

St. Mark's Church First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion

Handbook 2017-2018



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Dear Parents,

This is a very exciting year for you and your child! Celebrating a sacrament for the first time is an important step in the life of your child as a Catholic. Your child will receive two wonderful Sacraments this year: Reconciliation and Holy Communion. Since you, as parents, are called to be the primary religious educators of your child, this program is designed to assist you within instilling the values and the meaning of Holy Communion and Reconciliation. Our Religious Education Program is excited and honored to help in the preparation of your child for both of these sacraments.

This Parent Handbook will provide you the information about the catechesis your child will be receiving, how you can help your child at home, and give the details about the upcoming liturgies to celebrate each sacrament. *Please take the time to read through the entire handbook, as this will be the main form of communication.*

The role of the Parents

You, as parents, are the most influential adults of catechesis for your child. As parents you have the right and duty to be intimately involved in the preparation of your child for First Holy Communion. You catechize primarily by the witness of their Christian lives by the love of the faith. "Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children." "Parents have a grave responsibility to give good example to their children." (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2223 and 2224)

General Information for Parents

Your child's second grade year is an opportunity for parents to reaffirm their commitment to the Catholic faith and to become refreshed and renewed in their faith life. This renewed commitment involves developing a genuine desire to participate in the Eucharist and the sacramental life of the Church as well as a commitment to uphold the Precepts of the Church:

- Attend Mass weekly.
- Share your gifts of time, talent, and treasure.
- Keep connected as a church community.
- Make prayer and our faith an important part of your daily life.

Eligibility:

To be eligible to enter preparation to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion at St. Mark's Church, your child must meet the following qualifications:

- The child must be baptized
- The child must be well-prepared
- The child must want to receive the Sacraments Preparation.

Reconciliation Home Activities

- Look for and encourage opportunities to use the phrases, "I love you," "I am sorry," and "I forgive you" with each other.
- Make a habit of making peace with each other before going to bed.
- Attend a parish reconciliation service as a family, especially during Advent or Lent.
- Use opportunities that are part of everyday family life to talk with young children about the difference between mistakes and sin.

First Communion Home Activities

- Nurture your child's understanding of God's love for them and their response of thanksgiving.
- Nurture your child's relationship to Jesus Christ in prayer and worship.
- Enhance your child's appreciation and active participation in the Mass
- Develop your child's/family's sense of belonging to a community of disciples who love as Jesus loves



Important Dates:

Parent Meeting- All 2nd grade classes

Tuesday October 24, 2017 at 6:30- 7:30 p.m. (Cafeteria)

First Reconciliation & First Communion Parent Meeting

Tuesday, January 17, 2018 at 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. (Cafeteria)

Reconciliation Practice for all 2nd grade children only

Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at 5:00–6:30 p.m. (Church)

First Reconciliation

February 24, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. (Church)

Child and Family. Please arrive by 10:00 a.m.

First Communion Retreat

Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.

Parents and Child must attend. (Cafeteria)

First Communion practice for the 10 a.m. Mass

Wednesday, May 2, 4:30-6:00 p.m. (Church)

*This practice is for Parent & Child.

Please come on time and plan to stay until 6:00 p.m.

First Holy Communion for 2nd Graders

Saturday May 5, 2018 at 10:30 a.m.

Please arrive by 10:00 a.m. Meet at the cafeteria

Sacramental Guidelines

Attendance:

Attendance is especially important for the First Holy Communion sacramental year. If your child misses **4 classes** that are not made up, we will contact you to postpone your child's First Communion until the following year. Attendance will be taken every week for all classes. If your child is unable to attend please call your catechist to inform of the absence. All missed classes are expected to be made up. If your child cannot make it to class, they can attend another session that same week. If they cannot make it to the other session, you should contact your CRE by calling the office.

Dismissal Procedures:

For the safety of our children, we have these Dismissal Procedures in place:

- Sunday Morning: Please come down to the classroom to pick up your child. There is too much traffic and confusion at this time to allow any other dismissal procedure.
- Monday & Tuesday: Grades K to 5: A parent or another designated adult or sibling must come to the classroom to pick up the children and walk out with them.

Sacramental Preparation Fee:

The sacramental fee for First Holy Communion is \$25, I ask that you forward it to the Religious Education office starting March (checks can be made payable to St. Mark's).

First Reconciliation:

Reconciliation will take place on Saturday, February 27 at 10:30 a.m. If you have a conflict please contact us as soon as possible and we'll be happy to help.

First Holy Communion Retreat:

The First Holy Communion Retreat will take place on Wednesday, April 11 at 5:00 p.m. More details to follow. Parents and Children are required to attend.

Rehearsals:

Rehearsals will take place on weekday prior to your child's First Holy Communion. We will practice lining up, coming forward to receive Communion, practicing songs, etc.

First Holy Communion Mass: Saturday May 5, 2018 at 10:30 a.m.

Please arrive at Fr. Child's Hall with your child 30 minutes prior to Mass. After finding your pew, please bring your child to the basement to line up. Seating: Each child and their family will have a pew reserved for them. Family members who do not fit in that pew can sit in any unmarked pew.

Photography/Videography:

Our photographer Carmela Caracappa will be taking pictures for this ceremony. Please visit her page for other information and private sessions. www.carmelacaracappaphotography.com

Before the Mass the children will assemble in front of the church for a group photo, Carmela and her assistant will take the group picture, photo of the child receiving communion, among other pictures during Mass. You may photograph or video the children procession in and out Mass. At the end of Mass you may also take individual photos of your child. Msgr. Flynn will be available for photos with your child at this time.

Dress Code:

GIRLS

White dress, below the knees

White veil and /or headpiece (optional)

Dress shoes with socks or stockings

NO gloves, purses or corsages

BOYS

White, black or navy, recommended or blazers and dress pants

White dress shirts, ties or bow ties are encouraged.

Dress shoes with socks

PREPARATION REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYERS TO BE MEMORIZED

Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Our Father

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as
we forgive those who trespass against us: and lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou
among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at
the hour of our death. Amen

Glory Be

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Act of Contrition

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.
In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good,
I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things.
I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance,
to sin no more and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.
Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us.
In His name, my God, have mercy. Amen.

GRADE 2
First Communion Calendar
2017 – 2018

<u>September</u> 17,18, 19	Welcome & Opening Prayer Service 15 minutes after class begins
24, 25, 26	Chapter 1
<u>October</u> 1, 2, 3	Chapter 2
8, (9 Closed), 10	Chapter 3/ <i>Family Life Lesson 1</i>
15, 16, 17	Chapter 4
22, 23, 24	Chapters 6 & 7
24	Parent Meeting- Tuesday Oct. 24 at 6:30 p.m. (Cafeteria)
29, 30, (31 Closed)	Chapter 22
29	All Saints Liturgy 10 a.m. Sunday Mass (All are invited)
<u>November</u> 5, 6, 7	Chapter 23 / Family Mass for all 2nd graders & families. Sunday 10 a.m.
12, 13, 14	Chapter 24
19, 20, 21	<i>Family Life Lesson 2</i> & <u>Church Tour by Fr. Jose</u> – 15 minutes after class starts Grades: K, 1 & 2: Angels and Shepherds for Christmas Play
(26, 27, 28 Closed)	Thanksgiving Recess
<u>December</u> 3	Children’s Advent Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Mass & St. Nick Social after
3, 4, 5	Chapter 13 Grades: K, 1 & 2: Angels and Shepherds for Christmas Play
10, 11, 12	Chapter 25 / <i>Family Life Lesson 3</i> Grades: K, 1 & 2: Angels and Shepherds for Christmas Play
17, 18, 19	Chapter 14 & Christmas Prayer Service –15 minutes after class begins Report Cards- Email to Parents
24	Sunday, December 24 – 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Children’s Liturgy (Grades: K, 1 & 2: Angels and Shepherds)
(24, 25, 26 Closed)	Holiday Recess
<u>January</u> (31, 1, 2 Closed)	Holiday Recess
7, 8, 9	Chapter 26
14, 15, 16	Chapter 8/ <i>Family Life Lesson 4</i>
17	Wednesday, January 17 at 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. – Parent Meeting for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.
21, 22, 23	Chapter 9/First Reconciliation Booklet
28, 29, 30	Chapter 10/First Reconciliation Booklet
<u>February</u>	

4, 5, 6	Chapter 11 /First Reconciliation Booklet
(11, 12, 13 Closed)	Winter Recess
14	Ash Wednesday
18, 19, 20	Chapter 12/ How to go to Confession
21	Wednesday, Feb 21 at 5:00–6:30 p.m. - Reconciliation Practice for all 2nd Grade children – Parents do not have to be in attendance.
24	Saturday, Feb 24 at 10:30 a.m. First Reconciliation- Please arrive by 10:00 a.m.
25, 26, 27	Chapter 20/ <i>Family Life Lesson 6</i>
<u>March</u>	
4, 5, 6	Chapter 15 / First Holy communion Booklet
11, 12, (13 Closed)	Chapter 16 / First Holy communion Booklet
18, 19, 20	Chapter 17 / First Holy communion Booklet <i>Banner materials and Photography information will be available this week.</i>
25, 26, 27	Chapter 21 & 27/ <i>Family Life Lesson 7</i> Palm Sunday *(Easter Egg Hunt after all the Sunday Masses)
<u>April</u>	
(1, 2, 3 Closed)	Spring Recess. *Happy Easter*
8, 9, 10	Chapter 18 & First Holy Communion Preparation.
11	First Holy Communion Retreat- Wednesday, April 11 at 5:00 p.m. (Parents and Child)
15, 16, 17	Chapter 19 & How to receive Communion
22, 23, 24	First Holy Communion Preparation & Review for Final Exam <u>Due at this time:</u> Completed Banners, \$25 Fee, Application for First Communion Baptismal Certificate (if not previously submitted)
29, 30, 1	Final Exam
<u>May</u>	
2	Wednesday, May 2 at 4:30-6:00 p.m. First Communion practice This practice is for Parent & Child. Please come on time and plan to stay until 6:30 p.m.
5	Saturday – (First Holy Communion. Time: TBD)
6, 7, 8	Report Cards- Email to Parents Last day of classes. Closing Prayer Service & Ice Cream Social