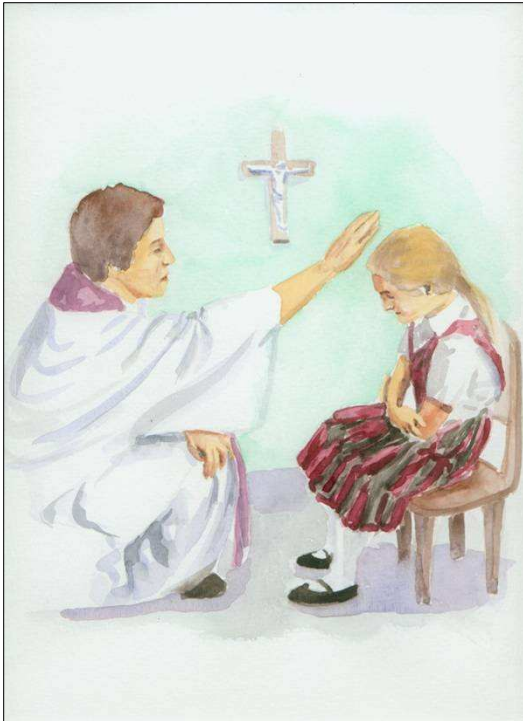


# 4

## I Disobey the Rules Sometimes



Even when we disobey the rules, God still loves us – and the Church does, too!

- We do commit sins sometimes
- Sin hurts us and everyone else
- Sin also hurts our relationship to God
- Reconciliation heals that for us

### How does the Church help us celebrate God's forgiveness?

- At Mass, in the opening words when we say we're **sorry**
- We learn about **contrition**
- Through the **sacrament** of Reconciliation
  
- God **forgives** us
- And the Church **celebrates** that with us!



## **Prayer Celebration: Growing up Catholic means we start celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation**

**Begin with the Sign of the Cross. Everyone say it aloud together.**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Leader:** Jesus, thank you for bringing us all together here today. We love you and want to learn to love you more through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**All:** We love you ☩ Jesus. Thank you for loving us.

**Leader:** You have given us so much courage and strength, Jesus. You have given us the Holy Spirit to be with us.

**All:** We open our hearts to you today.

**Reader:** *Please listen now to God's Word from the Bible: (Matthew 18:21-22)*

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew...

...This is the Gospel of the Lord

**All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Listen to the Leader.**

**All:** *(Pause after each line)*

Oh Jesus,

Thank you for forgiving us

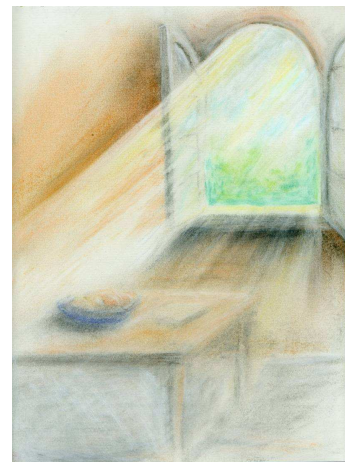
Every time we sin

Please give us the love in our hearts

To forgive our friends and family

When they hurt us or make us angry.

Amen.



## What is a sin?

A sin is choosing to do something we know is wrong.  
Sin hurts our relationship with each other  
and our relationship with God.

**Free will** – God gives us the freedom to make choices between good and bad things. But God also gives us **Grace**. Grace is the power of the Holy Spirit within us, helping us choose love and good.



**Family supper**



**Learning to ride**



**Talking with friends**

**Look at these three pictures. Tell a story about how these people could choose to be good and loving – or choose to be bad and mean. Tell how **FREE WILL** and **GRACE** helped them.**

## What is our Conscience?

Our conscience is God's voice within us,  
helping us know right from wrong.

**Growing up Catholic** means we learn to listen to our conscience and follow it. The Church helps us by teaching us God's rules of love.

**In the pictures above, tell how each child's **CONSCIENCE** helped them make a decision for good and to be loving.**



## Meeting Jesus in the Bible

When we commit sins, we can return to God and say we're sorry. Like the son in this story, we find that God is waiting for us. God never stops loving us.

### The Son who Asked for Forgiveness

Jesus told a story.

There was a dad who had two sons. One of them came to him and asked for his share of his dad's money. So the father agreed and gave him half of everything.

Then this son took it all and left. He wasted the money and did bad things. He became very poor and pretty soon he was starving, so he went to work on a pig farm but even the pigs had more food than he did!

So he thought to himself, I'm going home. I'll say to my dad, "I'm sorry for my sins. I realize I don't deserve your love but at least let me work for you."

So he got on the road and went home. But his father was hoping he would come back and had been watching for him every day!

When his dad saw the son, he ran out to the road and hugged him, because he was so glad to see him.



Then the son said what he planned to say. "I'm sorry for my sins," he said.

But his father had already forgiven him and threw a big party to welcome him home!

*(Based on Luke 15:11-24)*



**START**

Become aware of sin

Feel sorry for what you did wrong

**Go ahead 2 spaces**  
**Be honest!**

**Take the Shortcut Pass**

Go to Mass on Sundays

Make an Act of Contrition

**Take an extra turn**

**Free pass for helping the poor!**

Love God with all your heart

ObeY your parents

**Go back 2 spaces**  
You didn't pray today

**Miss one turn**  
You were mean

**You love others**

**You love others**

**Go ahead 2 spaces**



**Go back 2 spaces**

**Go back 2 spaces**

**Go back 2 spaces**

**Go back 2 spaces**

Always tell the truth

**Miss one turn**  
You won't forgive

**Go back 2 spaces**  
You told a fib (a□□□□)

**Go back 2 spaces**

**Go ahead 2 spaces**  
You shared your toys

You were sorry for your sins

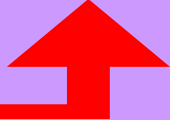
**Take the Shortcut Pass**

**Take an extra turn**  
You were good today

Listen to your conscience

Love God above all things!

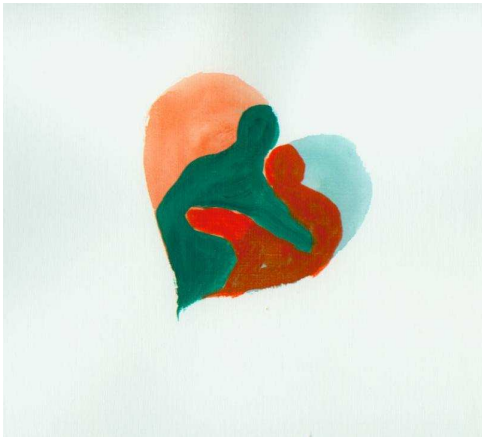
**END**



# The Sacrament of Reconciliation

## The Penance

What is a “penance” and why does the Priest give us one?

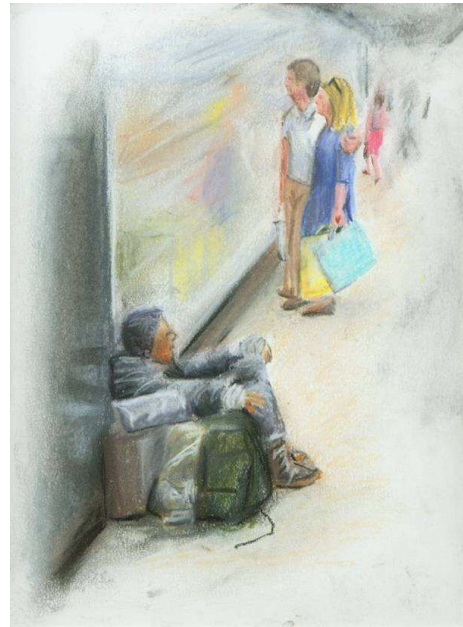


- A “penance” is a task given to us by the Priest after we confess our sins
- It helps us turn our hearts back to God
- It helps us turn away from sin

Your penance might be an action, a prayer, or some other way to help you change your life and avoid sin in the future.

### It might be:

- helping someone who is homeless or poor
- praying special prayers
- giving up something we like
- giving money for people who are hungry
- or any other action or prayer which the Priest asks you to do



You should perform your penance as soon after your Confession as possible.



## At home this week

Work on this together at home as a way of continuing the process of preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation

In the Act of Contrition, we promise to have a **“firm purpose of amendment.”** This means that we promise to try our best to love more and sin less, especially the sins we have committed in the recent past. This week, practice making promises. Use the chart below to help you.

<b>Sins we might have committed in the past</b>	<b>What will you promise to do better in the future?</b>
I fought with my brothers or sisters	
I did not say my prayers every day	
I told a fib (a lie) about someone else	
I watched TV instead of doing my homework	
I complained when my mom or dad asked me to do my chores	
I stole a book from someone in school	