

# FAITH AT HOME

## A Parent Companion



## Overview of *Saints Among Us* Book 2:

It has been found that when parents are involved in religious education it is much more effective and has a lasting impact on the lives of their children. This is why we have the “At Home” and “Living the Faith” component for each lesson. Parishes cooperate with parents, who are the primary educators of their children.

Book 2 focuses on the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It looks not only at what Reconciliation is and how to receive it, but it also connects the Sacrament with the Ten Commandments and the Parables of Jesus.

Each lesson will begin with a prayer meditation from the Bible. It will then present the material of the lesson for the day. We will then have a fun activity to reinforce what we are learning. We are also learning prayers throughout the twelve weeks. We will send home copies of these prayers.

## ORIGINAL SIN & BAPTISM



### Lesson Overview:

Baptism, the first sacrament, forgives all sin. In Book 2 of *Saints Among Us*, we are focusing on the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which restores us to the graces of Baptism when we lose them through sin. Baptism is the beginning of the Christian life, when we are adopted as God’s children, and receive of gift of His grace (the gift of His life) in our soul. All of us need Baptism at birth because of original sin. God made all of us to be happy with Him forever in Heaven. Our first parents, Adam and Eve, however rejected the original gift of friendship with God that was offered to them. When they lost God’s grace they could no longer automatically pass on God’s grace to their children. Original sin recognizes that when we are born we need the gift of God’s grace to go to Heaven. It also recognizes that we have a tendency to sin (called concupiscence) that we have to overcome to make good choices and to follow God.



“The Baptism of the Eunuch”  
by Rembrandt  
Source: Wikimedia Commons

## SAINTS AMONG US

### Reconciliation



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### REVIEW WITH YOUR CHILD

1. What is original sin? **The consequence of Adam and Eve's sin, the loss of original gifts, we are born without grace, and it is hard to be good.**
2. What cleanses original sin and gives us new life in Jesus? **Baptism.**
3. What does Baptism do to us? **We are adopted as God's children and receive the seed of faith and God's grace.**

### FAITH IN ACTION

In Book 2, we will be memorizing the 10 Commandments and learning how to follow them. It would be helpful to have them posted somewhere at home. We will include a handout with them listed or you could purchase a nicer version to hang on the wall.

### AT HOME

1. The day of Baptism was a very special day for your child. Baptism is like a birthday, because it is the day we are born again in Jesus Christ. Just like we celebrate our birthday, we can also celebrate the day that we became a member of God's family. Help your child to memorize their date of Baptism (which you can find on their baptismal certificate) and make sure to celebrate it.
2. Practice saying the Act of Contrition and the Guardian Angel Prayer

#### Act of Contrition

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You, and I detest all my sins because of Your just punishments, but most of all because I have offended You, my God, Who are all-good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Your grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin.

*Note for explaining the prayer: Near occasions of sin are those things that lead you to sin, such as friends who lead you astray or doing things you know will cause temptation.*

#### Guardian Angel

Angel of God, my Guardian dear, to whom His love commits me here, ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen



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