

## **Sacrament of Reconciliation or First Reconciliation**

Preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (also known as Penance) for the first time is an exciting time. It is a time for focus on God's mercy, how we forgive among our family, friends, and community, and how we celebrate forgiveness. Children of the parish who are in second grade or up are invited to begin the formal preparation to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation, one of the two Sacraments of Healing, is an encounter with Jesus that forgives sins and restores us to grace.

### **Requirements to start preparation**

- Child must be in second grade or up.
- Children must have regularly attended faith formation classes the year prior to preparation and be attending regularly the year they prepare for this sacrament.
- Holy Family must have on file a copy of the baptismal certificate (or other acceptable proof of baptism) of each child preparing for the Sacrament of First Eucharist before completion of the preparation. If a family no longer has a copy of the child's original certificate, the parish of baptism can be directly contacted to request a copy (note that most churches require a few weeks notice).
- If a child was baptized in another faith tradition, parent must contact the office before the start of the preparation.