

St. Thomas Aquinas Faith Formation

Sacramental Preparation

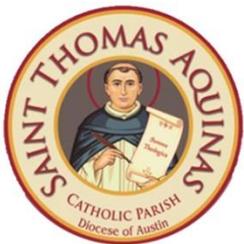
Packet #1 October 12-18, 2014

EVERY ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS CHANGES OUR LIVES FOREVER

After Faith Formation this week, swing by the Adoration Chapel to kneel before the Lord's throne for a few moments, thank Him, and ask Him to help us love Him more each day.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED THIS WEEK

- A modern, Catholic translation of the Holy Bible (such as RSV, NAB)
- STA pew card (included)
- Crayons



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Sunday, October 12, 2014

5 mins

- **Have your child read silently and then proclaim aloud** Exodus 33:7-9.
- **Emphasize** *“all the people would rise and stand”*
- **Explain:** See, even *way* back then, they would stand up when it was time to gather together. We still do this today at Mass. We stand up at the beginning of Mass, while Fr. Edwin, the deacons, and the altar servers process to the altar.
- **Ask:** What are we usually doing at that time? What happens when they get to the altar? Have you ever noticed that Fr. Edwin kisses the altar when he arrives? Have you ever noticed the times that he kneels and bows?
- **Anticipate:** We’ll make sure to watch what happens next time we’re at Mass.

TIP: Firm up now—go to www.tinyurl.com/SacPrep-EntranceProcession. This link will start the video at the start of the procession, and it takes about 1 minute. Point out the priest and bishop kissing the altar.

Remember to put your
sticker here when you’re
done! Great job!



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Monday, October 13, 2014

2-4 mins

- **Preface:** “When St. John wrote the book of Revelation, he was talking about Mass *and* Heaven—because the liturgy of the Mass is happening in Heaven and on earth at the same time.”
- **Have your child read silently and then proclaim aloud** Revelation 14:1.
- **Emphasize** the second half of the verse.
- **Ask:** What does that sound like? What do we do at the beginning of the Mass? I wonder why we begin our prayers that way?
- **Practice:** the Sign of the Cross

TIP: Read through a few of the “*21 Things We Do When We Make the Sign of the Cross.*” Together, choose your favorite to focus on (you may need to re-phrase with simpler language), and practice. Praise Jesus for dying on the cross and rising again for us, and thank Him for giving us all these ways to remember how much He loves us.

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Tuesday, October 14, 2014

10 mins

+ coloring time

- **Have your child read silently and then proclaim aloud** Luke 18:9-14
- **Ask:** What is the difference between the Pharisee and the tax collector?
Who should we be like?
- **Compare:** using the copy of the STA pew card, read over **Form A** of the **Penitential Act**.
- **Practice** Form A, followed by the Kyrie.
- **Anticipate:** At Mass, we'll remember that we're like the tax collector, but we are also glad that God is so loving and merciful. It's Who God Is. He is even the *source* of all love and mercy. The only reason we're able to love and show mercy to others is because of God.
- **Meditate:** Have your child color the "Pharisee and tax collector" coloring sheet. This helps paint a mental picture that we should consider every time we go to Mass.

NOTE: *Kyrie eléison, Christe eléison, Kyrie eléison...*is Greek!

PARENT TIP: "I've found that if I think Mass is 'boring', there's a really good chance I'm arriving more like the Pharisee than the tax collector."



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Wednesday, October 15, 2014

10-15 mins

- **Quick review of Mass parts:** Entrance Procession, Greeting (“The Lord be with you; and with your spirit.”), Sign of the Cross, Penitential Act (Form A), Kyrie.
- **Go over the Mass readings for the upcoming Sunday.**

TIP: The free *Laudate* app includes beautiful reflections to help you better understand the Mass readings, even for daily Mass! Click *Daily Readings > Sunday > Reflections*

You can also find Mass readings and brief video reflections at www.usccb.org; click the calendar.

PARENT TIP: “I’ve also found that if I think Mass is ‘boring’, there’s a good chance I didn’t prepare by looking at the readings.” By preparing, we open our hearts and minds to receive incredible graces from the Holy Spirit throughout the entire liturgy.



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Thursday, October 16, 2014

4-5 mins

- **Have your child read silently and then proclaim aloud** Matthew 9:27-29
- **Ask:** When these people asked for God's mercy, what did He do for them? (He gave them *healing*.)
- **Compare:** Using a copy of the STA pew card, read over Form B of the Penitential Act.
- **Note:** Remember the prayer we practiced yesterday and the day before? This is a different form of that prayer. Sometimes we'll pray the first one, and sometimes we'll pray a different one.
- **Practice** Form B, followed by the Kyrie.
- **Anticipate:** I wonder which form we're going to pray on Sunday...

A question that may arise: Why did Jesus tell them not to tell anyone what happened?

The Jews were waiting for their Messiah to come, and some of them thought the Messiah would be a big political leader, someone to come and fight. Jesus had a different mission, to save men from their sins and establish the Kingdom of God, but since He knew some people would misunderstand this, He commanded some people not to tell.

(NOTE: Gentiles *were* allowed to share the news; it was the right time for non-Jews because they also would be invited into the Kingdom of God, which some Jewish people rejected at first.)

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Friday, October 17, 2014

6-7 mins

- **Have your child read silently and then proclaim aloud** Matthew 20:29-34
- **Ask:** What does this remind you of? (Note: some translations read “*Have pity*”, others “*Have mercy*”)
- **Compare:** Using a copy of the STA pew card, read over Form C of the Penitential Act.
- **Note:** Remember Form A and Form B of the prayer we practiced this week? This is the third form of that prayer. The only difference is that we don’t pray “Lord have mercy” afterwards.
- **Ask:** Why don’t we pray the “Lord have mercy” afterwards? (It’s already part of this prayer— Form C includes the Kyrie.)
- **Practice** Form C.
- **Ask:** Remember what Jesus said about the tax collector? Why is it so important to ask God for mercy? I wonder why Jesus wants us to do that at the beginning of every Mass.
- **Remind:** Every time someone asks for mercy, what does God do? (He forgives; He *heals*.)
- **Ask:** Pop quiz! What happens at Mass after the Penitential Act? (*Child may turn the page to the Gloria or may sing the Gloria right away.*)
- **Anticipate:** Good, we’ll talk about that tomorrow. 😊



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Saturday, October 18, 2014

10-13 mins



When you're done, bring this packet (in its envelope) to the car so you'll remember to turn it in!

- **Have your child read silently and then proclaim aloud** Revelation 15:3-4.
- **Preface for next reading:** And back when Jesus was a baby, angels came to visit Him...
- **Have your child read silently and then proclaim aloud** Luke 2:14.
- **Compare:** Using a copy of the STA pew card, pray the *Gloria* together. (**Mention:** so at Mass, we are singing a song that *angels* sing!) Try to sing it together with the music clip online at <http://tinyurl.com/SacPrep-Gloria>.
- **Review:** So at Mass, we stand during the procession, we make the Sign of the Cross, Fr. Edwin greets us, we tell God that we're sorry for our sins, and we ask for His mercy.
- **Ask:** And why would we sing such a happy song after that?
- **Connect:** We're so grateful for God's goodness and His forgiveness. When you go to your first Reconciliation in December, you receive forgiveness and *healing* in a **very** big way. And when you're done, it's like taking a big breath of fresh, clean air!

TIP: Further discuss types of healing: physical, spiritual, and the healing that *strengthens* us with more grace to avoid sin



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