

# General Information on the Sacrament of Reconciliation

## *BACKGROUND*

The Sacrament of Reconciliation can be traced back to John 20:21-23 where Jesus gives the Apostles the gift of forgiving sins. Jesus, our savior, healed and forgave even the worst of sinners. Up until the 6<sup>th</sup> Century, Christians could only receive "Penance" once and usually just before death. After the 6<sup>th</sup> Century, Christians could receive "Penance" as often as needed. In the Middle Ages another shift occurred. Christians could be reconciled immediately after confessing. Today we celebrate the "Sacrament of Reconciliation". The emphasis is on healing and being reconciled with God, ourselves, and one another. We now celebrate our personal experience of our loving and merciful God!

## *SAINT PAUL PARENT EXPECTATIONS*

Our Parish tries to emphasize the family nature of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We encourage parents to teach by example. Be forgiving and loving-a true model of our Lord. Participate in the life of the parish: attend Liturgy and receive Reconciliation. Help your children learn the difference between right and wrong. Children live what they learn and see everyday. The Family Faith Formation Catechists and School Teachers can only build on what is taught in your home. Please help us to be partners in preparing your children for Reconciliation.

## *SACRAMENTAL PREPARATIONS*

In accordance with Diocesan Standards, Saint Paul Sacramental Preparation requires the following:

1. Attendance at all classes is expected for children in Family Faith Formation
2. Learning prayers in class and at home: The Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, and Act of Contrition
3. Regular attendance at weekly Mass
4. A retreat day (Parent & Child)
5. Take-home family activity book

## *IMPORTANT DATES*

1. **Retreat:** Friday November 2, 2007 6:00 – 8:00 PM Church Social Hall
2. Celebration of the Sacrament: Saturday November 10, 2007 @ 1:30 PM in the Church; Reception to follow in the Church Social Hall