

Take Home

Celebrate God's Forgiveness

One of the great joys of Christian life is that we can always trust in God's mercy. Even though we turn away from God when we sin, God never turns away from us. He is always ready to welcome us back.

ACTIVITY Pretzels and Prayer

Thaw some frozen bread dough. Break off small pieces and roll them into ropes. Form loops. Bring the ends of the loops up and cross them. Sprinkle salt on the pretzels and bake them. Share with your child that the pretzel shape represents an attitude of prayer, with arms crossed.



THROUGH THE WEEK

+ **A PRAYER FOR THE WEEK** I'm sorry, Lord, for the things I have done to hurt others. Help me forgive others when they hurt me. Merciful God, I trust in your love and forgiveness. Amen.

ON SUNDAY

During the prayer before Communion, "Lord, I am not worthy. . .," remember that God is always ready to forgive.

ON THE WEB

BlestAreWe.com
RCLBLectioary.com
SaintsResource.com

Saint Edith Stein (1891–1942)

Edith Stein converted from Judaism to Catholicism and became a Carmelite nun. She was captured by the Nazis and taken to Auschwitz, where she helped others until her death. She was canonized in 1998.

Patron Saint of:
World Youth Day

Feast Day: August 9



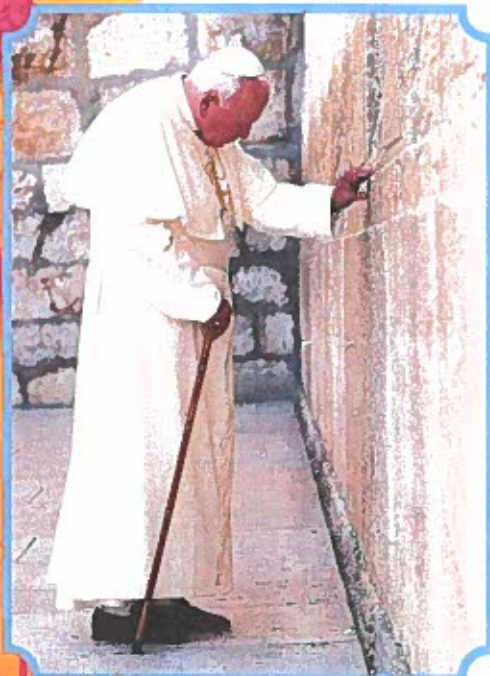
Take Home



Scripture Background In the Time of the Early Church

Reconciliation Reconciliation most often refers to the new relationship between God and humanity brought about by Christ's redemptive acts. Through Christ's Death on the Cross, humanity achieves peace with God. In many of Paul's letters, the idea of reconciliation goes beyond God and the individual to include the reconciliation of Jews and Gentiles. Paul further describes a need for reconciliation of the world with God.

You can read a description of reconciliation in Romans 5:8–11.



Pope John Paul II
at the Western Wall

Our Catholic Tradition in Interfaith Relations

Jewish-Catholic Relations While he served as pope, Saint John Paul II apologized to the Jewish people for the prejudice some Catholics have shown them throughout history. He asked the Jews for forgiveness. The pope was speaking as the head of the Catholic Church, in the name of all of its members, when he apologized for all the injustices inflicted upon the Jews by any Catholic people. It was an important move toward reconciliation between two peoples who worship the one true God.

Celebrate God's Forgiveness

Chapter

6

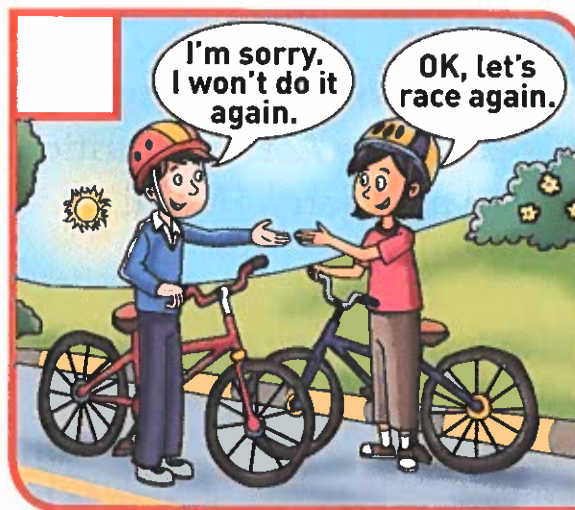
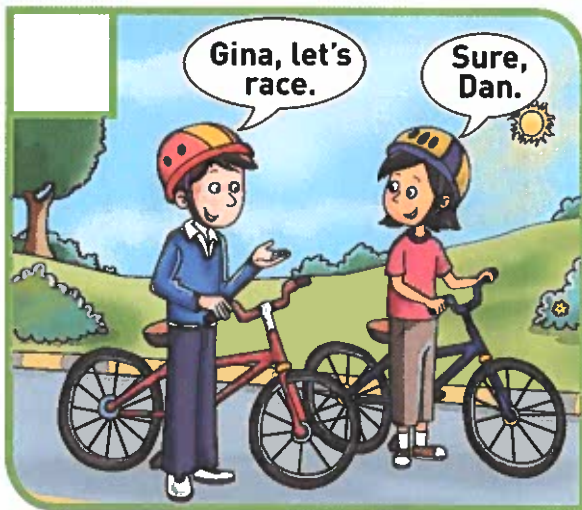
Lord, you are good and forgiving, . . . Psalm 86:5

Share

Sometimes we say or do things that hurt other people. We can lose their friendship.

ACTIVITY

Put the pictures in order.
Write 1, 2, 3, and 4 in the boxes.
Then read the story about losing a friend and then making up.



In what ways can we receive God's forgiveness?

Making Up

The **Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation** celebrates the gift of God's forgiveness. Follow Michael through his celebration of the Sacrament.

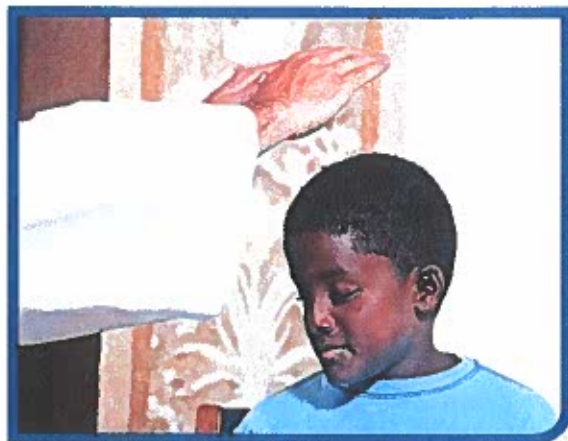
Welcome Father Lee greets Michael. Together they make the Sign of the Cross.

Reading Father reads from the Bible. Michael hears about God's love and forgiveness.

Confession Michael talks about, or confesses, his sins. He knows Father Lee cannot tell anyone what he says in confession. He asks Michael to say a prayer or do a kind act. This will make up for what he has done wrong. This prayer or action is called a **penance**.

Prayer of Sorrow Michael says a prayer of sorrow called the Act of Contrition. He tells God he is sorry. He will try not to sin again.

Absolution Father Lee asks God to forgive Michael. He gives Michael **absolution** in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Absolution is God's forgiveness, given through the priest. Then Father Lee gives thanks and says, "Go in peace." Michael answers, "Amen."



A Sacrament of Healing

When we have sinned, we need to say we are sorry. We need to ask for forgiveness. In the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, God heals us by forgiving our sins. God brings us peace.

Our Church Teaches

The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation helps us make peace with God and the Catholic Church. The gift of God's **grace** helps us stay away from sin. Grace is the gift of God's life within us that fills us with his love.

ACTIVITY

Color in the boxes with K, Q, or X to find eight words that are part of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

P	C	O	N	T	R	I	T	I	O	N
E	K	K	X	W	X	X	K	X	C	Q
N	Q	X	X	E	Q	Q	X	Q	O	X
A	B	S	O	L	U	T	I	O	N	B
N	K	X	Q	C	Q	X	X	K	F	I
C	Q	Q	F	O	R	G	I	V	E	B
E	K	X	X	M	X	Q	Q	K	S	L
X	P	R	I	E	S	T	Q	X	S	E

GO TO Go to page 16 and pray the Act of Contrition.

We Believe

In the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, we celebrate God's love, peace, and forgiveness.

Faith Words

Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation

Penance and Reconciliation is a Sacrament of Healing that celebrates God's love and forgiveness.

absolution

Absolution is God's forgiveness given through the priest in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

In what ways can we practice being people who forgive?

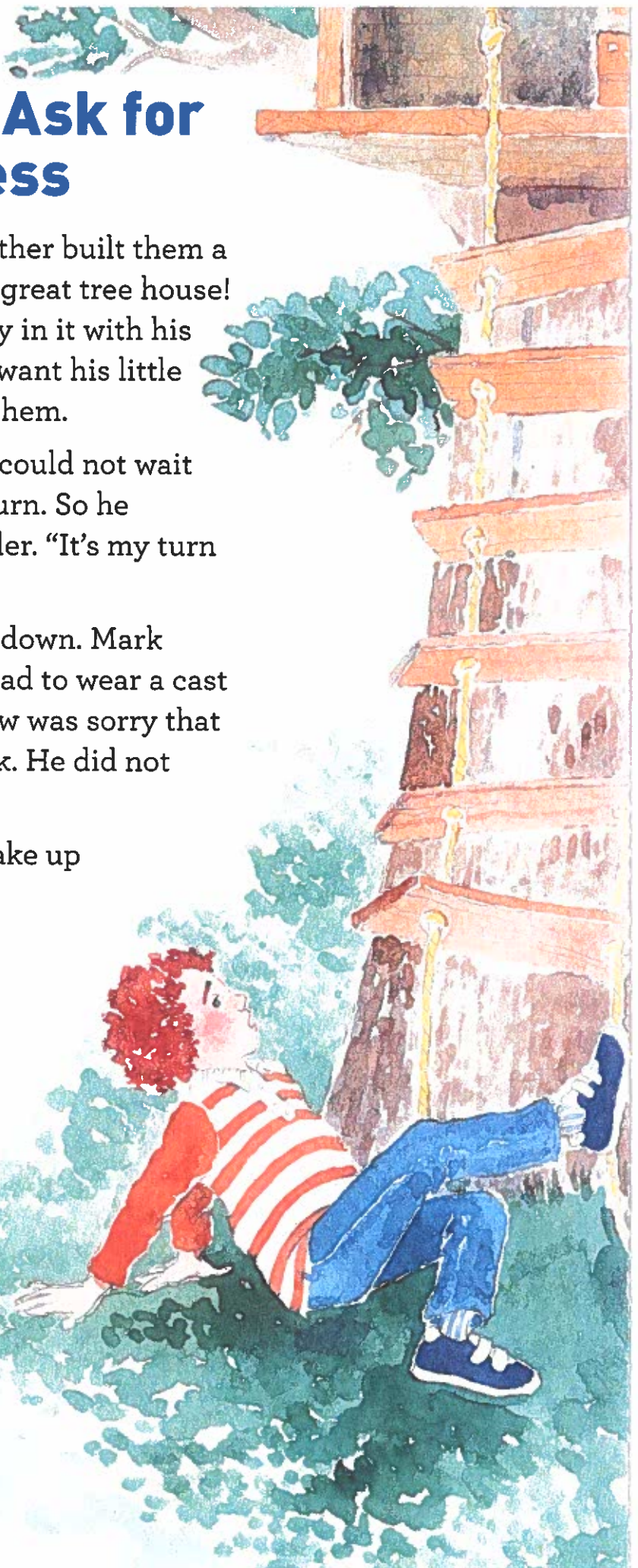
A Time to Ask for Forgiveness

Drew and Mark's father built them a tree house. It was a great tree house! Drew wanted to play in it with his friends. He did not want his little brother Mark with them.

One day, Mark just could not wait any longer for his turn. So he climbed up the ladder. "It's my turn now," he said.

Drew pushed Mark down. Mark broke his arm. He had to wear a cast for a long time. Drew was sorry that he had pushed Mark. He did not mean to hurt him.

How could Drew make up with Mark?



ACTIVITIES

1. Complete the sentences with these forgiveness words.

sorry

forgive

make up

Drew and Mark should

Drew should say to Mark, "I am

_____."

Mark should say to Drew, "I

_____ you."

2. Put the parts of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation in order. Write the numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 in the boxes.

pray a prayer of sorrow

be given a penance

receive absolution

confess sins

How can we ask for God's forgiveness?

A Reconciliation Prayer

During Mass, we tell God we are sorry for our sins. We ask God to have mercy on us. We ask for forgiveness.

Leader: Lord Jesus, you help us live in peace with one another and with God the Father.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: Lord Jesus, you heal the hurt that is caused by sin.

All: **Christ, have mercy.**

Leader: Lord Jesus, you pray to your Father for us.

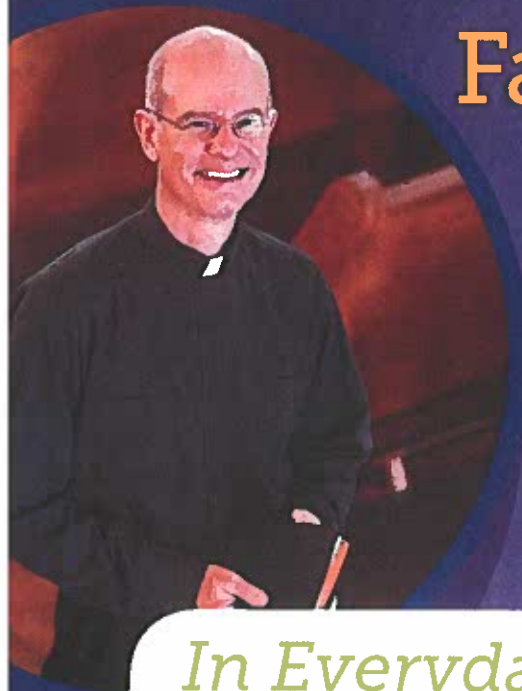
All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: **Amen.**

Based on the Penitential Act, *Roman Missal*

Faith in *Action*



A Parish Priest A parish priest serves the parish and school in many ways. He preaches at Mass. The priest acts in the Person of Christ to forgive sins in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. Jesus himself gave priests this power on the day of his Resurrection. A priest visits children in the hospital. Children enjoy stories the priest tells about Jesus.

In Everyday Life

ACTIVITY The priest does many things for the community. What are some ways we can help him in his ministry?

In Your Parish

ACTIVITY Put an **X** in the box to show where you think a priest would do each activity.

	In Church	Not In Church
ride a bike		
baptize a baby		
celebrate Mass		
eat pizza		
play baseball		
listen to someone's confession		