



At-Home Experience – Reconciliation Retreat

Our Lady of Light – First Reconciliation

Note to Parents:

Welcome to the At-Home Experience for the First Reconciliation Retreat! Thank you for taking the time as a family to complete this in preparation for your child's First Reconciliation.

This experience is filled with prayer, online informative videos, questions to answer, activities for your child, and resources.

Outline:

1. Opening Prayer
2. Formed Videos and Questions
3. Student Handout Activities
4. Parent Video and Questions
5. Closing Prayer
6. Next Steps
7. Optional Resources

Opening Prayer:

Lectio Divina means "divine reading," and it usually entails reading the scripture, meditating, contemplating, and prayer. Read the passage once, listen for a word or phrase, read it a second time and then talk as parent/child about what in the passage stood out to you or share what you think God is trying to tell you through it.

Sign of the Cross

Have a member of the family read [Luke 15: 1-7](#).

- While you are listening to God speak to you through His Word; listen for a word or phrase that sticks out to you. Take a few minutes to focus on that word. Let that passage move you—inspire you—to seek God with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your understanding.

Read aloud: We are the lost sheep and God is our shepherd. Jesus wants us to know that God loves us no matter what. God wants us to be near to Him even when we stray away or do the wrong thing. God will always follow us or go out to find us when we wander away from Him. God is JOYFUL when we repent, but we must repent often in order to fully return to God and be the sheep on His shoulders.

Answer the following reflection questions as a family:

1. What word or phrase did you focus on in the Bible passage?
2. What did you hear God saying to you through this scripture passage (through that word or phrase)?

Pray: Heavenly Father, thank you for waking us up today and allowing us to spend this time to better prepare our hearts for our First Reconciliation.

Thank you for showing us the joy you have for us to turn back and repent. Guide us today through the conversations we have so that any anxieties we may be feeling be settled and that we can feel more comfortable turning to you in our times of need. Open our hearts to your mercy and love. We ask this through the intercession of Mary, our Mother as we pray... Hail Mary...

Our Lady of Light, pray for us. Live Jesus in our hearts, forever. Amen

Sign of the Cross

Felicity Videos and Questions

[Felicity's First Reconciliation](#)

1. Why was Felicity worried about her Reconciliation? Was she worried at the end? Why not? Why shouldn't we be worried about Reconciliation?
2. How did Jesus feel about Felicity's confession? Can you relate to any of the sins Felicity confessed? How do you think Jesus will feel about your confession?
3. What happened when Father said the words of absolution over Felicity at the end of her confession?

[The Way to Heaven](#)

1. How often does Felicity's dad go to Reconciliation? Why does he go so often?
2. What are some reasons we do not need to be afraid to confess our sins?
3. What makes a person holy?
4. What are some things God gives us to help us stay on the path to heaven?

Student Handout Activities

Have your child complete the [Five Steps to Confession](#) handout and work on the [Activity Booklet](#) provided in your take home folders.

Parent Video and Questions

Parents - watch the [Video and Talk with Fr. Brian](#) (31 mins)

(In this session, parents are shown a clip from The Chosen - Season 2 Episode 6 . If you would like a better viewing experience please follow this link -

[Mary's Redemption](#))

Parent Questions to Ponder

- What struck you about this scene? Was there a word or phrase that really spoke to you?
- Mary was hesitant to speak to Jesus in the beginning. When in your life have you hesitated reaching out to God?
- Have you been redeemed from sins but fallen back into them? How has it felt returning to sin?
- As you prepare your children to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, how can you encourage them to return to God?

- Jesus responds to Mary with mercy. Do you feel His mercy towards you in your life? How can you show Jesus' mercy to your child(ren)?

Closing Prayer

Sign of the Cross

Lord God, we thank you for this intentional time together on retreat. We know you are present with us each day. We ask for the gift of the Holy Spirit to continue to guide us as we near the day of our First Reconciliation. Help us to prepare our hearts and turn to You - so that as a lost sheep we feel confident in Your joy and understanding. Amen. Our Lady of Light, Pray for us. Live Jesus in our Hearts, Forever.

Sign of the Cross

Next steps:

1. Please complete this [survey](#) to give us feedback on this retreat experience
2. Complete your First Reconciliation and email [Jill Irlbeck](#) when you have this completed.
3. You were sent emails from Jill Irlbeck with your assignments for First Communion Retreat and Mass - please make sure you have these on your calendars.

Optional Resources:

- Watch our Teen Volunteers give a [Mock Confession](#)
- Watch a [Teen Testimony - by Anna Beeler](#)
- [Divine Mercy Chaplet](#) - pray together as a family
- [Advent Family Ideas](#) - get the most out of this holy season
- [My First Confession guide](#) - fill out this guide with the help of your examination of conscience and take it with you to your First Reconciliation to help you