



Format for the Celebration of Reconciliation

Greet Father... say “Hello”

Begin with the sign of the cross and say:

“**Bless me Father for I have sinned.**

This is my first confession and these are my sins _____.”

In future, you will say,

“Bless me Father, for I have sinned.

It has been (for example: four months) since my last confession and these are my sins.”

After confessing his or her sins, the child concludes by saying:

“**For these and all my sins I am truly sorry.**”

The Priest then will speak briefly with the child about God’s everlasting love and then assign the child a penance.

Penance could be a request to say prayers or do a task to show forgiveness.

The child asks God’s forgiveness by praying the Act of Contrition:

Act of Contrition

Loving God,
I am sorry for having sinned.
I love you with all my heart.
With your help,
I will try not to sin again.
Amen

The Priest **absolves** the child (forgives and erases all sin)

The child makes the sign of the cross and says “**Amen**” as the Priest blesses the child.

Say “Thank you Father” or “Good-bye!”

The child prays his or her penance... this will be done in your pew.