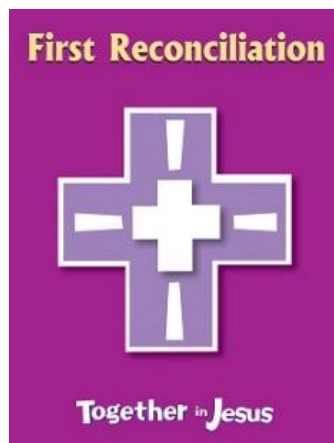


## St. Mary's Basilica FIRST RECONCILIATION PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Our sacramental preparation program for First Reconciliation, designed for second grade and above, is called *Together in Jesus*. The program consists of six integrated component that you and your child will need to complete before receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation:



- Classroom Component
- Family Component
- Online Learning Component
- Prayer Component
- Service and Retreat Components

*Together in Jesus* First Reconciliation program has been integrated into the Children's Ministry program on Sundays to alleviate the need for families to participate on a separate night at St. Mary's Basilica. Because of this accommodation you can only miss three Sunday classes and need to attend all First Reconciliation classes.

### Classroom Component

Our sacramental preparation program for First Reconciliation is called *Together in Jesus*. Your child will explore six lessons throughout the year in their classroom:

1. We belong to a loving community.
2. We belong to a community that keeps God's Ten Commandments.
3. We belong to a community that acts as Jesus teaches in the Sermon on the Mount.
4. God is forgiving like the father of the prodigal son and call us to be a forgiving people.
5. Jesus on the first Easter evening gives his followers the power of the Spirit so that they can forgive people's sins.
6. We celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

To preview a sample lesson "We belong to a loving community" visit:

<http://cart.pflaum.com/preview/First-Reconciliation-Preview/>

### Family Component

These six lessons will also be explored within your family setting too. We recognize that what goes on in your home is the most important part of the preparation for First Reconciliation. We also recognize that parents and caregivers are tremendously busy these days, so our goal is to assist you in making First Reconciliation preparation an enjoyable part of your family activities.

*Together in Jesus* provides three sources of support and involvement for parents and caregivers. These resources are:

- **Questions Parents Ask About First Reconciliation**

This special handout answers questions parents and caregivers frequently ask and seeks to update them on the theology of Reconciliation.

- **Family Focus Poster**

*Together in Jesus* provides a special poster to display at home on your refrigerator or elsewhere and to be used as a focal point for family involvement in your child's First Reconciliation preparation. This poster features a parent / child activity for each of the programs six lessons that you will complete with your child.

- **Prayer Celebrations**

*Teaching Guide* contains short prayer celebrations on the reconciliation themes of each lesson in the *Together in Jesus* program. Parents can use these short prayer services at home during the weeks their children are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

## Online Learning Component

*Together in Jesus* provides six interactive computer games. These six interactive games coordinate with the six lessons in *Together in Jesus* First Reconciliation program. The games, which children and parents can play together, reinforce the themes and concepts of each lesson. We ask your child to play each game until they can consistently score a perfect score. The following Computer Games are:

- The Loving Action Meter (Lesson 1)
- The Ten Commandments (Lesson 2)
- Love as God Loves (Lesson 3)
- The Prodigal Son Goes Home (Lesson 4)
- Words That Help Us Heal (Lesson 5)
- Reconciliation Review (Lesson 6)

Visit the following link to play the interactive games: [www.pflaum.com/reconciliation](http://www.pflaum.com/reconciliation)



## Prayer Component

Please work with your child to help them memorize the following prayers that correspond to the six lesson in *Together in Jesus* First Reconciliation program.

### Month of September

#### Sing of the Cross

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

#### Glory Be

Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end.  
Amen.

### Month of October

#### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
Amen.

### Month of November

#### Ten Commandments

1. I am the Lord, your God; you shall have no other gods besides me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.

3. Keep holy the Lord's day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's good.

### Month of December

#### The Hail Mary

Hail, Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou among women  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death.  
Amen.

### Month of January

#### 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.



## Service Component

We request that your child and his or her family engage in 5 hours of parish or community service. This serves as a reminder that when we practice the corporal and spiritual works of mercy we make satisfaction for the temporal punishment due to our sins. Opportunities for services will be made available throughout the year.

## Retreat Component

A retreat for children and their parents preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation is planned for a Saturday morning. This is to be a time to reflect upon the Church's teachings on the Sacrament of Reconciliation in language suited to the children's age level. **A time of prayer and practice for the sacramental experience will also be included in this retreat.**

**Date:** Saturday, February 18, 2017

**Time:** 9 AM to 1 PM

**Location:** St. Mary's Basilica, Social Hall

## Child's Readiness

The Diocese of Phoenix states, "Parents and the parish catechetical leader, together with the pastor are responsible for determining when children are ready to receive First Reconciliation." The Diocese of Phoenix has provided the following criteria for readiness:

- An awareness that God loves them.
- Regular participation in Sunday Mass. (Determined by participation in CLOW.)
- Prayer as a part of the child's life and also experienced within their family.
- A growing ability to distinguish between accidents and the right and wrong choices they make.
- A capacity for sincere sorrow and ability to change their actions.
- The ability to express sorrow for sin.
- A knowledge that relationships with God and others can be broken through sin.
- An understanding that the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation is a special sign of God's forgiveness.

*Together in Jesus* First Reconciliation program at St. Mary's Basilica has been designed to fulfill the requirements put forth in the *Diocese of Phoenix Sacrament of First Confession Policy and Guidelines 2006*. By completing the components of preparation your child will meet the above criteria for readiness to receive First Reconciliation.

In addition, the Diocese of Phoenix also requires that children in First Reconciliation preparation be involved in the parish's on-going catechetical formation program (Children's Ministry). However, to assist overscheduled families we have integrated First Reconciliation preparation into our Children's Ministry program on Sundays to alleviate the need for families to participate on a separate night at St. Mary's Basilica. Because of this accommodation we ask your child only miss three Sunday classes and attend all six First Reconciliation lessons.