

NOVEMBER PARENT UPDATE



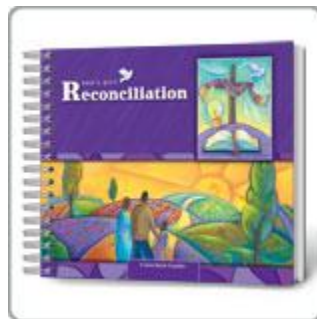
Many THANKS to the parents who were able to attend the October 26th **RECONCILIATION PARENT WORKSHOP.** .

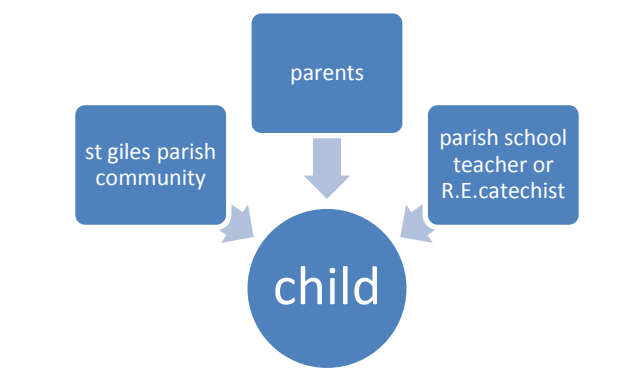
Your feedback on the small group discussion is very helpful for the continued growth of our parish's sacrament preparation program.

It is my hope that the evening was of assistance you as you begin to formally prepare your child for their celebration of First Reconciliation in December



IF YOU WERE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE RECONCILIATION PARENT WORKSHOP contact the parish Religious Education office at 708-383-4185 or my sending an email to mecasselman@stgilesparish.org to arrange pick up your family's preparation materials (child's text, parent guide, summary of workshop presentation)





TO CLARIFY THE PREPARATION PROCESS HERE AT ST. GILES PARISH:

- Parent work with their child at home using the *God's Gift of Reconciliation* preparation text
- Parish school teachers and catechists use the Teacher/Catechist Guide to incorporate the materials into their regular "religion class time"
- Parents and parish teachers/catechists through this process of partnering pass on our Catholic faith to our parish's children
- Updates are posted to the parish website, parish school website & teacher's page each month to alert parents of upcoming sacrament events and with helpful information for home sacrament preparation

Any questions or concerns regarding this sacrament preparation process should be forwarded to the parish Coordinator of Sacrament Preparation for Children, MaryEllen Casselman, at mecasselman@stgilesparish.org or 708-383-4185 ext. 103

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FOR PARENTS:

Your Child's Moral Development: EMPATHY

Empathy, the ability to comprehend and imagine life from another's perspective. It is the ability to "walk a mile in another's shoes". Children show signs of empathy early on; it is not unusual for the crying of one infant to set off a chorus of wailing among other nearby infants.

Your child is old enough to be aware of how others feel and that each person may have different responses to the same situation. Try these ways to help fine-tune your child's sense of empathy:

- Regularly invite your child to imagine being one of the characters in a book, TV show, or video. Ask “what would you do if you were there?”
- Stop you child if he or she is being cruel. Review the situation together an imagine how the other person feels.
- Talk about situation in your life at work and your child’s life at school that call for empathy and compassion.
- Make it a clear expectation that sharing is part of life in your family

(Except from *Together: Preparing at Home for First Reconciliation* – Tom McGrath)



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

ALL PREPARATION INFORMATION FOR FIRST RECONCILIATION IS AVAILABLE ON OUR PARISH WEBSITE:

<http://www.stgilesparish.org/>

- 1) HOVER OVER THE SACRAMENT TAB
- 2) HOVER OVER THE FIRST RECONCILIATION/FIRST EUCHARIST TAB
- 3) OPTIONS AVAILABLE: about First Reconciliation
Sacrament calendar and event forms
Parent information (monthly updates)



Parish School Parents: your child’s teacher page also has this monthly update information and links to the parish webpage for forms/calendar information



RESERVE YOUR SPACE FOR ONE OF THE UPCOMING RECONCILIATION PARENT-CHILD RETREATS SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 18 &19 information on parish webpage listed above under “SACRAMENT CALENDAR & EVENT FORMS”