**FIRST RECONCILIATION SERVICE – 2015**

Wednesday, November 18, STM @ 6:30pm

**FOCUS**: Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation we turn from sin and let God's love shine in us.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

**PRELUDE:** *Thy Word*

**OPENING SONG:** *We are the Light of the World*

## **GREETING:**

### Presider: May the light and peace of God,

## **Our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, be with you.**

All: And with your spirit.

**INTRODUCTION:**

**Presider: Jesus Christ seeks out those who are lost**

**and rejoices with all of the heavenly host when**

**even one sinner repents.**

**Let us ask God for the grace to open our hearts to His mercy**

**so that we truly may be sorry for our sins against Him**

**and one another.**

Pause for silent prayer

**OPENING PRAYER**

**Presider: Let us pray.**

**Lord, Hear the prayers of those who call on you,**

**Forgive the sins of those who confess to you,**

**And in your merciful love,**

**Give us your pardon and your peace.**

**We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

All: Amen *(All are seated)*

**READING:** 1 John 1:5-7 *(2nd Grade Catechist, Kiki Harke)*

**PSALM 27:** *The Lord is My Light and My Salvation* (Emily Shackleton)

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*(All stand)*

**GOSPEL:** Matthew 5:14-16 *(Presider)*

*(All are seated)*

**Homily – Fr. Jim**

**EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE**

***Presider*: Lord, we come before you**

**seeking your pardon for the things**

**we have done wrong,**

**as well as the things we should have done—**

**but did not do.**

**At these times, we have lost our way.**

**Let us now examine these areas of sin,**

**And ask Jesus to shine his light in us.**

**Please respond:**

***Lord, help your light to shine in me*.**

***Presider:* Have I remembered to pray every day?**

*All*: Lord, help your light to shine in me.

***Presider:*Have I used God’s name in a bad or unkind way?**

*All*: Lord, help your light to shine in me.

***Presider:* Do I come to worship at Mass every Sunday?**

*All*: Lord, help your light to shine in me.

***Presider:* Have I disobeyed my parents or others who care of me?** *All*: Lord, help your light to shine in me.

***Presider:* Have I lost my temper or been mean to anyone?**

*All*: Lord, help your light to shine in me.

***Presider:*Have I done anything to hurt my own or someone else’s body?** *All*: Lord, help your light to shine in me.

***Presider:* Have I taken anything that belongs to someone else?**

*All*: Lord, help your light to shine in me.

***Presider:*Have I always told the truth?**

*All*: Lord, help your light to shine in me.

***Presider:* Have I been jealous of things other people own or of another person’s lifestyle?**

*All*: Lord, help your light to shine in me.

Presider: At this time I invite you to take the piece of paper

you were given as you entered the church

and write down the sins you need to confess. You do not need to spell the words correctly

and you might want to draw a picture instead of writing words.

The paper is simply a way to help you remember what you need

to confess to the priest.

On the back, you will see the steps for Confession that you may refer to in the confessional. Please read through these steps ahead to remind yourself what they are.

*(PAUSE FOR A MOMENT OF REFLECTION)*

**RITE OF RECONCILIATION**

(Please Stand)

**ACT OF CONTRITION**

***Presider:* Let us stand and pray together the Act of Contrition.**

**ALL: My God, I am sorry**

**for my sins with all my heart.**

**In choosing to do wrong**

**and failing to do good,**

**I have sinned against You**

**whom I should love above all things.**

**I firmly intend, with Your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Amen.**

(Please be seated)

**Presider:**

1. Introduce all of the priests and invite them to move to one of the confession areas.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Confessor** | **Confession Location** |
| Fr. Jim Lucas | St. Thomas More Shrine |
| Fr. Gerald Falk | Reconciliation Room |
| Fr. Bill Hoffman | 14th Station of the Cross |
| Fr. Brian Wideman | Holy Family Shrine |
| Fr. Dennis Ryan | 1st Station of the Cross |
| Fr. Jim Leary | Bride’s Room outside church |

1. Emily will give instructions to the families. Invite all to share in quiet time of prayer and for children to write down their sins on the paper provided, read through the steps for confession, and work on their workbooks while they wait. There are also bibles available with suggested readings that you may read through quietly as a family. You may use these to begin a prayerful conversation with God in your mind while you wait in the pews. God wants to get to know you better! He loves you!
2. Kiki will direct traffic to and from the bride room and check periodically to see that other stations are running smoothly.
3. Families should sit in order they will go to the priests in pews near their confession locations.

*(Background music begins as children move to the priests*

*TO BEGIN THEIR CONFESSIONS.)*

**INDIVIDUAL CONFESSIONS**

*(BACKGROUND MUSIC ENDS WHEN ALL PRIESTS HAVE RETURNED*

*TO THEIR PLACES IN THE ASSEMBLY.)*

*As children finish their confessions, they may walk with their parents up to the front, use the wooden sticks to light their candles, and place them around the sanctuary steps, representing that they are the “light of Christ.” Afterward, they should complete their penance and then work on their workbook activities, read suggested bible passages with their parents, or remain silently in their pews until all are finished.*

**CONCLUDING PRAYERS & BLESSING**

**Presider:**

**As we look upon these candles,**

**May their flames be a visible reminder**

**That we are God’s light in the world.**

**We remember that God has forgiven our sins**

**All the Saints in heaven rejoice with us today**

**Because we are made clean and close to God.**

**Our God loves us very much.**

**Let us take a moment to thank God for his great mercy**

**And our happiness as His children. [pause]**

**May God strengthen us to change our behavior,**

**To love better, and to have courage**

**To be His light in the world.**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**Presider:**

**Let us now pray in the words Jesus taught:**

**All: Our Father…**

**SIGN OF PEACE**

**Presider: Let us now offer each other a sign of peace.**

**CLOSING PRAYER**

**Presider:**

**All Holy Father,**

**You have shown us your mercy**

**and made us a new creation in the likeness of your Son.**

**Make us living signs of your love**

**for the whole world to see.**

**We ask this through Christ, our Lord.**

All: Amen

**BLESSING**

**Presider:**

**May we always walk in the light of Jesus.**

All: Amen

**Presider:**

**May almighty God bless you,**

**The Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.**

All: Amen

**Presider:**

**The Lord has freed you from your sins,**

**Go in peace.**

All: Thanks be to God.

**Presider:** Invite families to a reception in the Fellowship Hall following this service. Give directions to get to there.

**CLOSING SONG:** *We are the Light of the World (remaining verses)*