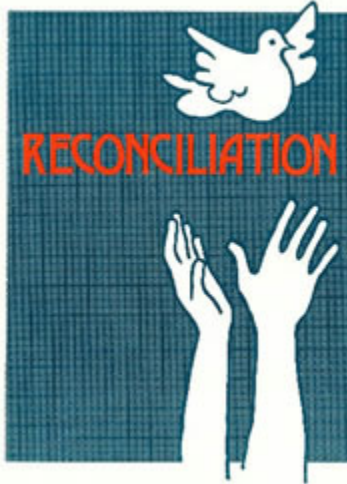


WHAT WILL HAPPEN ON FIRST PENANCE DAY?



Your child has been assigned to a specific date for First Penance: Jan. 14, 21 and 28. Each service (not a Mass) will begin *promptly* at 11am. Please be punctual. These dates may be changed, but the Faith Formation Office needs to know beforehand. Call 617-696-1388.

Those children who have been chosen by lot to participate in the service as readers and non-reading ministers should arrive no later *than 10:50am* and check in with Ellen Cronin. An extra copy of each reading will be there so your child does not need to worry about forgetting it. We will rehearse with the entire group prior to Penance.

Children will sit with their families, not with their class. Everyone should *sit only in the center section*, so as to preserve the privacy of the penance stations. There are no assigned benches and there are not enough benches so that each family will have their own, so please be aware that you will be *sharing your bench* with another family. If you arrive closer to 11am, it will be easiest to find a seat if you go down the side aisles, rather than attempt to enter from the center aisle and have to climb over others.

There will be a number of roped-off benches in the back. Again, this is to maintain privacy during the individual confessions. Please do not move the ropes, or sit in these areas.

Most children wear "Sunday best" for their First Penance. Many wear their special outfits from Christmas. Jeans, sweats or sports uniforms would be inappropriate on this special occasion.

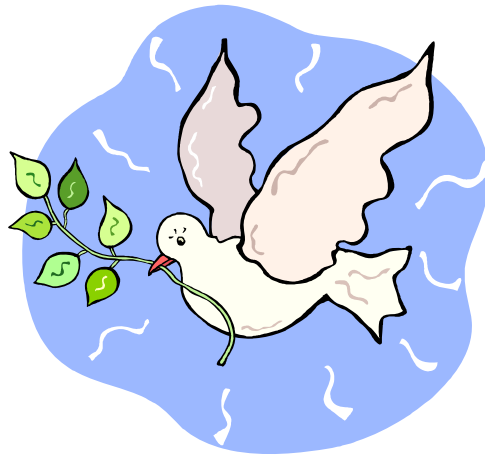
Although many of the children are memorizing the Act of Contrition, it will not be necessary on that day. We will have a general examination of conscience, and a group

Act of Contrition, both of which will be in the program. Additionally, we will have small prayer cards for the First Penance children to use as aids if they are given prayers as a penance. We ask you to review the Our Father and Hail Mary with your child.

Once your child and any other family members have received reconciliation, your family may leave by the **MAIN CENTER DOORS ONLY**. Please do not head up the side aisles, as there will be confessions going on in those areas.

Please maintain a reverent atmosphere throughout the service either through singing or in silence. It can be tempting to 'just whisper', but all those little whispers add up and it can really spoil the sacramental nature of the morning.

There will be absolutely NO photography or videography allowed at any time during the service. Please turn off all cell phones upon entering the Church. We want all the children to be able to celebrate this sacrament privately and without distraction. There will be an opportunity for photos after *all people* (not just your family) have been to confession and the priests have left the penance stations.



Please call the Faith Formation Office, 617-696-1388, with any questions or concerns regarding your child's First Reconciliation.

There will be a parent information meeting regarding **First Eucharist** on Thursday, March 15 at 9:45am and 7pm in the Gathering Room downstairs in the Church.