The Rite of Penance and Reconciliation   
Answer Key

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