

# CHURCH OF ST. CLARE

## FIRST RECONCILIATION RETREAT OPENING PRAYER



THE LOST ARE FOUND, THE WEAK ARE CALLED.

*"I tell you, there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent" (Luke 15:7).*

## INVITATION TO PRAYER

**Welcome** by Ms. Marie Noel

**Introduction** by Mrs. Theresa Signorile or Mrs. Claire Smith

**Calling Each by Name** by your respective Teacher or Catechist

### Introductory Rite

**Entrance Song: Children of God** by Christopher Walker

**Refrain:** Children of God in one family, loved by God in one family. And no matter what we do God loves me and God loves you (2x).

1. Jesus teaches us to love. Sometimes we get it wrong.  
But God forgives us ev'ry time for we belong to the...
2. Jesus wants us to forgive. Sometimes we get it wrong. But God forgives us ev'ry time or we belong to the...
3. Jesus wants us to be kind...
4. Jesus wants us to be truthful...
5. Jesus wants us to be sorry...

**Fr. Arthur:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

### Opening Prayer

#### WELCOMING THE WORD

Fr. Arthur: **Let us now welcome God's word into our hearts by saying together the first prayer on your sheets:**

All: **Fill our minds that we may hear your wisdom.  
Touch our lips that we may speak your truth.  
Hold our hearts that we may always follow you;  
Come now, O Word of God.**

Reading: **Luke 15:1-7**

Fr. Arthur: **The Lord be with you**

Fr. Arthur: **A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to Luke**

**All: And with your spirit**

**All: Glory to you O Lord**

The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." So to them he addressed this parable.

"What man among you having a hundred sheep and losing one of them would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it?

And when he does find it, he sets it on his shoulders with great joy

and, upon his arrival home, he calls together his friends and neighbors and says to them,

'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.'

I tell you, in just the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance.

Fr. Arthur: **The Gospel of the Lord**

**All: Praise to you Lord Jesus**

Homily

**Commitment to the Journey by Students and Parents:** Please follow along in your worship aid.

**Fr. Arthur:** My dear children, as you begin to prepare for the Sacraments of Penance and Eucharist, are you ready to try to understand more clearly what your Baptism means to you?

**Children: We are.**

**Fr. Arthur:** Are you ready to listen carefully to the words of encouragement and instruction given to you by your families and by your teachers?

**Children: We are.**

**Fr. Arthur:** Are you ready to join more completely with us in a life of prayer and service?

**Children: We are.**

**Fr. Arthur:** Parents and families, you have presented these children to us as candidates for the Sacraments of Penance and Eucharist. I now ask you: are you ready to help them prepare to celebrate these Sacraments?

**Parents: We are.**

**Fr. Arthur:** Are you willing to support your children, teach them, pray for and with them, and affirm them as they continue their Sacramental journey?

**Parents: We are.**

**Fr. Arthur:** Are you prepared to be living models of faith to these children?

**Parents: We are.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Fr. Arthur:** That God may give you the strength to do as you just promised, **join hands with your child and pray together the Lord's Prayer:**

**All:** Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

## **BLESSING OF THE CHILDREN**

**Fr. Arthur:** Now I ask the parents to bless your children by tracing the sign of the cross on their foreheads as we say together the blessing from your sheet:

**All:** **May God bless you and keep you, may God smile on you.  
May God show you kindness and fill you with peace.**

**Fr. Arthur:** And may God bless you Father, Son and + Holy Spirit;  
may you always love and serve, filled with God's peace.

**Song of Sending Forth: We Belong to God's Family** by Christopher Walker verses **1 & 3**

**Refrain:** We belong to God's family. Brothers and sisters are we,  
singing together in unity about one Lord and one faith, one family.

**1.** We are one in the water, the fountain of rebirth.  
We are God's new creation and our song will cover the earth.

**3.** We all share a forgiveness that flows from sea to sea,  
gentle mercy that breaks all bonds and sets the prisoner free.

**The Video of the Prodigal Son:** Both children and parents will watch the Video together

**Activities After the Video:** Activities will be sent home ahead of time.

**Instructions to Parents:** Now that you have watched this movie with your child, take a moment to work on this coloring activities with your child.

- The Children will color the reunion between Father
- The parents will help the son find his way home.
- We will take 10 minutes to work on the activities

As you do the activity, share the reflections below with each other

**Both Parents and Children:**

- What did I learn about God's forgiveness watching this movie?
- How do I understand God's mercy?
- When did I experience God's mercy? Give concrete examples
- What about this movie or the activity make me excited about the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

**Children:**

- How does seeing how God's mercy works in this movie and the activity help me look forward to celebrating the sacrament of Reconciliation?
- Am I anxious or excited about the Sacrament?

**Parents:**

- How can I help prepare my child for a joyful and meaningful celebration of First Penance?
- How can I encourage my child to continue to receive the sacrament in the future?
- Is there something keeping me from celebrating the sacrament of Reconciliation?

Concluding Prayer: **The Act of Contrition**

All God asks of us when we are lost to simply return to him with a humble heart and ask for forgiveness. Let us conclude our time together praying this simply prayer of asking God's forgiveness:

**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,

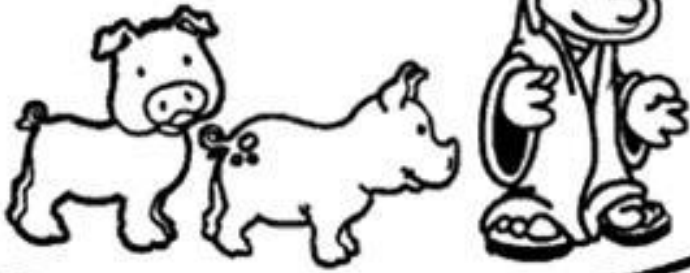
to do penance, to sin no more,

and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.

Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us.

In His Name, my God, have mercy. **Amen**

Help the Prodigal Son  
find his way home.





For this my son was  
dead and is alive  
again; he was lost and  
is found.

*Luke 15:24*