A reading taken from the gospel of Luke Chapter 15 verses 11-24

Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.

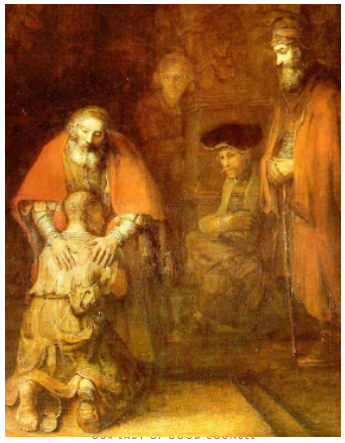
After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.
"When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.'

So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him." The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. '
"But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'

So they began to celebrate.

Examination of Conscience for Children

Have I put anything ahead of God in my life?
Do I pray every day?
Have I used God's name in a disrespectful way?
Have I said bad words?
Do I go to church every Sunday?
Have I made it hard for my parents to take me to church?
Have I disobeyed my parents?
Have I talked back to my parents or yelled at them?
Have I been respectful to my teachers?
Have I tried to hurt anyone?
Have I fought with anyone?
Have I made fun of anyone?
Have I not treated my body or the body of another with respect?
Have I stolen?
Have I broken something on purpose?
Have I told lies?
Have I blamed someone else for something I have done?
Have I cheated in games or on tests?
Have I been jealous of others?
Have I spent too much time playing video games, watching TV, or using other electronics?



Steps to Going To Confession

1. Introduction. When you go before the priest, begin by making the Sign of the Cross (praying the words out loud), and continue by saying,

"Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. This is my first confession, These are my sins…"
OR
"Bless me, Father, for I have sinned, it has been_____ since my last confession…"

2. Confession. List the sins you have committed.
Afterwards, say *"…I am sorry for these sins and all the sins of my life"*

3. Penance. The priest will suggest something for you to do or pray as a response to God's mercy.

4. Contrition. The priest may then ask you to pray your "Act of Contrition," or asking if you are sorry for your sins.

Examples of the ACT OF CONTRITION:

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.

O my God, I am heartily sorry
for having offended you and I detest all my sins,
because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell;
but most of all because they offend you, my God,
who are all good and deserving of all my love.
I firmly resolve with the help of your grace,
to confess my sins, to do penance, and to amend my life. Amen.

I'm sorry for my sins, and I promise to do better because I love you God.

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5. Absolution. The priest will extend his hands in your direction and will pray the Prayer of Absolution. After the prayer, you respond: *Amen.*
6. Conclusion. The priest will then say something like, "God has freed you from your sin. Go in Peace." To which you can respond: "Thanks be to God." You can also say, "Thank you Father."
After You Leave…
Don't forget to do your penance! If it is saying certain prayers, it's best to do it right away in the chapel before you forget.

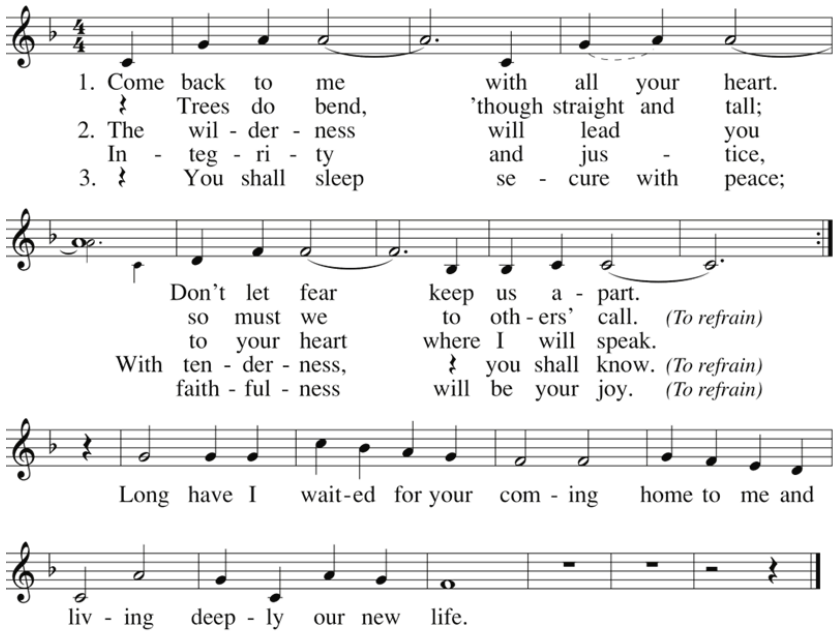
Our Lady of Good Counsel First Reconciliation Service

Thank you for joining us on this sacramental day!
After Confession, students are directed to go to the chapel for their penance. Outside the chapel, there will be someone to help light a candle that represents the light of Christ being alive in us after partaking in this sacrament.

Once your candle is lit, please join us in DeSales Hall for some congratulatory refreshments to celebrate this special milestone.

* *No photography. Please maintain a spirit of reverence and silence while in the church, chapel, and line for confession.*

Hosea



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FAITH FORMATION
OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL