

YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter defines contrition and absolution and identifies the Sacraments of Healing as Christ's actions through the Church to share God's healing and forgiving love.

Scripture



Read **Luke 5:30–32** to find out what Jesus says about sinners.

Catholics Believe

- The Church receives God's forgiveness through the Sacraments of Healing.
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation includes contrition, confession, penance, and absolution.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1421, 1491, 1527, 1531 at usccb.org.

People of Faith

This week, your child learned about Saint John Vianney, whose special ministry was hearing confessions and counseling sinners.

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand the Sacraments of Healing Even though many of them have already received the Sacraments of Penance and Reconciliation for the first time, children this age might still struggle with the idea of confession to a priest. ("Why do I have to confess my sins to a priest?") With some guidance, they are capable of understanding that the Church is a family, and that we are all connected in the Body of Christ. When one of us sins, it affects everyone. The priest serves as a representative of Christ but also of the Catholic community.



CONSIDER THIS >>>

Have you ever wondered why there is sickness and death in this world?

Sickness and death are unavoidable in human life. To strengthen us and unite our suffering with Christ's suffering on the Cross, the Church celebrates the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. As Catholics, we know that "when the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is given, the hoped-for effect is that, if it be God's will, the person be physically healed of illness. But even if there is no physical healing, the primary effect of the Sacrament is a spiritual healing by which the sick person receives the Holy Spirit's gift of peace and courage to deal with the difficulties that accompany serious illness or the frailty of old age" (*USCCA, p. 254*).

LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to retell the Bible story of the Prodigal Son in his or her own words.
- Share a story of forgiveness in your own family.

LET'S PRAY >>>



Dear God, forgive us our sins and help us to always do your will. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to aliveinchrist.osv.com.