

On Reconciliation themes:

- **"The Hurt"** by Teddi Doleski, a story about sharing feelings and reconciling.
- **"The Story of Ruby Bridges"** by Robert Coles. The true story of hatred, prejudice and a child's forgiveness.
- **"Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse"** by Kevin Henkes, a story of confessions, penance, reconciliation and peace.
- **"Under the Lemon Moon"** by Edith Hope Fine, a beautifully illustrated story about forgiveness and redemption. One of my favorites.

On themes of the Eucharist

- **"A Walk Through Our Church"** by Gertrud Mueller Nelson
- **"A Peek Into My Church"** by Wendy Goody and Veronica Kelly

Both would be good introductions to what is a church and what we see inside a Catholic church, particularly helpful for these children who have grown up at St. Juan Diego and haven't spent much time in a Catholic church building.

- **"Water Come Down" (The Day You Were Baptized)** by Walter Wangerin. I love the way this book explains the sacrament of baptism.
- **"A Child's Guide to the Mass"** by Sue Stanton
- **"The Other Way to Listen"** by Byrd Baylor. This is my standby gift for children receiving their first Communion. I love the way this book introduces children to the notion that listening is an active thing, and how with practice, we can learn to listen for things that you wouldn't expect to hear. We used this book to talk about how important it is to say to God "Here I Am!" especially at Mass.
- **"Badger's Bring Something Party"** by Hiawyn Oram. Come to the banquet and bring your best self.
- **"Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge"** by Mem Fox. Love this story that reminds of the meaning of memory. We used this as an example of how objects, sights and sounds can help retrieve precious memories, including our memories of Christ's sacrifice and love for us.
- **"Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed"** by Emily Pearson, how one child's act of kindness starts a chain reaction. A family favorite.
- **"The Weight of a Mass"** by Josephine Nobisso, a beautifully illustrated fable about a village that rediscovers the importance of the Mass.

And a few more ideas

"The Lady of Guadalupe" by Tomie de Paola. Perfect for the family library of any St. Juan Diego parishioner.

A Catholic children's Bible, with lots of illustrations but not too many notations that make it difficult for children to follow the stories.

"The Bible for Children" by Murray Watts. This is a highly readable retelling of the Old and New Testaments. The chapter-book format book of Bible stories appeals to mature 2nd-3rd grade readers. Nice illustrations and a great introduction to the stories we all need to know for biblical literacy.

"Loyola Kids Book of Heroes: Stories of Catholic Heroes and Saints Throughout History" by Amy Welborn

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