**Preparation for Holy Communion**

**February 2024**

**I’m sorry**

**at Sunday Mass**

***Gathering Rite***

**Reader**

Welcome everyone. Today we welcome especially the children preparing for their first Holy Communion and preparing to for their first confessions also known as the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

This is a very special time for the children and their families and also our Church community as we reflect on God’s love for us and the role forgiveness and reconciliation plays in this loving relationship between each one of us and God. It is important that we express when we are sorry and also when we are forgiving someone.

The expression of saying sorry and forgiving others helps us to build good relationships in our families, friendships, community and in our relationship with God. When we do or say things to others that are hurtful or dishonest, this can cause our friendships and relationships to breakdown or become distant. In being able to admit to being wrong, saying we are sorry and equally forgiving someone when they hurt us, we strengthen these relationships and friendships, building trust, love and respect. It is the same with our relationship with God, our forever friend.

***Act of Sorrow***

**Priest:** A new translation of an old prayer can offer us a fresh understanding. Instead of the Confiteor today, we join in praying the Act of Sorrow that the children have been learning. In this prayer, we begin with gratitude for God’s great love; secondly, we tell God we’re sorry for the times we mess up in our relationships; and thirdly, we look to future with hope. I’ll start and you might repeat after me:

O my God, I thank you for loving me**. O my God, I thank you for loving me.**

I’m sorry for all my sins, for not loving others, and not loving you. **I’m sorry …**

Help me to live like Jesus and not sin again. Amen. **Help me to live like Jesus ….**

***Liturgy of the Word***

Readings of Sunday liturgy are proclaimed by Ministers of the Word.

***Prayers of the Faithful***

**Priest**: Graceful and forgiving God, you always forgive us and welcome us with love and friendship. Today we bring you our prayers.

**Reader:** For leaders of churches and nations, especially Pope Francis and Bishop Ray,

that they may always encourage forgiveness and reconciliation. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, graciously hear us.**

**Reader:** We pray for peace in our world. Especially those affected by war, natural disasters and other forms of conflict. That God may give them continued strength and the gift of peace in all that they endure. Lord, hear us.

**Reader:** Lord, help us to say sorry to those we hurt and forgive those who

 have hurt us with open, honest hearts. Lord, hear us.

**Reader:** Lord, we pray for people who may be in the process of healing broken

relationships, friendships or in a place of deep hurt.

May they know your unconditional love and friendship

and experience your healing hand on their hearts and minds. Lord, hear us.

**Reader:** We pray for families in our communities,

that they may experience God’s gentle and loving presence in their lives.

We pray especially for the children preparing for sacraments**.** Lord, hear us.

**Reader:** Lord we think of our loved ones who have died. We remember especially…

Lord hear us.

**Priest:** Gracious and patient God, bring healing to our lives,

That we may sow beauty, not hurt and destruction.

We make these and all our prayers through Christ your Son, our Lord,

**All:Amen.**

***Liturgy of the Eucharist***

***Communion Reflection***

**Reader:** God is always at work in our lives.

Sometimes it seems we are being called

beyond what we consider to be our limits.

God invites our trust and openness.

A potter’s hands are gentle but very strong.

They choose the shape.

The clay doesn’t choose its own shape.

The potter’s hands shape the clay,

but of course with respect for the real nature of the clay.

The clay yields to the potter’s touch

and you see the beginnings of transformation.

We are the clay, the work of the Lord’s hands.

**Closing Song:** I’m Sorry God (Grow in Love pg. 165)