

We Celebrate the Sacrament of Forgiveness

12

WE GATHER

✦ All: Lord, have mercy.

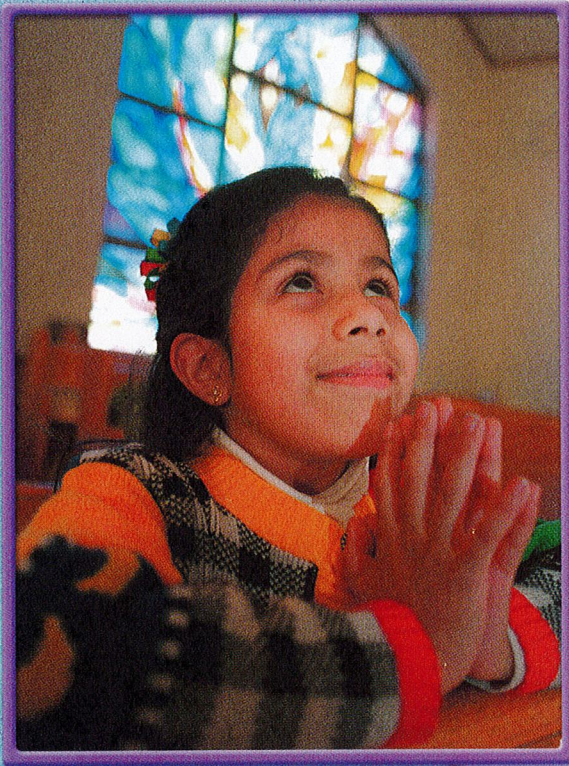
🎵 We Come to Ask Forgiveness

We come to ask your forgiveness, O Lord,
and we seek forgiveness from each other.
Sometimes we build up walls instead
of bridges to peace,
and we ask your forgiveness,
O Lord.

For the times when we've been
rude and selfish,
for the times when we have
been unkind;
and for the times we refused
to help our friends in need,
we ask your forgiveness,
O Lord.



☀️ What do you do when someone asks you to forgive them?



WE BELIEVE

We ask for God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance.

When we celebrate the Sacrament of Penance, we think about the ways we have shown or not shown love for God and for others. This is an examination of conscience. We are sorry for our sins and promise not to sin again. This is **contrition**. If we are sorry because we love God it is perfect contrition. If we are sorry for other reasons it is imperfect contrition.

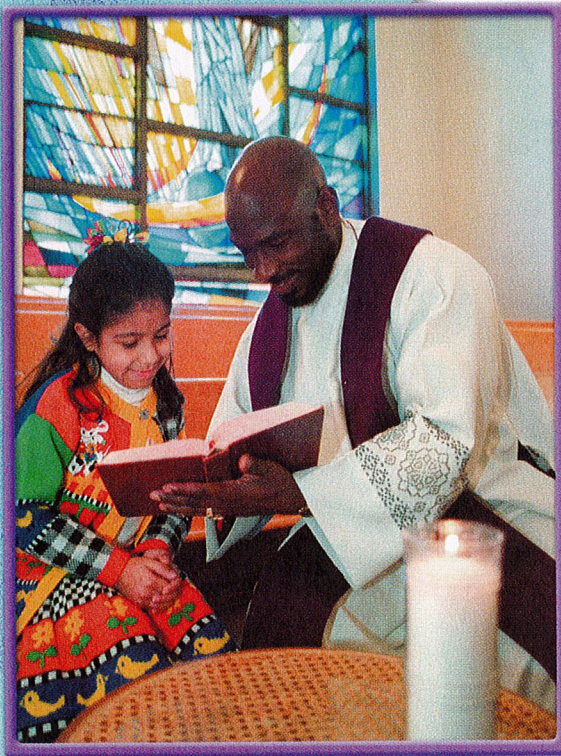
We tell our sins to the priest. This is called **confession**. The priest tells us to say a prayer or to do a kind act to make up for our sins. This is called **a penance**.

We say an Act of Contrition to tell God we are sorry. We promise not to sin again. The priest acting in the name of Jesus forgives our sins. This is called **absolution**.

These steps are always part of the Sacrament of Penance. When we celebrate this sacrament, we meet with the priest. He acts in the name of Jesus. We may sit and face the priest or kneel behind a screen.



Write what we are telling God when we do the penance the priest gives us.



We celebrate God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance.

This is what happened when Lucy went to Father Rob to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance.

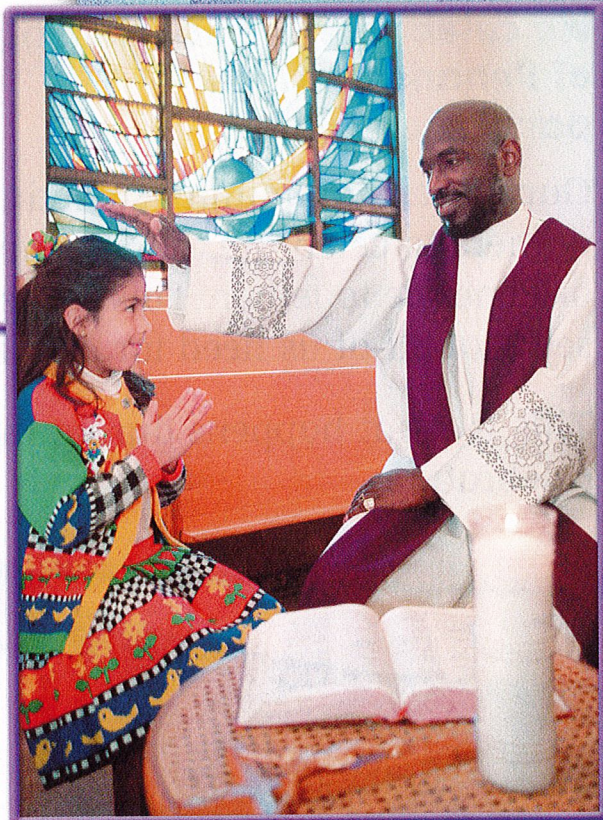
Read Along

- Father Rob welcomed Lucy, and they both made the Sign of the Cross.
- Lucy listened to a story from the Bible about God's forgiveness.
- Lucy confessed her sins to Father Rob.
- Father Rob and Lucy talked about what she could do to make right choices. Then Father gave Lucy a penance. Lucy will do her penance after the celebration of the sacrament.
- Lucy prayed an Act of Contrition.
- Lucy received absolution, or forgiveness, from her sins. Father Rob stretched out his right hand over Lucy's head. He prayed:

"God, the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church may God give you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, † and of the Holy Spirit."

Lucy answered, "Amen."

- Father Rob and Lucy thanked God for his forgiveness. Father told Lucy, "Go in peace."



Key Words


contrition being sorry for our sins and promising not to sin again

confession telling our sins to the priest in the Sacrament of Penance

a penance a prayer or a kind act we do to make up for our sins

absolution God's forgiveness of our sins by the priest in the Sacrament of Penance

We can celebrate the Sacrament of Penance as Lucy did.

 Talk about ways celebrating the Sacrament of Penance helps us.

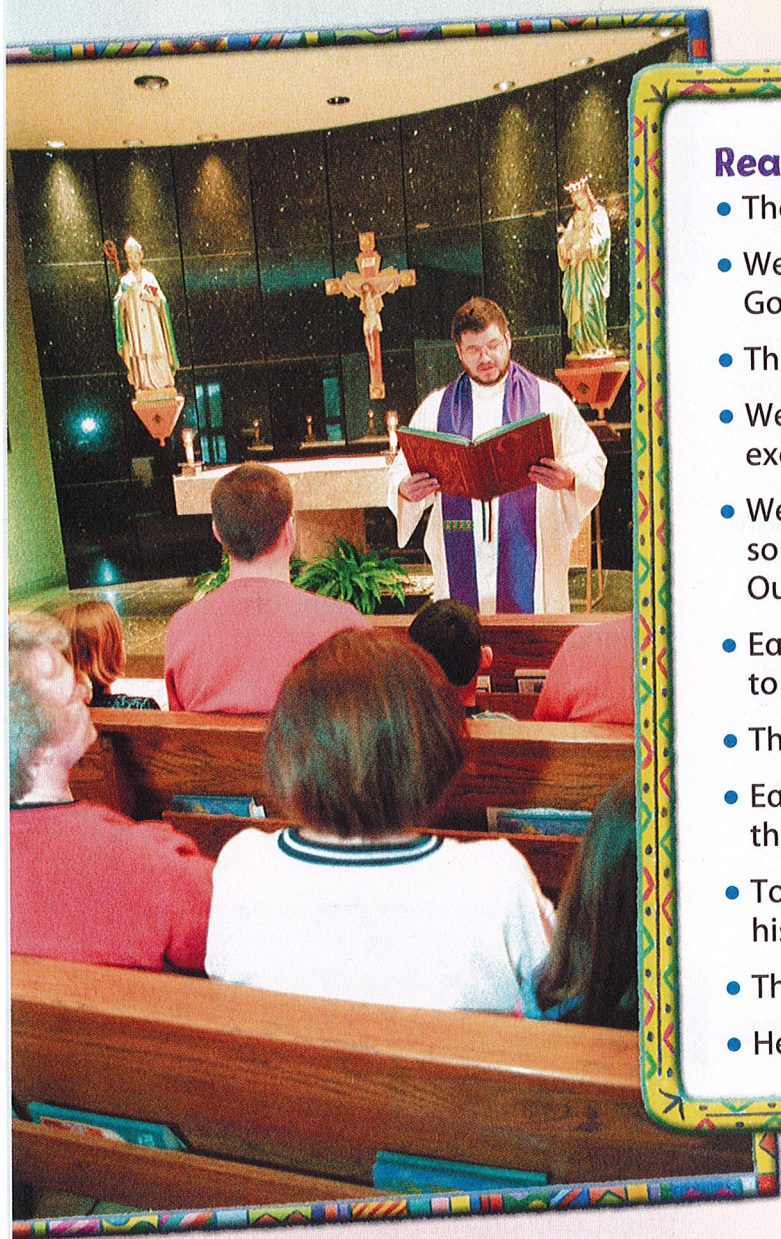
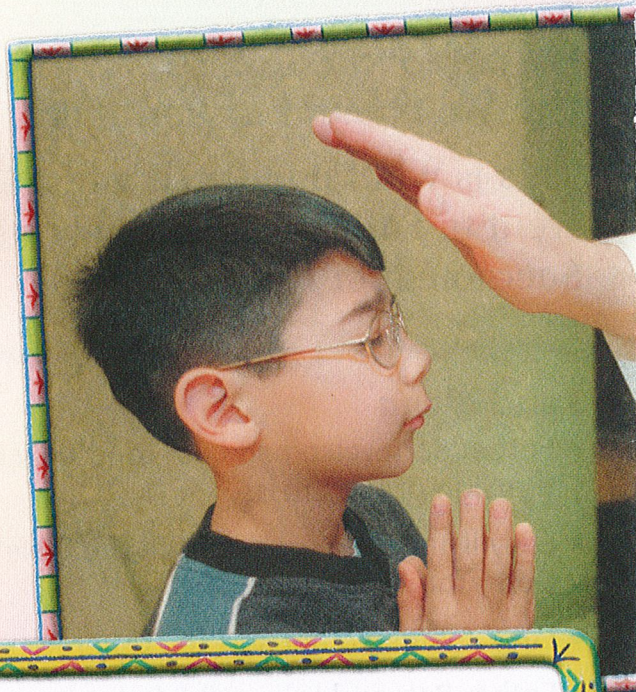
As Catholics...

The parish priest is always willing to help us. He listens to us and helps us to follow Jesus. We tell the priest our sins in the Sacrament of Penance. The priest cannot tell anyone the sins we confess.

We celebrate the Sacrament of Penance with our parish community.


Our parish community sometimes gathers to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance together. This helps us see that all of us need forgiveness.

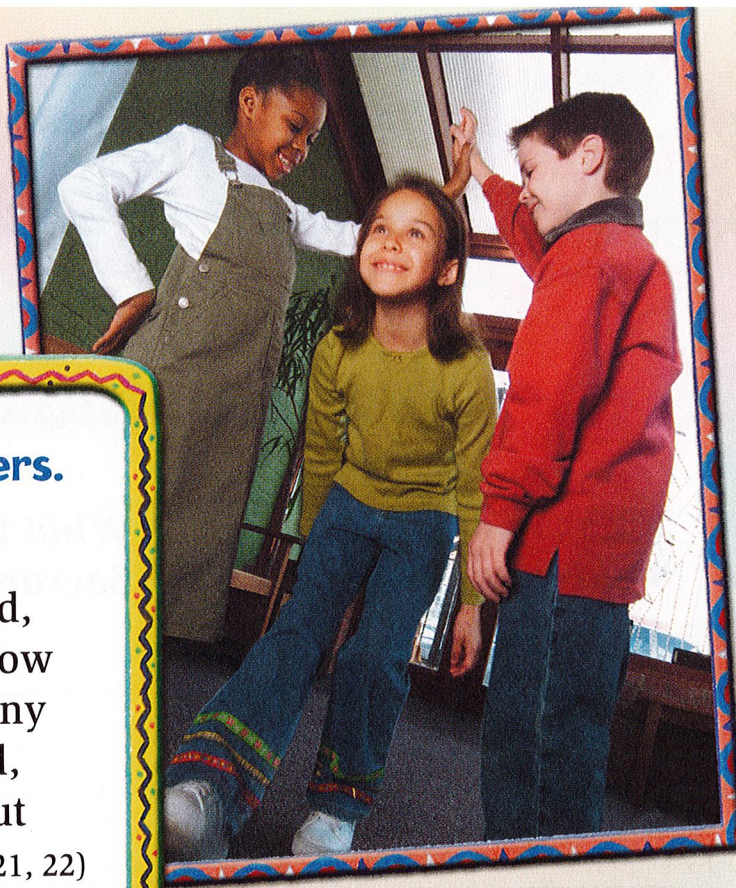
This is what happens during that celebration.



Read Along

- The parish community sings a song.
- We listen to readings from the Bible about God's love and forgiveness.
- The priest talks to us about the readings.
- We listen to questions that are part of an examination of conscience.
- We say a prayer together to tell God we are sorry for our sins. Then together we pray the Our Father.
- Each person goes alone to tell his or her sins to the priest.
- The priest gives a penance to each person.
- Each person receives absolution from the priest.
- Together we all praise and thank God for his mercy.
- The priest blesses the parish community.
- He tells us to "Go in peace."

 What is special about celebrating this sacrament with your parish community?



Jesus wants us to forgive others.




Matthew 18:21-23

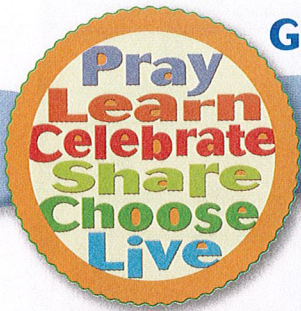
One day Peter asked Jesus, “Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus answered, “I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times.” (Matthew 18:21, 22)

In this story, Jesus is telling us that we should always forgive others. When we celebrate the Sacrament of Penance, we receive God’s forgiveness and peace. Jesus wants us to forgive others and to share God’s gift of peace with them.



WE RESPOND

 Imagine that your friend said some hurtful things to you. Then your friend said, “I am sorry. I hope you can forgive me.” Write what you can say and do to be a peacemaker.



PROJECT

Show What *you* Know Use the **Key Words** from the box.

What I do in the Sacrament of Penance:

What the priest does in the Sacrament of Penance:

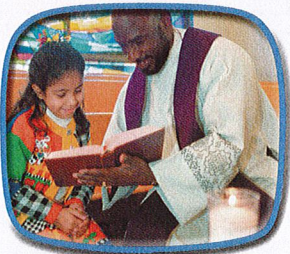
contrition
absolution
a penance
confession



Match the pictures to the parts of the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance.



- Lucy listens as Father Rob reads a story about God's forgiveness from the Bible.

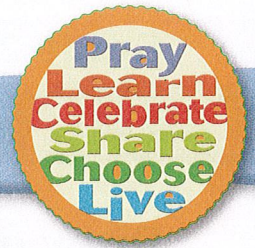


- Lucy receives absolution, or forgiveness, for her sins.



- Lucy examines her conscience to prepare for the Sacrament of Penance.

DISCIPLE



Saint Stories

Saint Francis of Assisi is known as a peacemaker. When one town went to war against another, Francis helped them come to a peaceful agreement. Francis wrote a prayer for peace. He wrote, “Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.” For more about saints, visit “Lives of the Saints” at www.webelieveweb.com.

↳ **DISCIPLE CHALLENGE** Be a peacemaker.
Pray the words of Saint Francis today.



Reality Check

Check the things someone should ask God’s forgiveness for.

- being rude
- being unkind
- being selfish
- being happy

Take Home

Talk with your family about the Sacrament of Penance. Write three important things you have learned that you will share with them.

As a family, you might plan to visit your parish to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance.

CHAPTER TEST

Draw a line to match the sentence parts.

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. Absolution is • | • a prayer or kind act we do to make up for our sins. |
| 2. A penance is • | • telling our sins to the priest. |
| 3. Confession is • | • God's forgiveness of our sins by the priest. |
| 4. Contrition is • | • being sorry for our sins and promising not to sin again. |

Underline the correct answer.

5. Contrition, confession, a penance, and absolution are **(always, sometimes)** part of the Sacrament of Penance.
6. We **(always, sometimes)** gather with our parish community to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance together.
7. Jesus wants us to forgive others **(always, sometimes)**.
8. In the Sacrament of Penance, the priest **(always, sometimes)** forgives us in the name of Jesus.

9–10. Write two ways you can be a peacemaker.
