

## Prayers

*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.*

*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.*

*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.*



## Order of Confession:

1. Once you are seated on the chair in front of the priest, or kneeling on the kneeler, make the Sign of the Cross and say "Bless me father for I have sinned. It has been (length of time) since my last confession."
2. Tell your sins to the priest. The priest will talk with you about how to do better. Then the priest will give you a penance, which you will carry out once you leave the confessional.
3. Pray an Act of Contrition.  
*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.
4. Receive Absolution – the priest will hold his hand over your head and pray the prayer of absolution. As he says the final words, he will make the sign of the cross; you do the same and say "Amen."
5. Closing – the priest may say "Give thanks to the Lord for he is good." Your response is "His mercy endures forever."
6. Remember to complete your penance.

## LET THE CHILDREN COME: THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION AND CHILDREN

### To Such Belongs the Kingdom



Jesus loved children. As a child himself, he was raised by Joseph and Mary in their home at Nazareth (cf. Mt 2:23). Growing up among relatives and townspeople, Jesus experienced the concerns and problems common to all children, such as sickness and death among family members. Within this setting, Jesus "grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him." (Lk 2:40)

Jesus' affection for children is clearly affirmed in the Gospels. When his disciples attempted to halt people from bringing children to Jesus for his blessing, he insisted: "let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." (Mt 19:14)

## An Examination of Conscience for Children



### Responsibilities to God:

Have I prayed every day?

Have I prayed my morning prayers and night prayers?

Have I prayed with my parents and family?

Have I been moody and rebellious about praying and going to church on Sunday?

Have I asked the Holy Spirit to help me whenever I have been tempted to sin?

Have I asked the Holy Spirit to help me do what is right?

### Responsibilities to others:

Have I been obedient and respectful to my parents?

Have I lied or been deceitful to them or to others?

Have I been arrogant, stubborn or rebellious?

Have I talked back to parents, teachers or other adults?

Have I pouted and been moody?

Have I been selfish toward my parents, brothers, and sisters, teachers, or my friends and schoolmates?

Have I gotten angry at them? Have I hit anyone?

Have I held grudges or not forgiven others?

Have I treated other children with respect or have I made fun of them and called them names?

Have I used bad language?

Have I stolen anything?  
Have I returned it?

Have I performed my responsibilities, such as homework and household chores?

Have I been helpful and affectionate toward my family?

Have I been kind and generous with my friends?

*...whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. (Philippians 4:8)*