

## St. Mary's Basilica FIRST RECONCILIATION PROGRAM REQUIRMENTS 2023-2024

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



- Classroom Component with Parent / Caregiver
- Family Component
- Prayer Component
- Service Component
- Retreat Component

### Classroom Component

Our sacramental preparation program for First Reconciliation is called *Together in Jesus*. You and your child together will explore six lessons with a catechist in a classroom setting:

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. I Belong to a Loving Community.     | <b>September 10, 2023</b> |
| 2. We Keep God's Commandments.         | <b>October 8, 2023</b>    |
| 3. We Can Act Like Jesus.              | <b>November 12, 2023</b>  |
| 4. Jesus Teaches us to Forgive.        | <b>December 10, 2023</b>  |
| 5. Jesus Gives us the Holy Spirit.     | <b>January 14, 2024</b>   |
| 6. I Prepare for First Reconciliation. | <b>February 11, 2024</b>  |

**For a parent home guide for each lesson visit:**

<https://www.pflaum.com/bonus-resources-files/sacramentap-preparation/parents/TIJ-Home-Guide-Reconciliation.pdf>

### Family Component

These six lessons will be explored within your family setting. 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 at home. These resources are:

- **Questions Parents Ask About First Reconciliation**

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

- **Family Focus Poster**

*Together in Jesus* provides a poster to display at home, on your refrigerator, or elsewhere, and is 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 program's six lessons. **You will complete these activities with your child and bring them back to class on their due date.**

Lesson 1: **Due October 8<sup>th</sup>**

Lesson 2: **Due November 12<sup>th</sup>**

Lesson 3: **Due December 10<sup>th</sup>**

Lesson 4: **Due January 14<sup>th</sup>**

Lesson 5: **Due February 11<sup>th</sup>**

Lesson 6: **Due March 10<sup>th</sup>**

- **Prayer Celebrations**

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



*As often as you did it for one  
of my least brothers, you did  
it for me.*

## Prayer Component

Please work with your child to help them memorize the following prayers that correspond to the six lessons in the *Together in Jesus* program. **Your child will recite their memorized prayer to their catechist (teacher) to fulfill this requirement.**

### Memorized by October 8<sup>th</sup> Class.

#### Sing of the Cross

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

### Memorized by November 12<sup>th</sup> Class.

#### 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.

### Memorized by December 10<sup>th</sup> Class.

#### 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.

### Memorized by January 14<sup>th</sup> Class.

#### 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.

### Memorized by February 5<sup>th</sup> Class.

#### Act of Contrition

My God,  
I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.  
In choosing to do wrong  
and in failing to do good,  
I have sinned against you  
whom I should love above all things.  
I firmly intend, with your help,  
to do penance,  
to sin no more,  
and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.  
Our Savior Jesus Christ  
Suffered and died for us.  
In his name, my God, have mercy.  
Amen.



## Service Component

**Your child and his or her family will engage in 8 hours of parish service.** St. Mary's Basilica will make available opportunities for service throughout the year. **Fill out the *Community Service Forms* and return them to your catechist upon completion by March 10, 2024.**

## Retreat Component

A retreat/rehearsal for children and their parents preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation is planned during a Sunday morning class. This is to be a time to reflect upon the Church's teachings on the Sacrament of Reconciliation and rehearse the liturgy.

**Date:** Sunday, March 10, 2024  
**Time:** 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM  
**Location:** Diocesan Pastoral Center

## 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 attendance at CLOW.)**
- Prayer as a part of the child's life and experience within their family. **(Determined by reciting memorized prayers to the catechist.)**
- A growing ability to distinguish between accidents and the right and wrong choices they make.
- A capacity for sincere sorrow and the 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 requires that children in First Reconciliation preparation be involved in the parish's ongoing catechetical formation program (Children's Faith Formation). To assist overscheduled families we have integrated First Reconciliation preparation into our faith formation program to alleviate the need for families to participate on a separate night. **Because of this accommodation, your child may only miss three (3) Sunday Sessions and may only miss one (1) First Reconciliation session. However, you will need to complete the missed reconciliation session assignments.** Thank you for your support in this matter.