

## Two Forms of Celebrating Reconciliation

There are two forms of celebration of Reconciliation, an individual and a communal form.

St. Mary's website and the Reconciliation Preparation booklet give the form for **individual celebration** of the Sacrament. An example of this is a person going to Reconciliation during the time of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, which is from 11 am to noon on Saturdays at our church.

We celebrate First Reconciliation in our church as a **communal celebration** with many priests attending our parish-wide Lent Reconciliation Service.

**The communal celebration** has this order:

1. Opening Hymn;
2. Scripture proclaimed;
3. Homily;
4. Examination of Conscience with the help of the Readers;
5. Act of Contrition.

This communal or shared prayer is then followed by INDIVIDUAL confession, penance and absolution from the priest.

To be fully prepared, your child should memorize two things: the steps of the Sacrament, and an Act of Contrition.

This format of the steps is from the website link:

**1st Enter the Confessional** - OR enter the room for face-to-face confession with the priest.

**2nd Beginning my confession** - I make the [Sign of the Cross](#)

**3rd Priest speaks**- I listen to him carefully.

**4th My Confession** - I pray [Bless Me Father](#) and tell my sins (see [Examination of Conscience](#))

**5th After I finish my confession** - let the priest know. Listen to priest's advice to do better.

**6th Priest gives me a Penance** - Priest gives my Penance - I listen to him carefully.

**7th Saying** [The Act of Contrition](#)

**8th The Prayer of Absolution** - I make the [Sign of the Cross](#) and answer AMEN to his prayer.

**9th After Finishing** - I thank him and return to my place in church. I kneel down to start my praying with Jesus to meditate about my Penance to do.  
I complete this Sacrament satisfactorily and receive the gift of God's Grace, once again!

The Act of Contrition from the Preparation booklet goes like this:

**“God our Father, forgive me for my sins. I am sorry for them with all my heart. Help me be faithful to your Spirit so that I can grow in love. Amen”**

Or the one from the website link:

*“Oh my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You, and I detest all my sins because of your punishments.*

*But most of all because they offended You, my God, who are all good and deserving of all my love.*

*I firmly resolve with the help of your grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasions of sin. **Amen”***