Oblate Media and Communication Corporation, 2006. Part One tells children everything they need to know about their first experience with the Sacrament of Penance. The history and meaning of the sacrament and the joy of knowing God's forgiveness is explained in age appropriate language. The audience will hear the questions of a diverse collection of youngsters and then see them participate in their own First Reconciliation service. Part Two shows family activities that are fun and easy ways to prepare students and families for this important step in their child's faith journey.

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