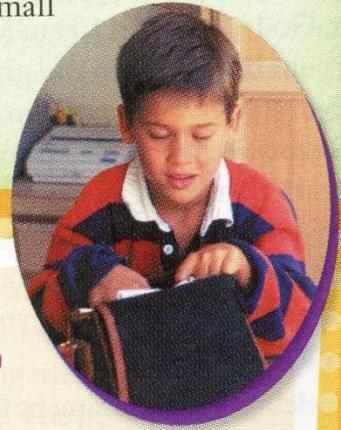


On Purpose?

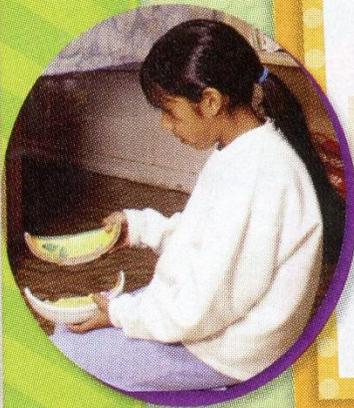
Catholic Practices

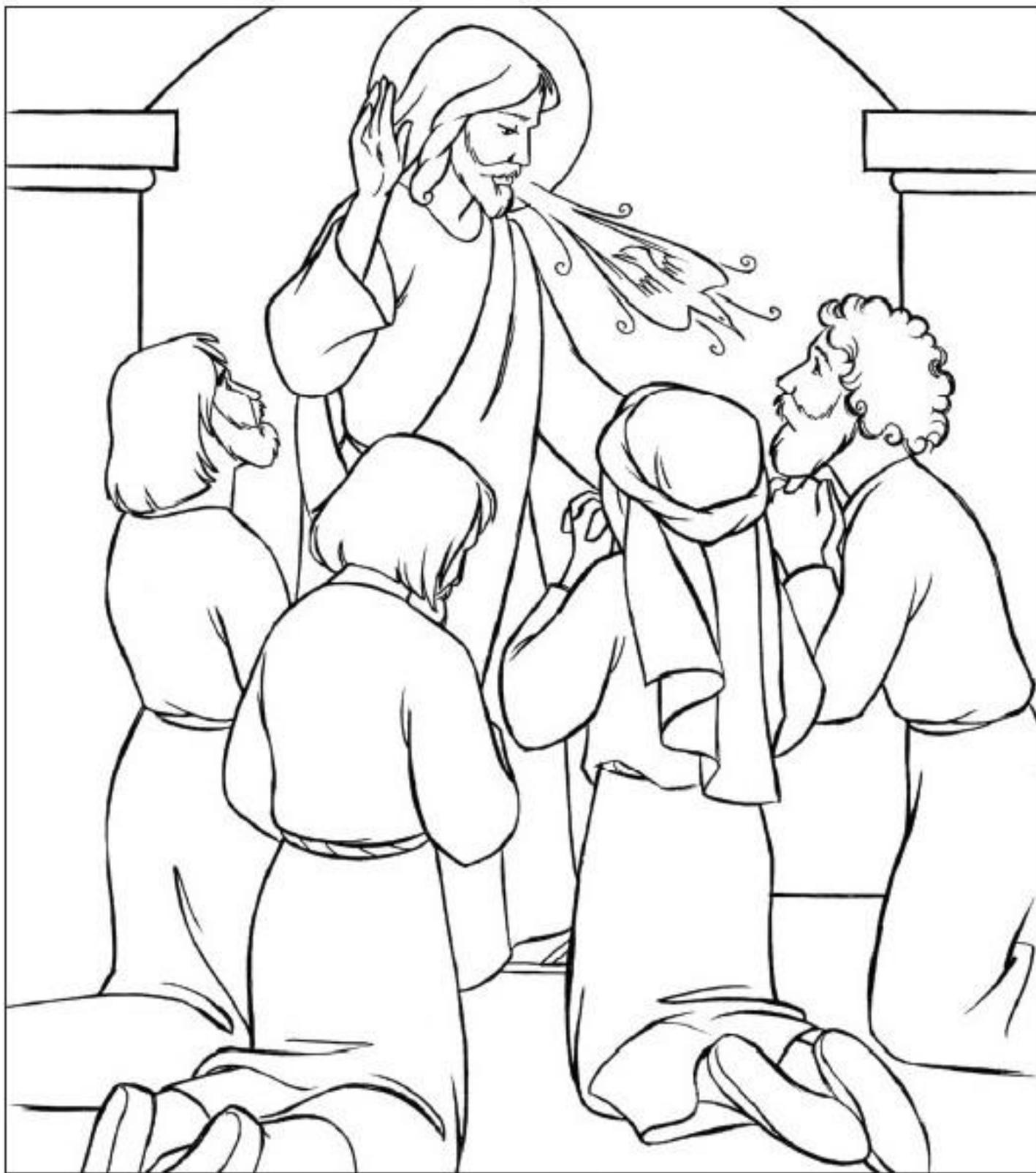
During Lent Catholics gather for parish penance services to recall their sins and try to do better.

You cannot sin by accident or by mistake. If you do something because you are afraid or if someone forces you to do something, it may not be a sin. Sin is a wrong choice that you make on purpose. In a small group, talk about whether each of the following is a sinful choice.



- 1 Jack wants to buy a new video game but doesn't have enough money. He takes money out of his mother's purse without asking.
- 2 Ray trips on the playground and knocks over a kindergarten child.
- 3 Erin is in a hurry to watch her favorite TV show, so she takes her friend's homework and copies it.
- 4 Lauren makes fun of a classmate who has trouble making friends.
- 5 Zach tells a lie so that he won't get in trouble.
- 6 Samantha is helping to clean up when a dinner dish slips out of her hands and breaks.

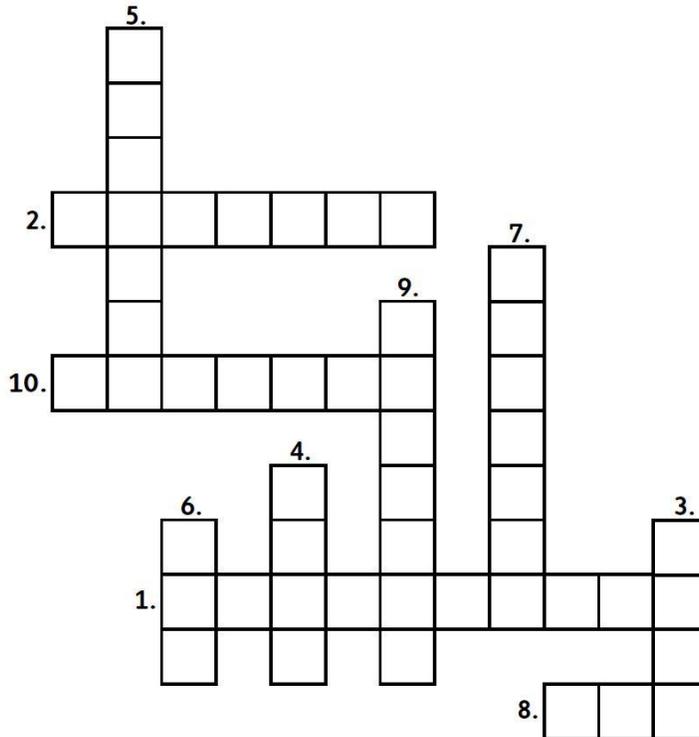




Jesus said to [His disciples] again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, so I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." (John 20:21-23)

Steps of the Sacrament Crossword Puzzle

At the bottom of the page are clues that describe the steps you follow during the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. Write the answers to these clues in the puzzle below.



1. First I examine my _____.
2. Then I _____ to the priest's welcome.
3. Next, the priest may _____ Scripture to me.
4. Then I'll confess my _____.
5. After that, I'll _____ my penance from the priest.
6. Then I will pray the _____ of Contrition.
7. Next, the priest will _____ me of my sins.
8. After that, I will give praise to _____.
9. The next step is to make sure I do my _____.
10. All that's left to do is to _____ that God has forgiven me and to try to do better in the future!

Where did the Sacrament of Reconciliation (also called Confession or Penance) come from? Read John 20:20-23



How often did Jesus say we must forgive others? Read Matthew 18:20-22

Read pages 142-147 in your Reconciliation book. Do the "Steps in the Sacrament" on page 129.

Steps For Confession to be done at Church

While you are waiting for your turn:

- examine your conscience again,
- think about being sorry for these sins,
- think about Jesus and how glad he is to be with you and you are to be with Him.

On coming to the priest:

- The priest will greet you
 - Make the sign of the cross
 - Say: "Bless me, Father, for I have sinned."
 - Say: "This is my first Confession"
- Tell your sins to the priest. You can start with "These are my sins:" Then tell him **all your sins**.
- Listen to the priest. He will tell you what Penance you must do. Remember what he says so that you can do it.
- Say the Act of Contrition
- Listen to the priest as he extends his hands and, as Jesus, forgives (absolves) your sins.
- The priest may say "Give Thanks to the Lord for He is Good".
- You say "His Mercy endures forever".



Leave the priest. Find an empty pew where you can see the Tabernacle. Pray any prayers the priest gave you to say. Remember how Jesus died on the cross for your sins and has taken yours away. If the priest didn't give you any prayers to say, say the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Glory Be. Say the Act of Contrition, thinking about what you are saying.

Leave the church, ready to be free of sin, closer to Jesus and ready to forgive anyone who hurts you, just as Jesus forgave you!



Invitation to Reconciliation

My Response to God

Dear _____,

Thank you for your invitation
to celebrate the Sacrament of
Reconciliation.

Love,

An Invitation from God

To: _____

From: God

You Are Invited!

What: To celebrate the
Sacrament of Reconciliation
for the first time

When: _____

Where: _____

Please R.S.V.P.!

P.S. Remember that you can celebrate
this sacrament over and over again.

Saint John Nepomucene

May 16

IN his early childhood, John Nepomucene was cured of a disease through the prayers of his good parents. In thanksgiving, they consecrated him to the service of God.

John became a priest and was sent to a parish in the city of Prague. He was a great preacher, and thousands of those who listened to him changed their way of life.

King Wenceslaus IV invited him to the court and he became the Queen's confessor. One day the King asked him to tell what the Queen had said in confession. When Father John refused, he was thrown into prison.

A second time he was asked to reveal the Queen's confession. "If you do not tell me," said the King, "you shall die. But if you obey my command, riches and honors will be yours." Again Father John refused. He was tortured. The king had him thrown into the river Moldau at night. But the people discovered his body and buried it with honors.

St. John is known as the "Martyr of the Confessional."

