

Sacrament of Reconciliation Resources

(Other than USCCB approved textbook series)

Books

- Bowman, Peg. At Home with the Sacraments: Reconciliation. Mystic, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 1991.
Aids parents in addressing personal feelings of anxiety, fear, and confusion concerning the preparation of their children for the sacrament of reconciliation.
- Costello, Gwen. Reconciliation Services for Children: 18 Prayer Services to Celebrate God's Forgiveness. Mystic, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 1997.
This book of ready-to-use reconciliation services will enable catechists and teachers to spend less time planning the service itself, and more time preparing the children to receive the sacrament. For children who are either preparing for first reconciliation or who regularly receive the sacrament. (Grades 2-6)
- Murphy, Doris. Learning Centers for First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and the Whole Community. New London, CT: Twenty-third Publications, 2007.
These thirty-seven creative and formative learning centers prepare children and their families for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. At each learning center they share church teaching, Scripture, prayers, conversation, and a fun activity that reinforces the teaching. The author also offers eight "gatherings" for the whole community that help children experience the learning centers with the support of the wider parish community.
- Regan, Jane and Mimi McReavy Bitzan. Gathering Together: First Celebrations of Reconciliation and Eucharist. Chicago, IL: Loyola Press, 2004.
This resource-rich, easy-to-implement faith formation program is for use with parents whose children are preparing to celebrate First Reconciliation and Eucharist. 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 retreats for parents and their children.
- White, Anna & Joseph White. Teach It! Penance and Reconciliation. Huntington, IN: Our Sunday Visitor, 2004.
This one-of-a-kind resource tool contains multisensory learning activities that can be used as a supplement to your curriculum or to craft sacramental preparation sessions or retreats. The active-learning approaches are custom designed (and classroom tested!) for students in grades 1-4 and are perfect for First Reconciliation and beyond.

Online

- Mary Jo Tully. Family-Centered Sacramental Preparation. (Part II of an online article) Oregon Catholic Press, 2008. <http://www.ocp.org/resources/tlc>
- Fr. Thomas Weinandy. Let the Children Come: The Sacrament of Reconciliation and Children. USCCB, 2008.
<http://www.usccb.org/lent/2008/Examenchildren.pdf>
- Rev. Thomas M. Casey, O.S.A., Preparing for Confession: Taking Your Spiritual Temperature. (Youth Update) St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2004.
<http://www.americancatholic.org/Newsletters/YU/ay0491.asp>

Videos/DVD

For young people:

- A Child's First Penance (DVD/VHS: 20 minutes; Liguori Publications)

Set a positive tone for first penance classes with this uplifting look at the sacrament. Join Father Joe Kempf and a class of second graders as they learn about God's love for us--and how the rite of reconciliation is a very good way to show our love for God, too. This video offers a sound, well-rounded presentation that will help children understand the basic concepts of sin and forgiveness, realize the importance of the sacrament to their lives, and view penance as a positive experience. This video also includes helpful instructions on how to participate in the rite of reconciliation.
- Angel's Sacrament Lesson, The (DVD/VHS: 11 minutes; Twenty-third Publications, 2004)

This video covers all seven sacraments and gives children background information as well as the theology of the sacraments. This is excellent for faith formation sessions, intergenerational gatherings, and home use. (Ages 7-10)
- Angel's First Reconciliation Lesson, The (DVD/VHS: 12 minutes; Twenty-third Publications, 2007)

Video offers children information about friendship with Jesus, forgiveness, and the Rite of Penance, and it walks with children through the various steps of the rite. Angels Michaela and Andre first talk to the children about friendship and how it can be damaged or destroyed. They then talk about Jesus as the best friend of all, who loves us and forgives us when we fail. The angels show children how to make an examination of conscience before receiving the sacrament of reconciliation and then describe in detail the steps of the Rite. This presentation is primarily for children preparing for first reconciliation.
- Celebrating Our Faith: Reconciliation-Children (VHS: Various; Harcourt, 2000)

This six-episode video helps prepare children to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation using puppets, demonstrations, and stories to teach the message. 1) We Belong – 7 min, 2) We Celebrate God's Word (Experience the forgiving love of God.) – 4 min, 3) We Hear Good News (The Good Shepherd story.) – 6 min, 4) We Look at Our Lives – 5 min, 5) We Ask Forgiveness (Walk through Rite of Reconciliation) – 8 min, 6) Remembering and Giving Thanks – 4 min. Study guide.
- First Reconciliation: A Family Journey (VHS: 15 minutes; Videos with Values, Oblate Media and Communication Corp. 2006)

Engaging new program tells youngsters everything they need to know (but were afraid to ask) 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. They will hear the questions of a diverse collection of youngsters and then see them participate in their own First Reconciliation service. Part 2 shows family activities that are fun and easy ways to prepare students and families for this important step in their child's faith journey. (Grades 2-6)
- God Wants Me To Forgive Them?!? (Veggie Tales) (DVD: 30 minutes; Big Idea, 2004)

The Grapes of Wrath is a story of cranky grapes making fun of Jr. Asparagus and how Jr. comes to forgive them. All learn the meaning of forgiving seventy times seven. Larry's Lagoon tells the story of a three-hour boat tour that ends in a crash on an uncharted tropical island. Can the passengers and Skipper Bob forgive Larry,

the absent minded first mate for his mistake? They all discover the real reasons God wants us to forgive.

- Preparing Children for Reconciliation...in Four Creative Ways (DVD: 40 minutes; Twenty-third Publications, 2008)

Four time-tested programs are included on this DVD that can be viewed in any order and at any time in the Sacrament of Reconciliation preparation time. Included are: *Handle With Care* (9 min); *Ricky's First Reconciliation* (9 min); *Kevin's Temptation* (8 min); and *Reconciliation: Celebrating Forgiveness* (for parents - 14 min) p.. *Handle with Care* offers children five moral dilemmas. Study Guide. (Grades 2-5)

- Sacraments, The (DVD: 62 minutes; Twenty-Third Publications, 2008)

Through story and ritual Gaynell Cronin and Father Jack Rathschmidt explore the sacraments as signs of God's love and care for us in five programs. (Grades 5-8)

We Belong: Baptism and Confirmation (14 min.) Scenes of actual Baptism and Confirmation are woven into this story of welcoming and joining.

We Feed: Eucharist (12 min.) Interspersed throughout this story are lessons about how the Eucharist feeds the hunger in us all.

We Forgive: Reconciliation (12 min.) Explains how through reconciliation we recognize that we must change, ask forgiveness of those we hurt and celebrate God's mercy and forgiveness through the Church.

We Commit: Marriage and Holy Orders (12 min.) This story explores married life and the ordained priesthood as vocations of life-long commitment and service.

We Care: Anointing of the Sick (12 min.) Through this sacrament, we learn that we are not alone in our struggles.

- Selfish Giant, The (VHS: 12 Minutes; Pyramid, 1993)

This faithful adaptation of Oscar Wilde's fairy tale is animated in a colorful, naturalistic style. It is a tale about a giant who builds a wall around his garden to keep the village children out. To his surprise, the selfish giant discovers the wall also keeps out love, warmth, and springtime. Years later, when the giant is old and feeble, a small boy returns to lead him to His garden-paradise. It is the Christ Child. Study guide (Ages 7- 10)

- We Forgive: Reconciliation (VHS: 11 minutes; St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2002)

Through story and ritual Gaynell Cronin and Father Jack Rathschmidt look at the sacraments as signs of God's love and care for us. Each video in this 5-part series includes a story using a racially and ethnically diverse group of children. Sometimes, we act in unloving ways and our relationships with friends and family falter. Through reconciliation we recognize that we must change, ask forgiveness of those we hurt and celebrate God's mercy and forgiveness through the Church. In the story Maria is upset about the way Alex and Jamie are always fighting when they play games. Carlos tells her it is just the way with boys—they are not serious. Maria doesn't care—serious or not—it makes all the people around them not feel good. She decides to do something about it and confronts them. They admit their wrong and Maria and Kim get the group to attend a penance service and all feel better and relieved after their confession. (Grades 5-8)

For adults/parents:

- Celebrating Our Faith: Reconciliation-Families (VHS: 39 minutes; Twenty-Third Publications, 1993)

As children begin to prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, they have a great opportunity to come to know a God who loves them more than anyone could ever

imagine. This video is for use either at parent meetings or in the home. Fr. Kempf provides a wonderful perspective on the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and offers suggestions for helping prepare children for the great gift. 1) Forgiveness of God – 24 min, 2) Rite of Reconciliation – 18 min, 3) Role of Guardians – 7 min, 4) Prayer Meditation – 9 min. Excellent study guide, prayer service, suggestions for activities at home.

- Celebrating Reconciliation With Families (VHS: 58 minutes; Harcourt Religion, 1999)

In four segments that vary in length, Fr. Joe Kempf gives a perspective on the sacrament and provides suggestions for helping children receive this gift.

- Church Celebrates the Reconciling God, The (VHS: 31 minutes; St. Anthony Messenger Press, 1999)

This Catholic Update video features segments that focus on the history, theology and practice of the sacrament.

- Preparing Your Child For Reconciliation (VHS: 25 minutes; St. Anthony Messenger Press, 1999)

This is one tape of a six-video series. This video focuses on God's love and forgiveness. The tapes may be viewed individually or as a group. The series explores some practical answers while helping parents to go on a faith journey as a family. Gaynell Cronin introduces and narrates each video. She explores the role of parents as the primary religious educators in the life of a child. Cronin reminds us that "faith is caught not taught." Perfect for sacramental preparation classes and family ministry. high school and adults.

- Preparing Your Child for First Reconciliation (DVD: 31 Minutes; Ikonographics, 1999) (Catholic Update Video Series)

This DVD supplements parish sacramental programs with story and music for the child, witness and teaching for parents, and models for parish programs in the leader's guide. The story, *The Festival Fabric*, which tells of two children who, learning that their misdeeds affect their family, realize that they must seek reconciliation. This film encourages parents to share the Good News of God's reconciliation with their children.

- Sacrament Of Reconciliation: Past and Present (VHS: 39 minutes; Twenty-Third Publications, 1991)

This informative presentation is recommended for adult study groups, RCIA teams, and parish leaders. This video also provides parents of children preparing to receive the sacrament with an understanding of how the sacrament of reconciliation has developed and changed within the history of the church. Chesto talks about concept of sin and forgiveness in the Church starting from Hebrew times to post Vatican II.