

Children should be able to evaluate their choices by applying the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17), the Law of Love (Matthew 22:36-39 & John 15:17) and the example of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37).



Help your children to be able to retell, or illustrate stories of Christ's love and forgiveness.

Luke 19:1-10 Zacchaeus

Matthew 18:21-22 Forgiving 70 X 7

Luke 15:4-7 The Lost Sheep

Luke 15:8-10 The Lost Drachma

Luke 15:11-32 The Prodigal Son

John 10:1-21 Good Shepherd

Each and every person is a special creation of God. The human body is a handiwork of God and is beautiful and good and should be respected.

If anybody asks you who you are, tell them:



"I'm a child of God!"

We need to model to our children to use respectful language, behavior and attitudes, showing consideration and appreciation for themselves and others.

# Help your children understand the following terms:

Sin – saying no to God and God's love.

Mistake – something that is done and you don't know what's happening.

Accident – something that happens quickly that you didn't mean to happen.

<u>Temptation</u> – an urge to do something against God's will.

# The

#### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Your child should be in Catholic school or Religious Education class during **First**and **Second** Grade to prepare for celebrating this sacrament.

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Just as we need to change the oil in or cars to keep them running well, and to examine our relationships in our families, we need to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly to keep our relationship with God healthy.

Please take your child to the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Help your students understand the *Law of Love* and expect all family members to treat themselves and others with respect in word and action.

Examine how the lives of St. Francis of Assisi, St. Therese of the Little Flower, St. Nicholas and St. Clare relate to the Law of Love.



Families should always demonstrate to each other sorrow and forgiveness. Expressing sorrow and asking forgiveness are key elements to understanding human nature and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

#### Act of Contrition

My God, I am sorry for my sins.

With all my heart.

In choosing to do 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. Amen.

# Law of Love:

(Matthew 22:36-39) (John 15:17)

"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all you mind"; "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

To prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation we need to do an **Examination of Conscience**. We need to think about what we may have done that did not show love.

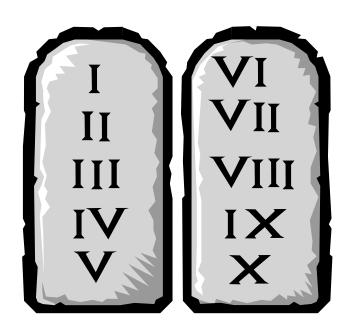
- ♣ Do I speak God's name only with love?
- ♣ Do I obey my parents and help them?
- ♣ Do I tell the truth?
- ♣ Have I been kind to everyone?
- ₱ Do I go to Mass, pray and listen to the priest?
- ♣ Do I miss praying for a long time?
- **♣** Do I take things that belong to others?
- **♣** Do I argue and fight with others?
- ♥ Do I share with others?
- ♣ Do I work hard at school and do my homework?
- ♣ Have I been fair and honest?
- ₱ Do I help others when they need me?
- ♣ Do I treat other's as I want to be treated?



We should always use the Ten Commandments as a guide to our lives. If we are not following them, then we need the Sacrament of Reconciliation to help us get back on track.

#### The TEN COMMANDMENTS (with a child friendly version)

- 1. I, the Lord, am your God. You should not have other god's besides me.
- 2. You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.
- 3. Remember to keep holy the Sabbath 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 anything that belongs to your neighbor.





Jesus, brought us hope for forgiveness!

- 1. God must be the center of our lives.
- 2. We use God's name only when speaking nicely.
- 3. We take time to pray and go to mass every Sunday.
- 4. We obey and respect our parents, and others who take care of us.
- 5. We take care of ourselves. We treat others nicely. We don't hurt other people, with words or actions.
- 6. We respect our own and other people's bodies, they are a gift from God. Husbands and Wives love and take care of each other.
- 7. We do not take things that are not ours. We do not waste things. [water, paper, etc.] We do not cheat.
- 8. We always tell the truth. We are honest. We do not lie.
- 9. Husbands and wives are faithful to each other.
- 10. We are not greedy and do not take somebody else's stuff what we have.

# Apply the following bible stories to celebrating the Eucharist:

Miracle of the Loaves and Fish John 6:1-15



The Last Supper Matthew 26:17-29

I Am the Living Bread John 6:49-69

Please impress upon your family the recognition of the *real presence in the Eucharist*.

Christ becomes present in the consecrated bread and wine in the celebration of the Liturgy of the Eucharist at Mass. This is the most basic teaching of the Catholic Church. We become one with Christ in the receiving of the Eucharist. The Eucharist is the food that nourishes our spiritual life, as the food we eat at our meals nourishes our physical bodies.

### There are two basic parts of the Mass:

The Liturgy of the Word: We hear God's Word in the readings and homily. This is the part of the Mass when we hear the stories of our church family.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist: This is the part of the Mass when the priest changes bread and wine into Jesus.

**Baptism** – is the most necessary sacrament. **Eucharist** – is the most important sacrament.

The Mass is the way Jesus keeps His promise to stay with us always.

St. Patrick used the three leaf clover (shamrock) to teach the Irish people about the trinity. It is one plant (one God) with three leaves (the three persons of the trinity). Read a story together about St. Patrick.

#### **Trinity**



God the Father
the creator of all
God the Son
showed us how to live
God the Holy Spirit
guides and helps us to live as
Jesus showed us to.

Children will receive for the first time the Sacrament of the Eucharist. First Communion usually takes place soon after Easter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade year.

Students should be able to be respectful and participate in Mass. Guide them into joining in the prayers, responses and singing during Mass.

For children to feel they are part of the Church family, they need to be present in the family.