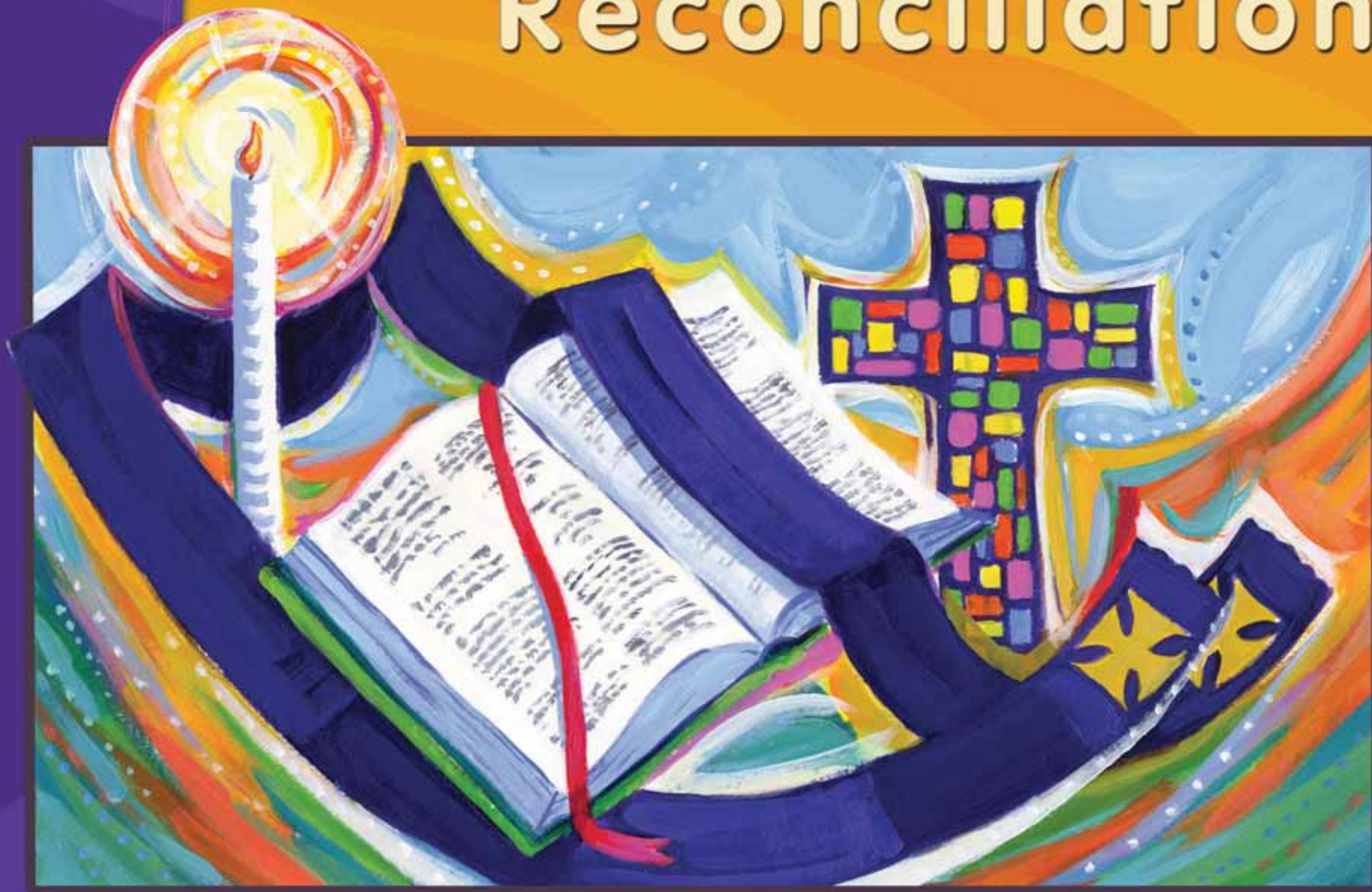


Celebrate  
and  
Remember

# Reconciliation



# Reconciliation

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# Reconciliation

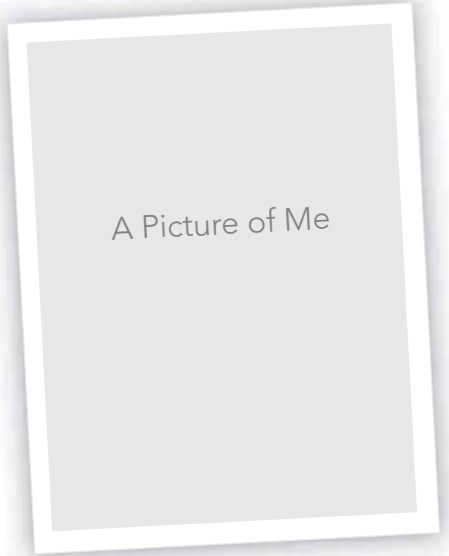
Celebrate and Remember

Regina Anne Kelly



# All About Me

## as I Prepare for My First Reconciliation



**My Name**

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**My Age**

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**My Family**

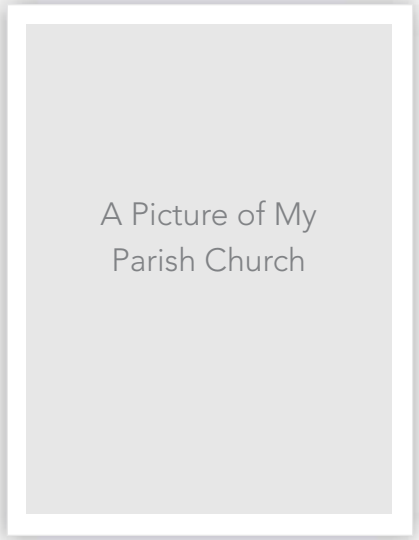
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**My Parish**

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A Picture that Reminds Me of My Faith

**My Favorite Thing about My Catholic Faith**

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A Picture of Me Celebrating My Faith at Baptism or at Mass

**My First Reconciliation Promises**

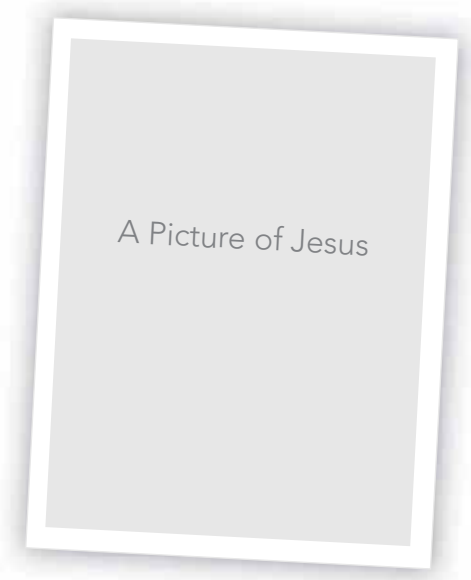
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A Picture of Jesus

**My Prayer to Jesus to Help Me Prepare for First Reconciliation**

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Open my eyes to see clearly  
the wonders of your teachings.

Psalm 119:18



# In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit



## The Sign of the Cross

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

What Is Reconciliation?



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# God Forgives Us

**The Bible tells a story about the first sin. This story helps to explain why people need God's forgiveness. In the Bible we read:**

**W**hen God created the first man and first woman, he also created a wonderful garden for them.

Then God said to the man and the woman, "You may eat the fruit on all the trees that grow here. But do not eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil."

The man and woman obeyed God. But then one day, there was a serpent in the garden. This serpent was sly and wicked. The serpent asked the man and woman why they did not eat from the tree of knowledge.

"We can eat all the fruits of all the trees except that one," answered the woman.

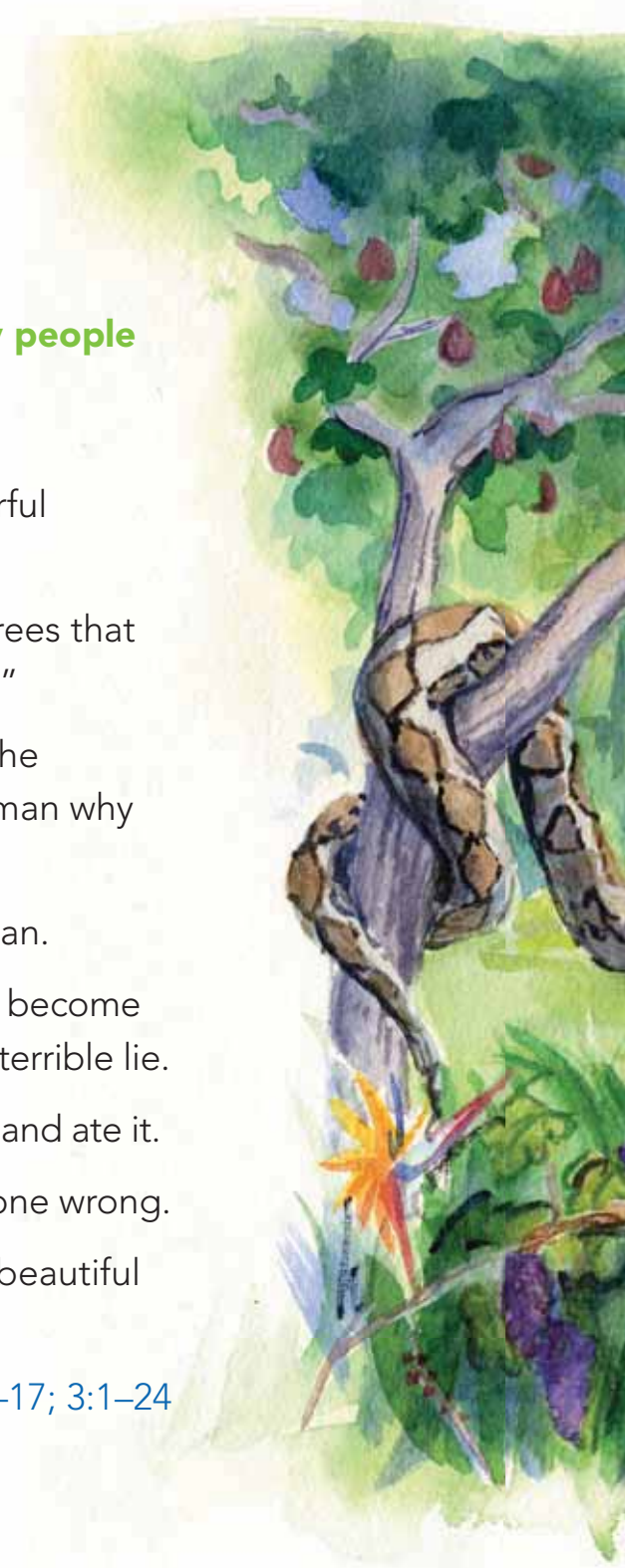
"Well," said the serpent, "God only said that because he does not want you to become as powerful and wise as he, knowing what is good and what is evil." This was a terrible lie.

The man and the woman believed the serpent's lie. So they took a piece of fruit and ate it.

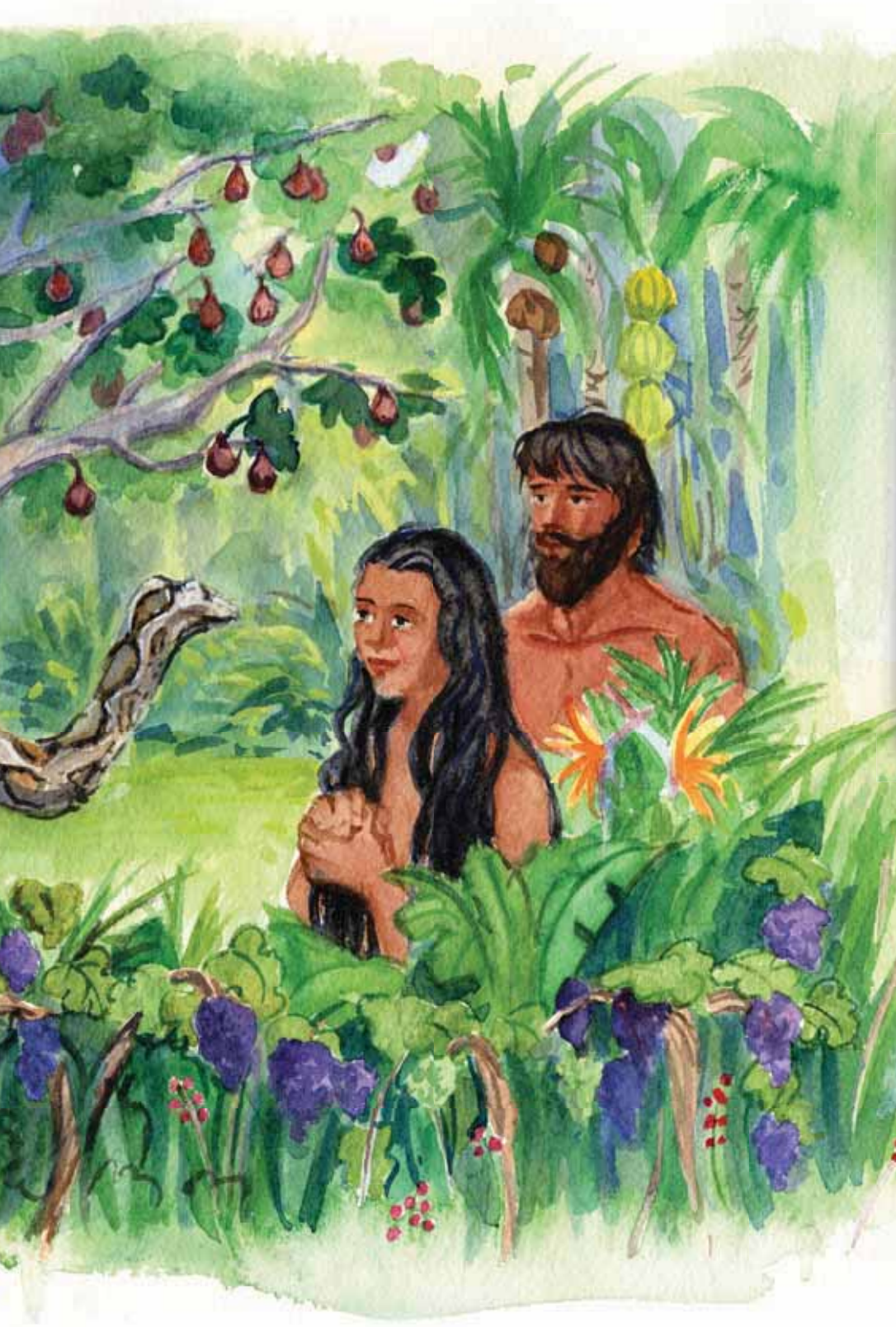
Suddenly, they were no longer happy. They felt shame. They knew they had done wrong.

God still loved the people he had made, but they could no longer live in the beautiful garden. God had to send them away.

Based on Genesis 2:7–9,15–17; 3:1–24







## Activity

When one person does something hurtful to another person, the two people need to come together and make peace. **Draw** a picture that shows two people making peace.



### With My Family

Visit the Web site of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to read about the first sin of human beings. Click on the Bible tab at the top of the page. Then click on Genesis, then Chapter 3. Read and talk about the Scripture passage.



# Jesus Gives Us the Sacraments

**A sin** is something we say, do, or think that does not follow God's will. Sometimes we sin by not doing something we should. When we sin, we disobey God. We turn away from him and fail to act with love for him and for other people as Jesus did. We offend God and hurt our relationship with him and with other people.

The first sin of humankind is called **Original Sin**. This sin has been passed on to all of us. We are born with it. Original Sin weakens us and makes it harder for us to do what is right.



Three images on this page © Bill Wittman/www.wpwittman.com



We don't know why God allows sin in the world, but we are certain that he always loves us. He loved us so much that he sent his Son, Jesus Christ, into the world. Jesus died on the cross and rose again to free us from sin. When we are sorry for our sins, Jesus brings us back to God our Father. God forgives our sins. When God forgives us, we are reconciled with God and others. We are brought back together with God. One day, when we meet God face-to-face in Heaven, we'll understand his loving plan for the world and why allowing sin was part of it.

Jesus is the greatest sign of God's love. But Jesus gave seven more great and holy signs to God's people, the Church.

These signs are called **Sacraments**. The Sacraments join us to Jesus so that we can follow him more closely. They give us **grace**, the free gift of God's own life in us. Grace makes us his children and helps us to stay away from sin and to do good works.



© AgnusImages.com

## Activity

When we are reconciled with God and others, we are peaceful and happy. **Draw** yourself and your family being peaceful and happy together.





# The Sacrament of Reconciliation



© The Crosiers/Gene Plaisted, OSC

**W**e celebrate the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist, all through our lives. The three Sacraments that begin our life in the Church are the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist. We call these the Sacraments of Christian Initiation.

In the Sacrament of Baptism, we were baptized with holy water. Baptism united us to Jesus and gave us the Holy Spirit. We became members of God's people, the Church. The Church is the Body of Christ. All the members are united to Christ and to one another. Think of your own body and all of its parts. Think about your head, your eyes, your mouth, your hands, your feet, and your heart. The parts do many different things, but they are all important. And if they weren't part of a whole body, they would have no life. This helps us understand what it means to be a member of the Church, a member of Christ's body. Every member is united with Christ and all the other members. Each is different, but each is important. Every person has gifts that can help others follow Jesus.

In Baptism, all sins, including Original Sin, are washed away. Sins that we commit after Baptism are forgiven through the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**. If we choose to sin, we not only hurt our relationship with God. We also hurt our relationship with all of God's people, the Church. Jesus gave us the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation to bring us back to God when we sin. When we receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, grace, God's own life in us, brings us back together with God and with one another.

## Celebrating the Sacrament

The Sacrament of Reconciliation begins with the priest greeting us and welcoming us. Then we pray together, “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,” as we make the Sign of the Cross. The Sign of the Cross reminds us of our Baptism. It reminds us of God’s life in us. It reminds us that Jesus died and rose for us. It reminds us that we belong to God.

Making the Sign of the Cross also reminds us about who God is. He is one God in three Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This mystery is called the Trinity. It is at the center of our faith.

### Activity

**Write** one word that describes a feeling that the Sacrament of Reconciliation can give you. **Decorate** the space around your word.



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### Living Our Faith

The Sacraments give us God’s own life. If we come to them with faith in Jesus, God’s grace will work in our lives.



### With My Family

As a family, look at pictures or other mementos of your Baptism. Together say a prayer thanking God for his new life in you.





# Heart to Heart

## Forgiveness

**S**ometimes people hurt our feelings. Did any of your classmates ever play a game and not let you play? Think about the way you felt. It is especially hard when someone we love and care about hurts our feelings. Yet, sometimes we are the ones who hurt someone else's feelings. And then, when we think about what we did, we feel terrible.

When this happens, we need reconciliation. We need to forgive and we need to be forgiven. For this to happen, someone needs to say, "I'm sorry," and someone else needs to say, "I forgive you."



Two images on this spread © Rhienna Cutler/istockphoto.com



## Activity

In the “Before Reconciliation” space on top, **draw** two people who are angry with each other or hurting each other. In the “After Reconciliation” space on the bottom, **draw** the same two people after they forgive each other and are reconciled.

**Before Reconciliation**

R E C O N C I L I A T I O N

**After Reconciliation**

### Saint Spotlight

**Saint Teresa of Ávila**  
(1515–1562)

Saint Teresa of Ávila is a saint from Spain. She wrote many books about prayer. She also wrote about sin. Saint Teresa wrote that when she sinned, she would ask God to forgive her. She would then make great efforts to become better.



### With My Family

Together review the names of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation and the Sacrament of Reconciliation shown on pages 6 and 7. Share a personal experience related to each one.

# We Pray Together



## We Praise the Trinity

**Leader:** God, our Father, you created us out of love. You never stop loving us even when we sin.

**All:** Glory be to God the Father.

**Leader:** You sent your Son, Jesus, to teach us how to live and to show us how to forgive.

**All:** Glory be to God the Son.

**Leader:** You send your Holy Spirit to be our helper and guide and to give us the grace we need to turn away from sin.

**All:** Glory be to God the Holy Spirit.

**Leader:** For these wonderful gifts, we pray,

**All:** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.



# Trust in God's Mercy



## We Pray for God's Mercy

**Leader:** Let us pray for God's mercy.

**Side 1:** Have mercy on us, O God.

**Side 2:** For you are great and good.

**Side 1:** Wash away our sins.

**Side 2:** Heal our hearts.

**Side 1:** Open our lips.

**Side 2:** And we will praise you.

**Side 1:** Create clean hearts for us, O God.

**Side 2:** Give us joyful and willing spirits.

**Side 1:** We will tell others about you

**Side 2:** That they may know your goodness.

**All:** Lord, we praise and thank you with  
all our hearts!

Based on Psalm 51

## Who Loves and Forgives Us?



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# The Forgiving Father

**To teach us that God is our forgiving Father who rejoices when we are sorry for our sins, Jesus told this story.**

**A** man had two sons. Each son would inherit money from the father one day, but the younger son did not want to wait. He asked his father for his share of the money. The father agreed.

A few days later, the younger son took all his money and left. He went away and spent everything he had on wasteful and selfish things.

Soon he was hungry and penniless. He did not know what to do, so he took a job feeding and caring for a farmer's pigs. He was so hungry, he almost ate the pig feed!

He thought, "My own father's servants are better fed than I am. I will go back to my father and say I am sorry. I no longer deserve to be called his son, but maybe he will take me back as a servant."

So he headed home. As he drew closer to home, his father saw him in the distance and ran to meet him. The father hugged and kissed his long-lost son.

The son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son."

But the father was not angry. He was filled with love for his son and rejoiced at his return. The father held a great celebration to welcome his son home.

Based on Luke 15:11–24





## Activity

The list below are words from the Scriptures. **Write** the correct word from the list to complete the word puzzle for *Forgive*.

rejoice sin son sorry Father God love

F \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

\_ \_ \_ O \_ \_

\_ \_ \_ R \_ \_

G \_ \_ \_ \_

\_ \_ \_ I \_ \_

\_ \_ \_ V \_ \_

\_ \_ \_ E \_ \_ \_ \_ \_



### With My Family

As a family, read together Luke 15:1–10. In these Scripture verses that come just before the story of the forgiving father, Jesus uses two other stories to illustrate God's forgiveness. What are these stories? Discuss the connection among all these stories.