

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

## Handbook 2018-2019



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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:

### **Family Mass & Parent Meeting**

Sunday, November 4, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. (Church)  
Meeting and social after (Cafeteria)

### **Reconciliation Practice for all 2nd grade children only**

Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at 5:00–6:30 p.m. at 5:00–6:30 p.m. (Church)

### **First Reconciliation**

Saturday, February 23, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. (Church)  
Child and Family. Please arrive by 10:00 a.m.

### **Banners & Application Due**

March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>  
Completed Banners, \$30 Fee Application  
Baptismal Certificate (if not previously submitted)

### **First Communion Retreat**

Wednesday, April 3, 2019 at 4:30 to 7:00 p.m.  
Parents and Child must attend. (Cafeteria)

### **First Communion practice for the 10 a.m. Mass**

Wednesday, May 1, 2019 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 4, 2019 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 \$30, I ask that you forward it to the Religious Education office starting March along with application and completed banners. (Checks can be made payable to St. Mark's Church).

## **First Reconciliation:**

Reconciliation will take place on Saturday, February 23 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 3 at 4:30 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 4, 2019 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.

# First Reconciliation & Holy Communion Songs

## THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

### REFRAIN:

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

### VERSES:

1.

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine  
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine  
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

2.

Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine  
Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine  
Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

.....Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

.....Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

## JESUS, YOU ARE BREAD FOR US

*Jesus, you are bread for us. Jesus, you are life for us.  
In your gift of Eucharist we find love.*

1. When we feel we need a friend you are there with us, Jesus.  
Thank you for the friend you are. Thank you for the love we share.

2. In communion we believe you are there with us, Jesus.  
Thank you for the friend you are. Thank you for the love we share.

3. Gathered in God's family you are there with us, Jesus.  
Thank you for the friend you are. Thank you for the love we share.

## 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](http://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.

**Photographs during Mass:** We ask that the Sacraments be respected at all times including when your child receives Jesus. Pictures should be taken when the children process into the Church and after the Mass. Please refrain from flash photography during the Mass. Let your family and friends know they should not leave their seats, they may not move around during the liturgy or block the aisles, nor may they approach the altar area to take pictures of the children receiving the Holy Communion. Please help the candidates and the rest of the parish make this a special and joyful event. After Mass you may take individual photos of your child at the altar or outside of the church. Also, Msgr. Flynn will be available for photos with your child at this time.

**May Crowning:** The First Communion class will honor the Blessed Virgin Mary by placing a crown of flowers upon her head. May Crowning will take place immediately after Mass, outside of the church. All the children and their families will be participating.

**Fasting:** We fast from food and drink (except water) for one hour before we receive the Eucharist. We do this as a reminder that we are hungry for Jesus. Since your children will be arriving 30 minutes early for their First Holy Communion, they will already be in observance of the fast. However, this should be a regular practice in every Catholic home.

## 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.



# APPLICATION FOR THE RECEPTION OF FIRST HOLY EUCHARIST

*Please type or print clearly the information below*

Full name of child receiving First Communion:

\_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Home address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

## RECORD OF BAPTISM

Date of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_  
Month Day Year

Church of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_

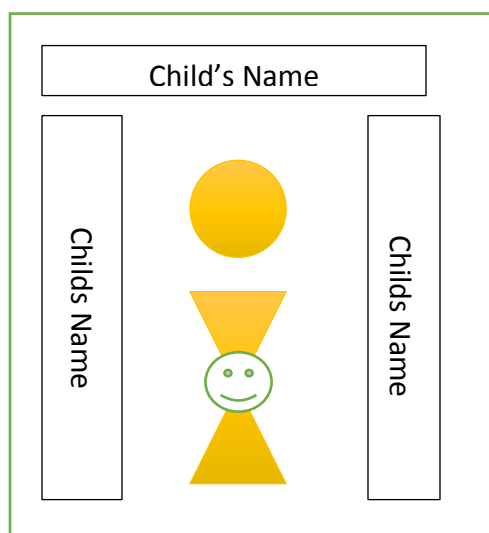
Godparents: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please attach the following:  
Copy of the Baptismal Certificate; if not previously submitted  
\$30 sacramental fee

Return it to the Religious Education Office by March 5, 2019

## Communion Banner Instructions



1. Cut out letters of child's name or use 2' inch pre-cut letters of any color that could be found at a craft store; (Michaels or AC Moore)
2. You may include your child's full name or first name only. Please remember the banner should be decorated long -ways. (see examples above)
3. Gold Chalice and Host are already cut out of contact paper.  
(St. Mark's will provide the following: white poster, gold chalice and host)
4. Design banner. Attach chalice, host and letters of the child's name by peeling off backing. Adhere to front of banner.
5. Glue picture of child to the center chalice.
6. Add any other symbols you choose to complete your banner, or leave it simple.

### Supplies Needed

A picture of your child (school photo or snapshot), scissors, glue

Additional decorations: scrapbook religious decorations, paper cut-outs in color, tiny light-weight flowers or wheat and grape symbols, etc.

If you need additional instructions, please see me before or after class. I will have happy to help!

St. Mark's Office of Religious Education  
 215 Crescent Parkway  
 Sea Girt, NJ 08750-0186  
 Tel: (732) 449-6364 ext. 105

## GRADE 2 First Communion 2018 – 2019

<b><u>September</u></b>	
23, 24, 25	Welcome & Opening Prayer Service 15 minutes after class begins
30, 1, 2	Chapter 1
<b><u>October</u></b>	
7, (8 Closed), 9	Chapter 2 / <i>Family Life Lesson 1</i>
14, 15, 16	Chapter 3
21, 22, 23	Blessed – First Reconciliation Session 1 (Page 1 to 15)
28, 29, 30	Blessed - First Reconciliation Session 1 (Page 16 to 28)
28	<b>All Saints Liturgy 10 a.m. Sunday Mass (All are invited)</b>
<b><u>November</u></b>	
4, 5, 6	<b>Family Mass &amp; Parent Meeting Sunday- November 4, 2018 @10:00 a.m.</b>  *Meeting and social after (Cafeteria)  Blessed - First Reconciliation Session 2 (Page 31 to 49)
11, 12, 13	Blessed - First Reconciliation Session 2 (Page 50 to 66)
18, 19, 20	Chapters 5 & 6 / <i>Family Life Lesson 2</i> (Grades: K, 1 & 2: Angels and Shepherds- Christmas Play)
(26, 27, 28 Closed)	<b>Happy Thanksgiving!</b>
<b><u>December</u></b>	
2	<b>Children's Advent Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Mass &amp; St. Nick Social after</b>
2, 3, 4	Blessed - First Reconciliation Session 4 (Page 105 to 120) / <i>Family Life Lesson 3</i>  (Grades: K, 1 & 2: Angels and Shepherds- Christmas Play)

9, 10, 11	Blessed - First Reconciliation Session 4 (Page 121 to 134)  <u>Church Tour by Fr. Jose – 15 minutes after class starts.</u> (Grades: K, 1 & 2: Angels and Shepherds- Christmas Play)
16, 17, 18	Chapters 13 & 14 Christmas Prayer Service –15 minutes after class begins Report Cards- Email to Parents
(23, 24, 25 Closed)	<b>Merry Christmas!</b>
24	Monday, December 24 – 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Children’s Liturgy
(30 & 31 Closed)	<b>Closed</b>
<b><u>January</u></b> (1 Closed)	<b>Happy New Year</b>
6, 7, 8	Chapters 22 & 23
13, 14, 15	Chapters 24 & 25
20, 21, 22	Blessed - First Reconciliation Session 5 (Page 137 to 161)
27, 28, 29	Blessed - First Reconciliation Session 5 (Page 162 to 174)  <b>St. Mark’s Spirit Week:</b> Sunday: <i>Pajama Day</i> Monday Afternoon: <i>Silly Hat Day</i> Tuesday: <i>Sunglasses Day</i>
<b><u>February</u></b> 3, 4, 5	Blessed - First Reconciliation Session 6 (Page 177 to 201)
(10, 11, 12 Closed)	<b>Winter Recess</b>
17, 18, 19	How to go to Confession
20	<b>Wednesday, Feb 20 at 5:00–6:30 p.m. - Reconciliation Practice for all 2nd Grade children – Parents do not have to be in attendance.</b>
23	<b>Saturday, Feb 23 at 10:30 a.m. First Reconciliation Please arrive by 10:00 a.m.</b>
24, 25, 26	Blessed – First Communion Session 1 (Page 1 to 27) <i>Family Life Lesson 6</i>

<b><u>March</u></b> 3, 4, 5	Blessed – First Communion Session 1 (Page 28 to 51)  <b>Due at this time: Completed Banners, \$30 Fee Application Baptismal Certificate (if not previously submitted)</b>
6	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>
10, 11, 12	Blessed – First Communion Session 2 (Page 53 to 76) <i>Banner materials and Photography information will be available this week.</i>
17,18, 19	Blessed – First Communion Session 3 (Page 79 to 108)
24, 25, (26 Closed)	Blessed – First Communion Session 4 (Page 111 to 140) / <i>Family Life Lesson 7</i>
31, 1, 2	Blessed – First Communion Session 5 (Page 143 to 162)
<b><u>April</u></b> 3	<b>First Holy Communion Retreat- Wednesday, April 3 at 4:30 p.m. (Parents and Child)</b>
7, 8, 9	Blessed – First Communion Session 6 (Page 165 to 191)
14, 15, 16	Review for final Exam Palm Sunday *(Easter Egg Hunt after 10 a.m. Sunday Mass)
(21, 22, 23 Closed)	<b>Happy Easter!</b>
28, 29, 30	Final Exam How to receive Communion & Church Practice for Communion
<b><u>May</u></b> 1	<b>Wednesday, May1 at 4:30-6:00 p.m. First Communion practice</b> This practice is for Parent & Child. Please come on time & plan to stay until 6:00 p.m.
4	<b>Saturday – First Holy Communion May 4, 2019 @ 10:30 a.m.</b>
5, 6, 7	Report Cards- Email to Parents Last day of classes. Closing Prayer Service & Ice Cream Social