

First Reconciliation & Communion Scavenger Hunt



Student Name: _____

Parent Name: _____

Most of this scavenger hunt is for the student and at least one parent to work on together, but some is for one or the other on their own. Be sure to read through the full document and contact us with any questions.

1. **Go on one “non-church” outing together** - this is more about having fun together than about formally discussing sacramental prep, except you should review the Scavenger Hunt so you are both familiar with it & parents should help their child complete the “5 Love Languages” quiz during this outing. **Students** get to pick the outing and this should be done prior to the Reconciliation retreat at the parish (if a sporting activity is chosen, it should include both of you together watching or playing).

Date of Outing: _____ and what you did: _____

Student’s Initials: _____ Parent’s Initials: _____

2. **Students, with Parents’ help, take the “The Five Love Languages” quiz** during that non-church outing and then discuss with each other the results as part of the outing. Parents, use this knowledge as you progress through the time of preparation to help your child better see how God is loving them in their language. **Parents**, if you aren’t familiar with “Five Love Languages”, do a little research before this conversation!

God Speaks the Love Languages

by: Dr. Gary Chapman

A number of years ago, when I wrote the book: The 5 Love Languages, I realized rather quickly that all of these love languages flow from God’s love. He speaks all five languages fluently. The Bible is filled with ‘Words of Affirmation’ where God verbalizes His love to us. Christmas reminds us that He gave us the greatest gift of all when He sent His son. Yes, God is a ‘Gift Giver’. What about ‘Acts of Service’? That is what the cross is all about. Christ paid our penalty. Follow the life of Jesus and you see Him speaking the love language of ‘Physical Touch’. And for all who want it, God is ready to spend ‘Quality Time’. Turn your thoughts toward him and you will find his thoughts are already on you. God is love.

Student’s Initials: _____ Parent’s Initials: _____

3. **Student** attends the fall retreat for First Reconciliation. **Parent**, attend with them and be sure to pray together beforehand for a good retreat experience.

Student’s Initials: _____ Parent’s Initials: _____

4. **Go to Sunday Mass together at least twice a month.** Hang out together for a while after Mass at least four times during this prep year (Sept-May) specifically to discuss some part of the Mass (music, homily, etc) that you particularly enjoyed that day, questions you may have about it, or why it stood out to you.

Dates of hang out times: 1) _____ 2) _____ 3) _____ 4) _____

Student’s Initials: _____ Parent’s Initials: _____

5. **Bring and Use the “My Little Mass Journal”** together at each Mass you attend. Encourage your child to use the journal themselves (they can write, draw, whatever) or you can write your child’s words/thoughts/impressions for them in the journal if they want or need help.

6. **Student and Parent** attend at least one parish activity together during the Lenten season. You may choose from Stations of the Cross (Thursdays: St. Joseph; Fridays: St. John), Holy Hour of Adoration, communal Penance Service, attending Holy Thursday or Good Friday Mass (kids can go to the children’s Good Friday service with parent volunteering to assist there) or any other parish wide event during Lent. Watch the bulletin for opportunities.
 Date of Activity: _____ and what you did: _____
 Student’s Initials: _____ Parent’s Initials: _____

7. **Parents** watch the main three videos of the “Presence” series found at **FORMED.ORG** under the Sacraments header (you will need to set up a user account to access the site if you don’t already have a FORMED account)
 Parent’s Initials: _____

8. **Student and Parent** together watch the video “Presence: bonus for children”
 Student’s Initials: _____ Parent’s Initials: _____

9. **Students** color their altar cloth person & **Parent** make sure it gets turned in - we will provide instructions on this when it’s time to decorate your person. **Parent** select a pew for First Communion Mass - we will provide instructions on this when it’s time to choose your pew.
 Student’s Initials: _____ Parent’s Initials: _____

10. **Student** attends the spring retreat & practice for First Communion. **Parent**, attend with them and be sure to pray together beforehand for a good retreat experience.
 Student’s Initials: _____ Parent’s Initials: _____

Turn in Scavenger Hunt List at First Communion Retreat

Please contact us with any questions regarding this or any component of Sacramental Preparation at:

Todd Gale: todd@saintjohnjackson.org
 Clare DeWitt: clare@saintjohnjackson.org
 Angel Koerkel: angel@saintjohnjackson.org