

The Rite of Penance and Reconciliation

Answer Key

Celebration of the Rite of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation	
Preparation of the Priest and the Penitent	<p>Priest: Prays for enlightenment from the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>Penitent: Makes an examination of conscience and asks for God's forgiveness.</p>
Welcoming of the Penitent	<p>Priest: Greet the penitent graciously.</p>
Reading of the Word of God (optional)	<p>Priest: Priest may recite a verse from memory, or priest and penitent may choose a verse to read together.</p> <p>Penitent: May help priest choose a verse to recite.</p>
Penitent's Confession and Acceptance of the Penance	<p>Priest: Offers help and counsel as needed; proposes penance.</p> <p>Penitent: Says a general prayer; makes confession of sins; agrees to do penance.</p>
Penitent's Prayer Priest's Absolution	<p>Penitent: Prays an Act of Contrition.</p> <p>Priest: Extends hands over head of penitent and pronounces words of absolution; makes the Sign of the Cross over the penitent.</p>
Proclamation of Praise and Dismissal of Penitent	<p>Priest: Says, "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good"; dismisses penitent.</p> <p>Penitent: Completes psalm, saying, "His mercy endures forever."</p>

