

# Reconciliation Lesson Plan Objectives

After this lesson/these lessons, students will be able to understand and express:

## SACRAMENT

- What a sacrament is and how it makes a change in us
- What the Sacrament of Penance is and its alternate names
- How the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, and Holy Communion are connected.

## SIN

- What sin is and how we take part in it through our actions and our non-actions.
- The different types of sin
- How the Sacrament of Penance addresses sin

## RECONCILIATION

- Why the Sacrament of Penance is important in the life of the Church
- How to prepare for the Sacrament of Penance
- A general understanding of the Rite
- What happens to us after receiving the Sacrament of Penance

If time permits, you can do this all in one lesson or split it up over the course of 3 lessons.

## SUGGESTIONS:

-Talk with your pastor (and sacristan) to arrange a tour of the reconciliation room in your church to get students.

- Look at the [Rite of Penance](#) and/or find a resource which contains alternate Acts of Contrition (nos. 85-92)

Online resource: <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/p-6-rite-of-penance.html>

-Have a priest of your parish/school come to your class and talk about the Sacrament of Penance from his perspective.

*NOTE: It would be highly encouraged if this priest was pastoral in nature and someone who can help an elementary school student see the importance in participating in the sacrament and doing so on a regular basis.*

*As a teacher or catechist, talk with the priest ahead of time and ask them to talk about:*

- *In general terms, what he experiences in listening to people confess their sins.*
- *What he sees himself as through the Sacrament*
- *How it feels for him to offer absolution and forgiving sins in Jesus' name.*
- *Tips/suggestions for students as they prepare*

Archdiocese of New Orleans  
Office of Religious Education

# SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

## CATECHESIS

### MIDDLE SCHOOL LEVEL [Grades 4 – 7]

#### OPENING PRAYER [See Opening Prayer Handout]

*NOTE: Song listed is a suggestion. You can substitute the song for one that your students know.*

#### PART I- SACRAMENT

##### VOCABULARY

**EFFECTIVE:** To bring about what a sign represents.

**SACRAMENT:** A effective sign given to us by Jesus through which we share in God's life.

**SACRAMENT OF PENANCE:** When we receive and celebrate God's forgiveness of our sins. Also called the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Confession or Forgiveness.

**SANCTIFYING GRACE:** The gift we receive in sharing in God's life through the sacraments.

[SIGNS & SACRAMENTS HANDOUT] Have children answer the following question:

**What do the following signs on the left hand side of the sheet mean?:**

Signs tell us about something. They can be objects. They can be people or events.

In the life of our Church, we celebrate signs that tell us about God's love. They are different from the other celebrations, though. There are seven special celebrations that the Church calls **SACRAMENTS**.

The sacraments are more than just a signal to do something. They are **effective**, that is, they bring about what the sign represents. The sacraments are actions that remind us Jesus gave us these sacraments to tell us how he loves us and wants us to share in God's own life. They also make Jesus, risen from the dead, and alive in heaven with the Father and Holy Spirit, present among us in our celebration. God makes us holy through these sacraments. When we are made holy, we share in the life of God, or we receive **sanctifying grace**.

Through that sanctifying grace, God makes a change in us. God enters our essence and makes us new

We gather as a Church community to celebrate these sacraments. We become stronger in faith. We grow as followers of Jesus.

ASK: What are the signs of the Seven Sacraments of the Church? [See Signs & Sacraments handout.]

ASK: What are the signs of the Seven Sacraments of the Church?  
*Write them down on the board/screen.*

**Baptism:** We become members of the Church after we are washed with holy water.

**Confirmation:** We receive the full power of the Holy Spirit through the bishop laying hands on us and making the Sign of the Cross on our foreheads with a holy oil.

**Eucharist:** We receive Jesus into our bodies when we eat the Body and drink the Blood of Jesus. Also called "Holy Communion."

**Holy Orders:** A man say "Yes" to taking care of the Church we love as a priest or deacon and the bishop lays their hands on their head anoints the priest or deacon's hands with holy oil.

**Marriage:** We say "Yes" to taking care of someone we love as a husband or wife by exchanging promises to love, honor, and cherish the other and exchanging rings.

**Penance:** God forgives us of the sins we tell to the priest and gives us God's peace.

**Anointing of the Sick:** When someone is sick or may be dying soon, the priest prays that they may be healed in body, mind, and spirit and puts holy oil on their hands.

Today, we're going to focus on one of the Seven Sacraments in particular: **THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE.**

What are some of the other names for the Sacrament of Penance? **Reconciliation, Confession, and Forgiveness.**

What does "reconciliation" mean? **Reconciliation means to come back together. The Sacrament is a coming back together of God and us.**

Confession is the telling our our sins to a priest in order to ask for God to forgive them because we are sorry for what we did and we do not want to sin again.

Forgiveness is God healing us and helping us learn how to love. The Sacrament of Penance is one of the 'sacraments of healing', along with Anointing of the Sick.

The Sacrament is not about the "math" of our sins or "turning ourselves in" to be justly sentenced, like a criminal would by police and judges. God loves us so much that the math never adds up and God's mercy is not about punishing us like a parent who is angry with us. Rather, it is about experiencing God's love that is able to look past the things we have done that are wrong, working together with God to heal our relationship, and learning how to love others like God loves us in the future.

The Sacrament of Penance is one of three sacraments (Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of the Sick) that we can receive on a "regular" basis or should receive more than once. What is so important about these 3 that we can do that?

With the Anointing of the Sick, we can prepare for our potential journey home to be with God. With the Eucharist, we can continually share in the life of Christ and of his Church. With the Sacrament of Penance, we can experience God's mercy which opens us up to the fullness of the other sacraments.

## PART 2 – SIN AND FORGIVENESS

### VOCABULARY

**CONSCIENCE:** God's gift to help us know if something we do is good or not good.

**CONVERSION:** Turning to God with all of our heart.

**FREE WILL:** The ability to choose what we want to do.

**MERCY:** God's immense love and forgiveness of us and our sins.

**MORTAL SIN:** Serious sins we commit. They cut off our friendship with God and prevent us from sharing in God's life and God's grace.

**SIN:** A thought, word, omission or act that we freely choose to do even though we know it is wrong.

**SIN OF COMMISSION:** Our choice to do something we should not.

**SIN OF OMISSION:** Our choice to not do something we should.

**TEMPTATION:** An attraction to choose sin.

**TEN COMMANDMENTS:** Special laws given to us by God that are guides for what to do and what not to do in order to be in a loving relationship with God.

**VENIAL SIN:** Sins that are less serious than mortal sins. They hurt our relationship with God, but don't completely break it off like mortal sins do.

The Sacrament of Penance focuses on when **we receive and celebrate God's forgiveness of our sins**. While it is more important to pay attention to the graces we receive from God forgiving our sins (mercy, healing, a restored relationship with God and with our community,) we do need to understand why we need forgiveness in the first place. We are human, we sometimes make bad choices, and we sin.

What is **SIN**? **A thought, word, or act that we freely choose to do even though we know it is wrong.**

When we're looking at our sins in the Sacrament of Penance, we should be asking the question "How did I get here?" Instead of blaming other people or things for our sins, what did I do to sin? What are the reasons for my choice to do something wrong?

Sins can happen both by **our choice to do something we should not (sin of commission)** and by **not doing something we should (sin of omission)**.

In creating man and woman, God gave us the gift of **free will**, or the ability to choose what we want to do.

Adam and Eve, the first man and woman, chose not to listen to God and because they didn't listen, they lost the chance to share in God's life. This is called **original sin**. We are born with original sin and have it washed away when we are baptized.

Over time, God saw that his people were hurting each other and not living in a way that showed that they loved him or each other. To help, God gave us special laws called the **Ten Commandments**. These can be found in the Book of Exodus and the Jewish people used these as guides for what to do and what not to do.

They are:

1. *I am the LORD your God: you shall not have strange Gods before me.*
2. *You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.*
3. *Remember to keep holy the LORD'S Day.*
4. *Honor your mother and father.*
5. *You shall not kill.*
6. *You shall not commit adultery. (When you're married, don't love anyone else like you do your spouse.)*
7. *You shall not steal.*
8. *You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. (Don't lie.)*
9. *You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.*
10. *You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.*

We still use the Ten Commandments in our lives as Catholic as a guide to measure if what we are doing is right or wrong.

**ACTIVITY:** The Ten Commandments may seem a lot like a parent telling us "Don't do this!" or "Don't do that!" Sometimes, it helps to reframe the Commandments as positive invitations from God to show our for him and for each other.

Look at each Commandment and rewrite them as the positive response to what "you shall not" do.

For example:

You shall not kill → Every human life is a gift from me and a reflection of my image and likeness in the world. Help me to protect life.

Jesus learned and lived these laws growing up following the Jewish faith. During his ministry on earth, he combined them into two commandments:

1. *Love the Lord God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength.*
2. *Love your neighbor as yourself.*

These laws of God and teachings of Jesus help us to train our **conscience**, which is God's gift to help us know if something we do is good or not good.

ASK: Tell us (or write/draw) about a time when you chose to do something you knew you weren't supposed to do.

What did you do?

What were you thinking before that choice?

How did you feel after your choice?

What did you do after that?

Tell us (or write/draw) about a time when you chose to do something you knew you was the right thing to do. This time could be an easy choice or a very difficult one.

What did you do?

What were you thinking before that choice?

How did you feel after your choice?

What did you do after that?

If we keep the commandments, then we are doing and what God asks us to do. If we don't, those are moments or occasions of sin.

When these sins are *serious*, they are **mortal sins**. They *cut off our friendship with God and prevent us from sharing in God's life and God's grace*. If we have committed a mortal sin, the Church teaches that we are to:

1. Confess to this sin/these sins in the Sacrament of Penance as soon as possible.
2. Avoid receiving the Eucharist at Mass. (Choosing to receive the Eucharist while not in, what the Church calls, "a state of grace" is a sinful choice.)

Sins that are *less serious* are **venial sins**. They *hurt our relationship with God, but don't completely break it off* like mortal sins do.

When we sin, we don't only hurt our relationship with God, but with our Church family, too.

Like the Prodigal Son in Jesus' parable, we need to recognize our sins and return to God with all of our heart. The turning back to God is known as **conversion**. We experience conversion throughout our lives and this is good, because conversion is a sign that we are growing in our spirituality and our understanding of God.

It is important to remember that, even though we may sin, **God never stops loving us** and **God will always forgive us if we are truly sorry for what we have done**. In both cases, the Sacrament of Penance restores our relationship with God. Through God's **mercy**, or **his immense love and forgiveness of us and of our sins**, we are always forgiven if we are truly sorry.

## PART 3 – THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

### VOCABULARY

**ABSOLUTION:** The words and action of the priest praying over us and forgiving us our sins in Jesus' name.

**ACT OF CONTRITION:** A prayer we offer in the Sacrament of Penance that expresses our contrition for the sins we have confessed.

**CONTRITION:** When we feel sorry for having done what we did and promise not to sin again.

**EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE:** Time in silence and prayer taken before celebrating the Sacrament of Penance to think about the ways we have not shown God and others our love and sinned.

**PENANCE:** A prayer or kind act we are to do to make up for our sins we are sorry for.

**PENITENT:** The person seeking God's forgiveness.

**RECONCILIATION ROOM:** A special room in a church made for people to come and take part in the Sacrament of Penance. Also called a **confessional**.

#### Here's a story:

One day at lunch, you are sitting with your friends and one of them says something silly. You respond by saying, "That's stupid!" The others at the table laugh at him or her. Your friend gets angry and moves to another table.

What do you do? (Go to that table, apologize to your friend, say "I won't do that again," and invite him or her to come back to the table.)

Why would you want to do that? (I want to heal the relationship I hurt with my friend.)

The Sacrament of Penance is much like that. When we know we have sinned, we want to repair our relationship with God that we have changed with our actions. These sins also hurt the whole Church, so we want to right what we have wronged through saying and believing we are sorry for what we have done, and doing our best not to sin again.

#### What happens in the Sacrament of Penance?

The Sacrament of Penance takes place in one of two ways: one-on-one with the priest or as part of group with the chance to have each person tell their sins to the priest on their own.

### ***SACRAMENT OF PENANCE FOR AN INDIVIDUAL***

It takes place with a priest. (It is important to remember that only God can forgive us of our sins. We believe that priest acts in the name of Jesus when in the Sacrament of Penance.) Most times, it takes place in a **reconciliation room** or **confessional**, a special room in church made just for people to come for this Sacrament. This room has a door you can close and is built in a way where only the priest hears your sins, not anyone else outside. Most rooms have a chair for you to sit in and talk with the priest face-to-face or, if you would prefer not to be seen, you can kneel in front of a screen.

Before we enter the room, though, we should take some **time in silence and prayer to think about the ways we have not shown God and others our love and sinned**. This is called an **examination of conscience**.

Let's take a look at one:

[see EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE handout]

As we think about the times we have sinned, we should **feel sorry for having done what we did and promise not to sin again**. This is called having **contrition**. We need to have contrition for our sins we are confessing in this sacrament. When we are ready, we are welcomed by the priest and both make the Sign of the Cross.

The priest will then read a story from the Bible that tells us about God's forgiveness. We may hear about how people have asked for God to forgive them in the past by sitting in public spaces wearing sacks, which would be both uncomfortable and humbling, and covering themselves in ashes, to remember that we are creation and depend on God. We may also hear about Jesus and healing not only physical illness or disease, but healing souls by forgiving people's sins.

We then confess our sins. We can be open and honest with the priest because he represents Jesus, who we want to be in a loving relationship with. He cannot tell anyone the sins that we confess to him.

The priest then has a discussion with us about what we can do to make better choices and avoid these sins in the future. He then gives us a **penance**, or a **prayer or kind act we are to do to make up for our sins** after we celebrate the sacrament. In medieval times, people would have worn sacks and/or covered themselves in ashes and ask for peoples' forgiveness, so praying or actions are very manageable!

We then say an **Act of Contrition**. Let's look at our step-by-step sheet for a popular example:

[ACT OF CONTRITION handout]

While this prayer is most commonly used, it is acceptable to make an Act of Contrition using your own words to describe that you are sorry for the sins you have committed and that you promise, as best as you can, to avoid sinning in the future.

**If you were to use your own words for an Act of Contrition, what would you say?**

We then receive **absolution**, or **forgiveness from our sins**. The priest stretches out his right hand or hands and says the following words to us:

**"God the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church may God grant you pardon and peace and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."**

Together with the priest, we praise and thank God for his love and forgiveness. The priest then tells us to "Go in peace."

**You just heard about the steps of the Sacrament of Penance. How does that make you feel?**

### *SACRAMENT OF PENANCE WITHIN A GROUP*

Sometimes, our parish may hold a Penance service where we pray for God's forgiveness together, then to go by ourselves to confess our sins to the priest one at a time, and finally celebrate God's mercy as members of God's family.

When this takes place:

- We begin with a song and are welcomed by the priest.
- We listen to readings from the Bible about God's love and forgiveness.
- The priest then talks to us about the readings.
- We listen to questions that are part of an examination of conscience and help us to think about the times that we have sinned that we are asking for forgiveness for from God.

- We say a prayer together to tell God that we are sorry for having sinned. Then we pray the Our Father together.
- One by one, we go to the priest and confess our sins. He gives each of us a penance. We receive absolution from the priest for our sins.
- When everyone has finished, we praise and thank God for his mercy.
- The priest blesses us and sends us out to “Go in peace.”

### **You just heard about the steps of the Sacrament of Penance with a group. How does that make you feel?**

What happens after the Sacrament of Penance?

Every time we take part in a sacrament, the hope is that we experience a change deep inside of us. In the case of the Sacrament of Penance, once the priest **absolves** us, or, **in a way, washes away our sins and we** complete our penance, our souls are clean and we are back to our loving relationship with God and with our brothers and sisters in our Church family. By entering into this mystery of wrestling with our sins, asking God to forgive us, and then receiving God's mercy, we come to understand a little more of how much God loves us and how important it is to have God forgive us of our sins. We are reminded how we should act the same way to others.

Remember, after we confess our sins, the priest gives us some sort of penance to do. It can be a prayer, prayers or some sort of kind act. Once we have been absolved, it is a good idea to complete our penance right away. If we are asked to pray, it is best say your prayers right in church. Looking at Jesus on the crucifix while you pray can help remind you how much God loves you. Looking at images of Mary or the saints while you pray can remind you that there are people in heaven who can help pray for us to not sin again in the future. If we have some act to do, do it as soon as you can.

Having received this, or any, sacrament, it is the Church's hope that there is a change in your being after having taken part in Reconciliation. Do you feel like a new person, or does something still not feel right?

While we may do what we are asked to do in the Sacrament of Penance, sometimes the best way to be fully reconciled to God is to be reconciled with the people is to go above what is asked and seek forgiveness from the people we've hurt by our actions. Jesus once taught his disciples: “Should anyone press you into service for one mile, go with him for two miles.” [Mt 5:41] **Is there something you can do to right the wrongs of**

**the sins you confessed?** For example, if you were mean to someone or spread gossip about them, can you tell them the truth and ask them to forgive you? Or, if you broke something and lied about not doing it, can you work to get the money to replace or repair what you broke? While we are forgiven by God when we confess our sins, “going the extra mile” through our actions helps us to be fully forgiven and re-accepted by our family in faith.

**Why is it important to ask other people for forgiveness? Why is it important to forgive others?**

**Any questions?**

**CLOSING PRAYER [See *Closing Prayer* Handout]**

# OPENING PRAYER

**SONG:** *Suggested*

**READING:** *adapted from Luke 15:1-3, 8-10*

**Leader:** One day, tax collectors and sinners were coming to listen to Jesus teach. The leaders of the Temple weren't happy with this, and said,

**Reader 1:** "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

**Leader:** So Jesus told them this story.

**Jesus:** "If you had ten coins...

**Leader:** (In Jesus' time, ten coins would have been worth around \$500.)

**Jesus:** and lost one, wouldn't you light a lamp and sweep the house, searching carefully until you found it? And when you found it, wouldn't reach out to your friends, family, and neighbors and say to them,

**Reader 2:** 'I found the coin that I lost! Let's celebrate!'

**Leader:** Jesus said,

**Jesus:** In just the same way, I tell you, God and his angels will celebrate over one sinner who repents and is sorry for their sins."



*Take a minute or two and think about  
your answer to this question:*

**How does this story help me  
to know more about God's love and  
mercy in my life?**

## **PRAYER**

**Leader:** God our Father, you made us and gave us great value.

**All:** **We are your people and we praise you. Help us to see the great value in each person.**

**Leader:** Jesus, you look for us like a lost coin.

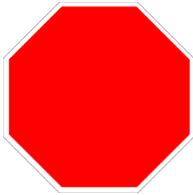
**All:** **You gave your life for us on the cross to save us from sin and death. Open our hearts to know when we are sorry for our sins.**

**Leader:** Holy Spirit, you rejoice with the angels when a sinner asks for forgiveness.

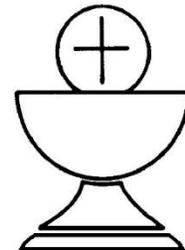
**All:** **Fill us with a desire to turn to you for your mercy. Amen.**

# SIGNS & SACRAMENTS

What do the following signs mean?



What Sacraments do the following signs represent?



# EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

**As you prepare for the Sacrament of Penance, think about the questions below that come from reflecting on the Ten Commandments:**

## RESPONSIBILITY TO GOD

### **I. I am the Lord your God. You shall not have strange gods before me.**

- ◆ Do I give time every day to God in prayer?
- ◆ Do I put my trust in superstitions, good luck charms, rather than God alone?
- ◆ Have I rejected any Church teaching or denied that I was a Catholic?

### **II. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.**

- ◆ Have I used the words "God" or "Jesus" in anger or irreverently?
- ◆ Have I used foul or ugly language? Have I wished evil on another?

### **III. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.**

- ◆ Have I missed Mass on Sunday or any holy day of obligation?

- ◆ Do I arrive at church late or leave early?
- ◆ Do I try to be reverent and pay attention during Mass?
- ◆ Do I avoid unnecessary work on Sunday?
- ◆ Do I make Sunday a day of prayer or rest?

### **IV. Honor your father and your mother. Do I respect and obey my parents?**

- ◆ Have I dishonored or mistreated them by word or deed?
- ◆ Am I willing to help around the house or must I be nagged a hundred times?
- ◆ Do I try to get along with my brothers and sisters?
- ◆ Am I a bully to my siblings?
- ◆ Do I give a good example, especially to younger siblings?
- ◆ Do I respect others in authority: priests, nuns, police, my elders?

## RESPONSIBILITY TO OTHERS

### **V. You shall not kill.**

- ◆ Do I beat up others or hurt their bodies?
- ◆ Do I say cruel things, or make fun of others intending to hurt their feelings?
- ◆ Do I say cruel things about others behind their backs?
- ◆ Have I stopped speaking to anyone?
- ◆ Do I encourage others to do things I know are wrong?
- ◆ Do I try to love all people, born and unborn?

### **VI. You shall not commit adultery.**

- ◆ Do I treat my body and other people's bodies with purity and respect?
- ◆ Do I look at television shows, movies, or pictures that do not respect the human body?

◆ Am I modest in my speech and the clothes I wear?

**VII. You shall not steal.**

- ◆ Have I taken things that were not mine from a store or another person?
- ◆ Have I destroyed or misused another person's property for fun?
- ◆ Do I return things that I borrow? In good condition?

**VIII. You shall not commit false witness against your**

**neighbor.**

- ◆ Am I honest in my school work?
- ◆ Do I tell lies to make myself look good?
- ◆ Do I tell lies to protect myself from punishment?
- ◆ Do I tell lies that make another person look bad or get them in trouble?

**IX. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.**

- ◆ Do I allow my parents to spend time with one another, or do I get jealous and want them to pay attention only to

me? ◆ Do I get mad when I have to share my friends? ◆ Are there kids I will not be friends with or am mean to because they look different?

**X. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.**

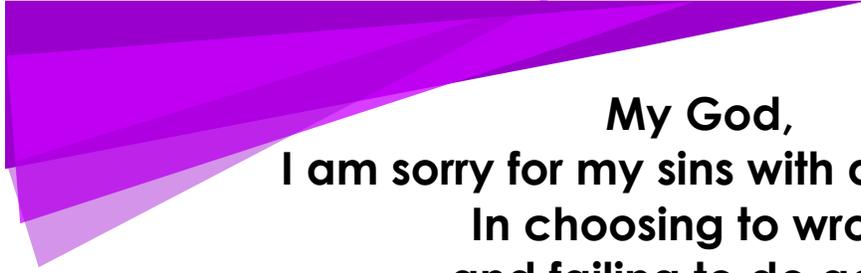
- ◆ Am I jealous or envious of the things or abilities that others have? ◆ Am I thankful to God and my parents for what they have given me? ◆ Do I share the things I have with my family, friends and poor people?

**If the answer to a question is something that wasn't the right thing to do, why is that? These could be sins that you want to talk to the priest about and ask God to forgive you for.**

*Adapted from the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart Cathedral Center – Houston, TX*

## STEP-BY-STEP WITH THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

- 1 Take some time in silence and prayer to think about the ways we have not shown God and others our love and sinned. This is called an **examination of conscience**. [*If you need help, see the EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE handout.*]
- 2 As you think about the times we have sinned, do you feel sorry for them? This is called having **contrition**.
- 3 When you are ready, you are welcomed by the priest and both make the Sign of the Cross.
- 4 The priest will then read a story from the Bible that tells you about God's forgiveness.
- 5 You then **confess** your sins. You can be open and honest with the priest because he represents Jesus, who wants to be in a loving relationship with you. He cannot tell anyone the sins that you confess to him.
- 6 The priest then has a discussion with you about what you can do to make better choices and avoid these sins in the future. He then gives you a **penance**, or a prayer or kind act we are to do to make up for our sins after we celebrate the sacrament.
- 7 To show that you are sorry for the sins you have confessed, the priest asks you to make an **Act of Contrition**. While there a number of them that you can say, here is an act that many people use:



**My God,  
I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.  
In choosing to wrong  
and 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.**

8

You receive **absolution**, or forgiveness from your sins. The priest stretches out his right hand or hands and says the following words to you:

**"God the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church may God grant you pardon and peace and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."**

9

Together with the priest, you praise and thank God for his love and forgiveness. The priest then tells you to "Go in peace."

10

Do the penance that the priest offers you to complete the sacrament. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you not to sin again.

# CLOSING PRAYER

**READING:** *adapted from Matthew 18: 21-22*

**Leader:** One day, Peter asked Jesus:

**Reader 1:** “Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him? As many as seven times?”

**Leader:** Jesus answered:

**Jesus:** “Not seven times, Peter, but seventy-seven times.”



**When we receive God’s  
forgiveness in the Sacrament of  
Penance, we must remember to  
forgive others and be peacemakers.**

*Let us be peacemakers and offer a  
Sign of Peace to each other.*

## **PRAYER**

**Leader:** Let us pray the Our Father together, remembering that Jesus taught us to ask God to forgive us, to help us forgive others, and to avoid sin.

**All:** **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.**

**SONG:** *Suggested – Amazing Grace*