

WHAT WILL HAPPEN ON FIRST RECONCILIATION DAY?



Your child has been assigned to a specific date for First Reconciliation: Jan. 12 or Jan. 26. Each service (not a Mass) will begin *promptly* at 11am. Please be punctual. You may request to switch your assigned date however, the Faith Formation Office needs to know **no later than Dec. 5 in writing only**.

All children should arrive no later *than 10:50am*. For those children who have been selected, by lot, to do a reading please check in with Mrs. Peterson. We will have an extra copy of each reading there so your child does not need to worry about forgetting it.

Children will sit with their families, not with their class. Everyone should *sit only in the center section*, so as to preserve the privacy of the reconciliation stations. There are no assigned benches and there are not enough benches so that each family will have their own, so please be aware that you will be *sharing your bench* with another family.

There will be a number of roped-off benches in the back. Again, this is to maintain privacy during the individual confessions. Please do not move the ropes, or sit in these areas.

Most children wear "Sunday best" for their First Reconciliation. Many wear their special outfits from Christmas. Sweats or sports uniforms would be inappropriate on this special occasion.

We will have a group Examination of Conscience, which will be in the program, during which we will reflect on how some of our actions may have hurt God or others.

Memorizing the Act of Contrition will not be necessary on that day. We will have a group Act of Contrition, which will be in the program. Additionally, we will have small prayer cards for the First Reconciliation Children to use as aids if they are given prayers as a penance.

Once your child has received the Sacrament all are invited downstairs to the Gathering Space for an ice cream celebration. **Please note** there is no formal dismissal from the Reconciliation Service, you are free to leave the church after your child has celebrated the Sacrament.

Family members are invited and encouraged to receive the sacrament as well, however please wait until after all of the First Reconciliation Children have received.

Please leave the Church by the SACRISTY/TABERNACLE DOOR ONLY. Please do not walk down the side aisles, as there will be confessions going on in those areas.

Please maintain a reverent atmosphere throughout the service either through singing or in silence. It can be tempting to 'just whisper', but all those little whispers add up and it can really spoil the sacramental nature of the morning.

There is NO photography or videography allowed at any time during the service. Please turn off all cell phones upon entering the Church. We want all the children to be able to celebrate this sacrament privately and without distraction. There will be an opportunity for photos after *all people* (not just your family) have been to confession and the priests have left the reconciliation stations.



It will be a beautiful celebration of the Sacrament for you and your child!

Please call the Faith Formation Office, 617-696-1388, with any questions or concerns regarding your child's First Reconciliation.

Beth Peterson and Jenn Caputo