

FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION – 2008-09

Sacramental First Reconciliation and First Communion are normally prepared for and celebrated as families in the parish. Second and third grade children and their families are involved. We also provide a special family preparation session for older children and youth who have not yet celebrated these sacraments. We call this preparation the Right of Christian Initiation for (older) Children (RCIC). RCIC families follow a different schedule. However, all First Communicants celebrate the four rituals and First Communion together with the community.

Preparations for second and third grade children take place from September through March during the regular Wednesday night Religious Education sessions. There are 4 family sessions – 2 having to do with First Reconciliation and the other 2 with First Communion. There are 4 rituals which take place with the church community. Each family is expected to meet for a family interview with Fr. Curt. Each family is expected to take home the traveling chalice for a week. The traveling chalice is a way for families to focus on vocations of service within the church. And the children participate in a “joyful time of waiting” (3-session Retreat) the week prior to First Communion.

Please mark your calendars well in advance for the activities and commitments listed below. Keep this schedule posted on your refrigerator and let us know about any conflicts or concerns.

PREPARATION, RITUALS, AND CELEBRATION DATES AND TIMES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Family Session #1 – 6:30 p.m.

Families participating at the 4:30 session will need to attend this 6:30 session instead.

Video for parents and children together in the library – Review of Reconciliation followed by adult discussion group with Fr. Curt

Sunday, January 18

Ritual #1 (Receive Bibles) – 9:15 am Mass

Wednesday, January 28

During their regular class time, Fr. Curt practices Reconciliation with the children

Saturday, February 7

Family Session #2 – 2:00 p.m.

Sacramental First Reconciliation for the children with a reception following in room 202

Sunday, February 22

Ritual #2 (Receive candles) – 9:15 am Mass

Family Session #3 – 10:15 am – Make family banners in room 202

Sunday, March 15

Ritual #3 (Receive bread) – 9:15 am Mass

Family Session #4 – 10:15 am – Video and meditation in room 202



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Sunday, April 26

Ritual #4 (Receive invitations) – 11:00 am Mass

Children's Retreat – 12:00 noon - 3:00 pm – Kentucky Fried Chicken for lunch

Day #1 – The family celebrates Sunday Mass together at 11:00 am The Retreat begins with a special children's lunch. Parents are free to leave after dropping the children off after Mass. Please return at 3:00 pm to pick up your children.

Wednesday, April 29

Children's Retreat – 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm – Hot dogs and macaroni and cheese for supper

Day #2 – The children profess their faith with Fr. Curt, share a meal, participate in a meditation on the Parable of the Leaven, and make a simple bread.

Thursday, April 30

Children's Retreat – 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm – Cheese pizza and pepperoni pizza for supper

Day #3 – The children reflect on the Mass, share a meal, and rehearse for the Saturday evening ceremony.

Saturday, May 2

First Communion Mass – 6:00 pm

A special Mass just for First Communion is celebrated at 6:00 pm following the 4:30 Mass. Please arrive by 5:30 pm to begin preparing in the gym before Mass.

Pictures take place immediately after the Mass for the First Communicant group as well as individual photos with Fr. Curt.

Parish Reception begins in the gym after the Mass. This is the community's way of showing families their appreciation. First Eucharist celebration is truly a parish family event.

Certificates of First Communion, the child's hand-decorated wooden cross, hand-made Baptismal book, "Jesus My Special Friend" prayer booklet, etc., will all be placed on a special table in the gym for your family to take home. Also remember to take your family banner off the pew.

FAMILY INTERVIEWS WITH FR. CURT:

A special "interview sign-up sheet" will be posted in December outside of room 204 for parents to sign up for a designated date and time to meet with Fr. Curt. Sign up can also be done by e-mail.

REGISTRATION/COPY OF BAPTISM CERTIFICATE:

You will be given a registration card to fill out at the time you register for Religious Education classes. Also, a **copy** of the child's baptismal certificate will need to be turned in to the elementary office some time before First Communion if the baptism was done some place other than St. Mary's. These forms can be turned in as early as you wish.

Please let us know early if you foresee any possible conflicts in the above dates or times. Thank you very much for your whole-hearted cooperation.

Questions, suggestions, or concerns, please contact Jan, Cy, or Karen at
(763) 545-1443 janstmarys@yahoo.com



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