

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

Handbook
2021-2022



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Introduction

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.

Weekly Mass

It is the parents' right and responsibility to transmit their faith on to their children. A serious commitment to faith formation is expected from all parents and children. Therefore, it is expected that all children enrolled in our CCD program and their families attend Mass every week. It is nearly impossible to expect a Religious Education Program to succeed if the central act of worship is ignored.

Attendance at class and Mass is very important. Religion Education Classes are NOT a substitute for Mass.

Mass Times and Confessions

Sunday Masses

Saturday at 4:30 PM / Sacrament of Reconciliation at 3:30 PM to 4:15 PM

Sunday at 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM and 12:00 Noon

Spanish Mass at 5:00 PM / Sacrament of Reconciliation at 4:00 PM to 4:45 PM

Daily Masses

(Holy Rosary and Divine Mercy chaplet after Daily Masses)

Monday-Friday at 7:30 AM and 11:00 AM

Tuesday at 6:00 PM (Spanish)

Saturday at 7:30 AM (No 11:00 AM)

Sacrament of Reconciliation on Thursdays after both Masses

Check bulletin for Mass times for Holy Days



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

Tuesday, November 12, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Reconciliation Practice for all 2nd grade children only

Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. (Church)

First Reconciliation

Saturday, March 5, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. (Church)

Child and Family. Please arrive by 9:30 a.m.

Banners & Application Due

April 3, 4, 5

Completed Banners

Application

Baptismal Certificate (if not previously submitted)

First Communion Retreat

Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at 5:00- 7:30 p.m.

Parents and Child must attend. (Church)

Light snacks will be served at the end of retreat.

First Communion Practice

Monday, May 2, 2022 at 4:00-5:30 p.m. (Church)

*This practice is for Parents & Child.

At least one parent must be present. Both will be ideal.

Please come on time and plan to stay until 5:30 p.m.

First Holy Communion

Saturday May 7, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

Please arrive by 9:30 a.m. Meet at the cafeteria.

Sacramental Guidelines

Attendance:

Attendance is taken each time we meet for IN-CLASS and parents may be contacted if a child misses two consecutive classes. If your child must be absent, please contact your child's catechist. Be sure your child arrives on time and strive for monthly attendance. If your child is absent from class, the lesson must be completed at home the following week. A parent will be provided with a calendar with dates and lesson plans, also a parent must sign the child's book, indicating that he/she supervised the lesson.

Please don't register your children for classes, if you have other obligations including sports or other activities. Our sessions will be an hour long. We take attendance quarterly, and after more than 3 unexcused absences during the school year, the student will need to attend a make-up session that week or the following for the absence. A make-up session reservation is required in order to attend, please contact me for more information.

Excessive absences may result in repeating a grade. This is extremely important during sacramental preparation. Thank you for your cooperation.

Dismissal Procedures:

Drop off: Parents may accompany their children to each IN-CLASS session for grades K to 5th. Please use both side doors (crescent parkways side) to enter the building. Upon arrival, each child MUST have their temperature checked, they must sanitized their hands before entering their classroom. Masks are optional.

Dismissal: 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 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5: A parent or another designated adult or sibling must come to the classroom to pick up the children and walk out with them.

Monday Evening: Grades 6, 7, and 8: The teachers will walk out the front of the church with the class and remain with them on the sidewalk until you come for them. Please be prompt!

Sacramental Preparation Fee:

The sacramental fee for First Holy Communion is \$40. Fee must be paid at the time of registration.

Practices:

A practice will take place on a 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 7, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

Please arrive at Fr. Child's Hall with your child 45 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 for this year is Stephanie Wolf, she will be offering prints and digital prints. Prints will be available 2-3 weeks after Communion (parents must come to the office to collect them) If you are request prints, you must return the forms before Communion day. Place the form in a sealed envelope with the child's name and full payment: cash or check.

Digital copies will be available 1-2 weeks on their website. I will send you a private link for purchase to your email. www.swolfphotography.com

Before the Mass the children will assemble in front of the church for a group photo, and 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

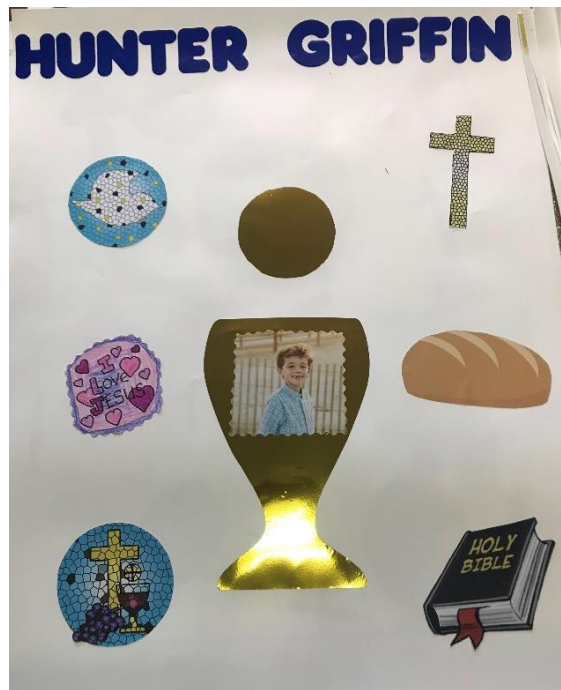
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

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.

Communion Banner Instructions

SAMPLE



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!

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.
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.

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

Return it to the Religious Education Office by April 3, 4, 5