

What can I do at home to help my child prepare for First Reconciliation?

1. Help your child by reviewing what they are learning in religion class with them. Ask them what they learned, and reinforce what they know.
2. Read Bible stories to your child that teach about reconciliation, like the Prodigal Son or other stories that have the same message.
3. Help your child memorize their prayers and the Ten Commandments.
4. At bedtime, do an examination of conscience with your child.
5. Reinforce moral behavior, and be consistent.
6. Encourage reconciliation at home and with friends. "I'm sorry" and "I forgive you" are very important in any relationship.
7. Encourage your child to recognize responsibility and consequences for their actions. If they do something wrong, have them do their best to repair the damages. (i.e. if they break a sibling's toy, have them use their allowance to replace it.)
8. Introduce your child to the parish priests—this removes a lot of fear. The priests are visiting all of the religious education classrooms, but may not have the chance to meet each child one-on-one.
9. Let your children see you go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. They are not afraid of Baptisms or the Eucharist because they see them celebrated regularly.
10. Practice role-playing confession at home—have them make-up sins, and practice. Help them to become comfortable with the ritual.