



ST TIMOTHY CATHOLIC CHURCH

PRAY • SERVE • GIVE | IN SERVICE OF THE NEW EVANGELIZATION

Dear Parents,

When you brought your child to the Church to have them Baptized, you made a promise to God that you would help them walk as a “child of the Light.” To represent this, you lit their Baptismal candle and were asked to carry it for them, as you would go forth, *leading them in the way they should go* (Proverbs 22:6). You were also commissioned to help them keep their white garment (the outward sign of their newly cleansed soul) free from stain. Your family is a “domestic church,” in which the parents “by word and by example... [are] the first heralds of the faith with regard to their children.” Within the family each member grows and strives to “exercise the *priesthood of the baptized* by the reception of sacraments, prayer and thanksgiving, the witness of a holy life, self-denial, and active charity” (CCC1656-57). Now that your child has reached the age of reasoning, you will be discerning with your child their readiness for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Children by this age have a general understanding of right and wrong behavior, and are beginning to understand the nature of sin. Their readiness to make their first confession should be assessed by their *developed understanding* of sin as harmful to themselves, others, and their relationship with God. It is also necessary that they have sorrow for their sins and a desire to be reconciled. Rather than the experience of guilt, the focus is on gratitude for the gift of God’s Redeeming Sacrifice and the grace He continually offers us through reception of all the sacraments. As you have hopefully experienced through your own participation in this sacrament, with true sorrow for our sins we are filled with the joy and peace when we encounter God’s love and mercy in Reconciliation.

God Bless,

Bridgette Barcelo

Director, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

First Reconciliation Checklist

(Please keep this for your reference)

Due by December 21, 2018:

- √ Sacrament Online Registration Form
- Candidate's Baptismal Certificate (if child was not baptized at St. Timothy)

Parent's Preparation of Child

Attend Mass regularly

Pray together (Our Father, Hail Mary, Act of Contrition)

Ensure child has regular attendance for Atrium sessions

Child and parent attend Reconciliation retreat

Parents model the importance of frequenting the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Reconciliation Retreat:

Both the child and the parent must attend a full retreat on one of the 2 weekends.

Attendance on Friday and Saturday is required for your child to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation this year.

The retreat will take place in the Social Hall (downstairs in the back of the Church.)

You are welcome to join us for 8:00am Mass in the Church on Saturday.

February 8, 2019 6-8pm and Saturday Feb 9th, 2019

9:00am-12:00 pm in the Social Hall.

OR

February 22, 2019 6-8 pm and Saturday Feb 23rd, 2019

9:00am-12:00pm in the Social Hall.

First Reconciliation is March 2, 2019 at 1:00pm.