

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Parent Evening

St. Brigid Parish
February 6, 2024
Wadsworth, Illinois



Please let us know you are here:

Click “Chat” on your Zoom window to open the Chat box. Add your student’s name so we know you attended.



Plans for the Evening



- Welcome & Opening Prayer
- The Sacrament Journey – Your Role as Parents
- Encounters with Jesus
- Plans for March 2 at 10:00am
- Helping Your Child to Prepare
- Q&A

Praying the Beatitudes

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Do I live a spirit of detachment and generosity? Do I sacrifice for others?

2. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Do I console and help those who mourn and suffer? Do I show compassion?

3. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Am I authentically humble and self-giving? Have I been egotistical or boastful?

4. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for holiness, for they will be satisfied.

Am I passionate for the things of God? Do I work for the triumph of love, peace and justice?

Praying the Beatitudes *(continued)*

5. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Am I forgiving and merciful? Do I give others the benefit of the doubt? Am I harsh or judgmental?

6. Blessed are the pure of heart, for they will see God.

Am I single-minded in the practice of my faith? Have I allowed a particular sin or vice to distract me from God?

7. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Am I a person of reconciliation, peace and mercy? Do I hold grudges or seek revenge?

8. Blessed are they who are persecuted, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Do I suffer well? Am I willing to sacrifice anything for my faith?

Sacramental Journey



- MORE than just a “To-Do” or “tradition”
- Sacraments are
 - Family Centered
 - Parish Based
 - School & Catechist Supported
- Children learn about being part of “God’s Family” from their own Family, the “Domestic Church”
- ALL Sacraments are an Encounter with Christ



Sacramental Journey

- Children and teens follow the model of the adults in their life
 - Think about how you just felt as we prayed the Beatitudes. What is your view of the Sacraments?
- Do your family members see your faith in action?
 - Prayer Time, Mass, Sacraments
 - Do you “live the Beatitudes?”
 - Talk & seek answers together!



Let's Talk About Sin

- “Sin” means to “miss the mark”; we have strayed ... **AND** we **KNOW** it.
 - **Venial sin** - weakens our relationship with God or with others; can lead to more serious sin
 - Forgiven by participation in the Eucharist (Mass)
 - **Mortal sin** – a decision to turn away from God by choosing to do something seriously wrong
- Even if “no one knows,” sin affects everyone
 - Both a personal and communal effect
 - Failure of Adam & Eve >> “human condition of sin”
 - Changes our interactions: Guilt, isolation, hurt...

What is the Sacrament of Penance?

- A car wash isn't "necessary," but it feels SO good to have a clean car and a "fresh start"
- Naming our sins helps us own them, and to change our ways.
- *God's grace* forgives us (Absolution)
 - Priest is standing in for Christ
 - Priest is bound to not share any information he hears in Confession
- We still have to face consequences: "Penance"
 - We do a "small act of love" to show our sincerity in wanting to change.
- *We are re-united with God and community.*

Zacchaeus Encounters Jesus

- A story of reconciliation (Luke 19)
- Divine grace compels us to take a risk
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fe7dTNID6h8>



Pay Attention...

- How did Zach feel about Jesus coming over?
- Did spending time with Jesus bring any changes to Zach?

Learning from Zacchaeus

- God longs for us to reconcile, and guides us
 - 10 Commandments
 - Love of God, Neighbor, and Self: “Greatest Commandment”
 - Beatitudes
- Pray for Jesus to *show you* where you need a “course correction”
- Sincere reform, and forgiveness (of self and others) comes from gratitude for God’s love

What does the Sacrament of Penance offer to us?

- **restoration** to honesty, integrity (wholeness)
 - no need to rationalize, or hide secrets
 - Zacchaeus took a risk by climbing the tree; Jesus responded
 - The Prodigal Son “came back home”; his Father welcomed him
 - We “go to Confession”; we are forgiven and in right relationship with God
- **relief** from unproductive guilt
 - transformation to living a new life
- **an encounter** with God
 - meeting God in humility (not humiliation!) and weakness
- **spiritual guidance**—no need to struggle alone
- **inner peace**—no longer at war with yourself
- **strength** in meeting future challenges and temptations
- **grace**—rediscovering, as did the prodigal son, your Father’s unconditional love and mercy

Plans for Saturday, March 2

- **Start Time is 10:00am** in the Main Church
- Brief prayer service followed by individual confessions
 - Family members may go to Confession
 - or attend Parish Reconciliation Service on March 21 at 6pm
- Background music to muffle voices, sounds
- There will not be a formal ending for the whole group. When your family is finished, you may leave as a group. Take their certificate!
- Celebrate afterwards! Special family outing or meal? Call Grandparents or Godparents?

Lambs and Hearts



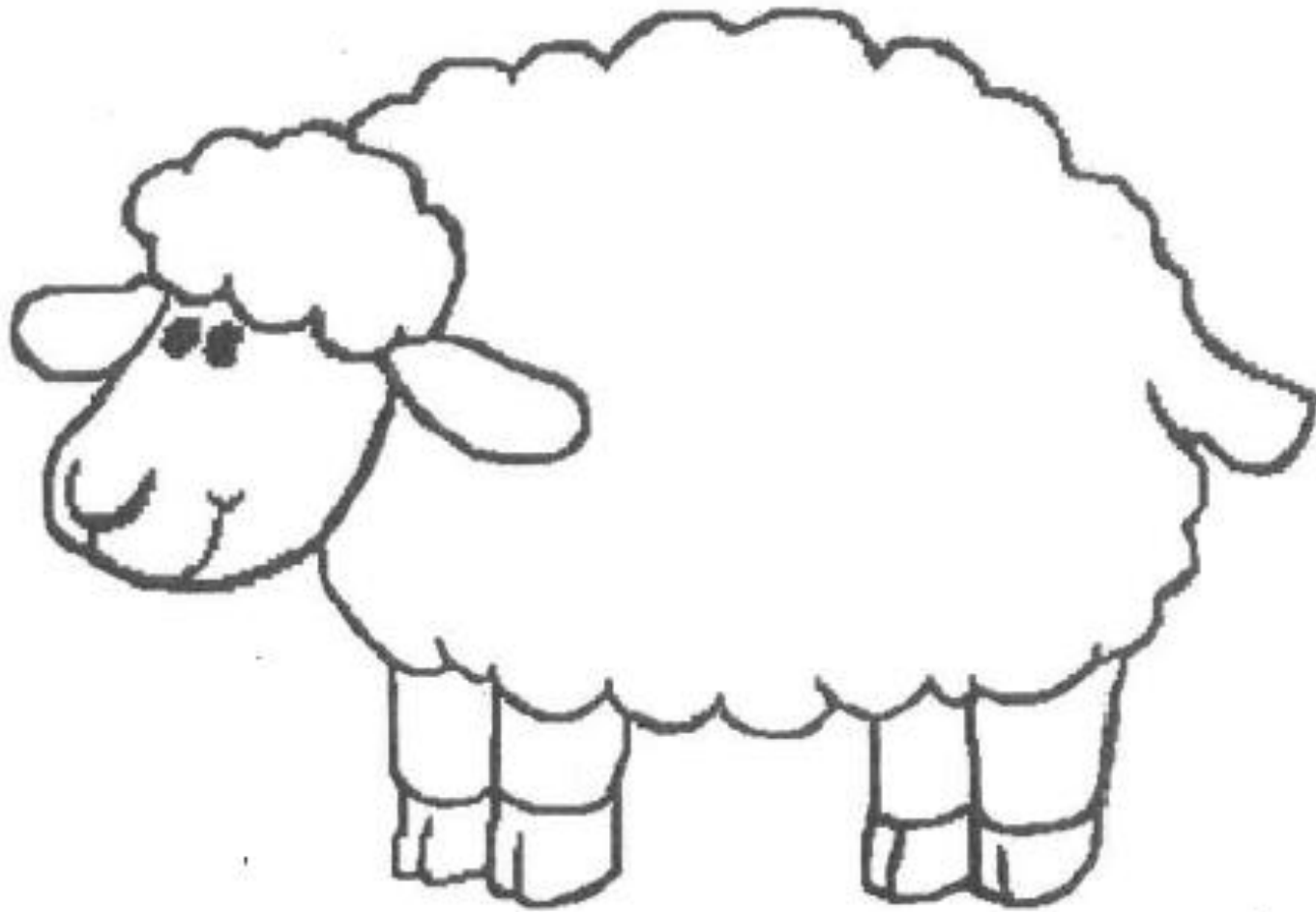
■ **Hearts** (full size paper)

- Children will decorate them in the 2nd grade classrooms.
- Older students should make and decorate a heart at home, and return it to the parish office as soon as possible.

■ **Lambs** – a Home project

- All students will receive a lamb shape to take home. (next slide)
- Student's full name, and teacher's name go on the back
- Glue cotton balls as shown
- **Bring it to Church on March 2!**
- The lambs will be pinned to a display in the narthex
 - Symbol of their friendship with Jesus

CUT OUT THE LAMB, AND GLUE COTTON BALLS ON IT. PUT NAME ON THE BACK.



Helping Your Child Prepare

- **Talk with your child, and together review your day**
 - Where was God's love present, or not present?
 - Are we "on track" with how Jesus asks us to live?
- **Take turns talking about some behavior you are sorry about**
 - It's ok to talk about mistakes
 - Improves listening skills
 - Gain humility as we share our weaknesses
- **A "mock Confession" is humbling!**
 - Share something that you know was wrong (the sin)
 - Talk about how to fix it or do better (shows that you are truly sorry)
 - Other person uses encouraging words or a sign of forgiveness, letting you know how much they love you.



What are the parts of the Sacrament?

- **Do not worry. The priest will guide you.**
 - Start with the Sign of the Cross
 - **Name your sins**; things you know are wrong
 - **Be sorry**; Want to make corrections or change
 - Act of Contrition (we'll recite as a group before individual confessions)
 - **Receive absolution** from the priest
 - God's forgiveness; Respond with "AMEN!"
 - **Do or say your penance promptly**
 - A small act of love; prayer or an action to take



Q & A?

- Thank you for being here!
- ??



Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace
Where there is hatred, let me sow love
Where there is injury, pardon
Where there is doubt, faith
Where there is despair, hope
Where there is darkness, light
And where there is sadness, joy

O Divine Master, grant that I may
Not so much seek to be consoled as to console
To be understood, as to understand
To be loved, as to love
For it is in giving that we receive
And it's in pardoning that we are pardoned
And it's in dying that we are born to Eternal Life

Amen