



FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST COMMUNION 2017- 2018 SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

Registration:

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion are open to 2nd grade children, and older, who have been Baptized Catholic and is currently participating in Religious Formation or is a student in the school.

The cost for all Religious Formation programs is \$50.00 per student and includes Sundays of August 28, 2016 through May 7, 2017. Mary Queen School student's religious education fees are included in their school tuition.

Class information:

Candidates in the 2nd grade are prepared all school-year. Material about the Sacraments is included in their regular 2nd grade Religious curriculum. Sacramental Preparation is either during Sunday morning Religious Formation classes, at Mary Queen School, or an approved home school curriculum.

Candidates 3rd grade and older participate in Sunday morning Religious Formation/Sacramental Preparation. These classes are held from 9:30 - 10:45 A.M. **(in English)** and 11:00 A.M. - 12:15 P.M. **for 2nd – 5th grades (in Spanish).**

*** A copy of the candidate's Baptismal certificate must be submitted to Karen Estes - K - 5th grade CRE or Angie Allen - 6th - 12 grade CRE via: the mail, email, the Mary Queen Business Office or the school office. The church of Baptism can fax the certificate directly to the attention of Karen Estes or Angie Allen at Fax # 859-278-2453.**

Sacramental Prep Family Days:

Sacramental Prep Family Day events are designed to bring candidates together and enjoy learning while doing. These Sundays are a **required** component of preparation. If the candidate is unable to attend (sickness for example), you must contact Karen Estes, K - 5th grade CRE (278-7432 Ext. 302 kestes@cdlex.org) or Angie Allen, 6th - 12th grade CRE (275-7848 Ext 248 aallen@cdlex.org) as soon as possible.

Parish Involvement:

Each First Communion Candidate's parents will be given five prayer cards. These cards will have a short prayer for their candidate. *The candidates and/or parents will give these prayer cards to five parishioners, at the Mass of family's choice, asking them to pray for their candidate during this year of Sacramental preparation. **Distribution of Prayer Cards to fellow parishioners will be at all Masses the weekend of November 4/5. Instructions will be given by the priest at that time.**

We also are asking each First Communion family to participate in at least two (2) of the following this year:

- Attend Eucharistic Adoration for at least one hour on any Thursday.
- Gift-bearers during Mass - Arrive to Mass at least 15 minutes early and speak with an Usher to sign up.
- Attend "Stations of the Cross" during Lent.
- Attend special prayer services in the parish.
- Take part in a parish "mission or service" project for birthright or for the needy, or attend any special activity or presentation sponsored by the parish.

FIRST RECONCILIATION DATES:

All candidates will receive Reconciliation Formation prior to March 7, 2018. There are three dates to choose from:

Option A – Wednesday, March 7 at 7pm – 8:30pm in the Church

Option B – Saturday, March 10 at 1:00pm – 3:00pm in the Church

Option C - Through Mary Queen school during regular school hours (date is forthcoming.) Children attending public schools may choose this option, as well.

First Communion Photos

A photo shoot is scheduled for **Saturday, March 24, 2018 from 11:00 - 2:00 P.M.** in the Church. Candidates will wear their First Communion attire and have their picture taken with one of the priests. This opportunity will be provided by Holifield Photography (Additional information is forthcoming).

First Communion Practice and Taste Test:

Wednesday, May 9, 2018 for candidates, parents and Godparents at 7pm in the Church **(In Spanish)**

Thursday, May 10, 2018 for candidates and parents at 7pm in the Church **(In English)**.

The children will have the opportunity to taste test unconsecrated bread and wine. **A parent must give the taste of wine to their own child.** *****Children who plan on receiving their First Communion after May 12 and 13, they and their parents are required to attend one of these practice dates.*****

First Holy Communion: Families have their choice of any regular Mass on May 12 or 13, 2018 to celebrate First Communion. (Seating will be reserved for First Communicants and their families at all Mass times.)

May 12 - 4:00pm Bilingual Mass -Candidates sit with family and guests with no procession.

May 13 - 8:15am English Mass -Candidates process in together and then sit with their parents (Seating chart provided).

May 13 - 9:30am Spanish Mass - Candidates process in with their Godparents **or** parents

May 13 -11:00am English Mass -Candidates process in together and then sit with their parents. (Seating chart provided).

May 13 - 1:00pm Spanish Mass - Candidates process in with their Godparents **or** parents.

May 13 - 5:30pm English Mass -Candidates sit with family and guests with no procession.

Day of First Communion:

- No gum chewing.
- **Dress code:** White is traditionally the symbolic color for First Communion, but is not required. If gloves are worn they must be removed before receiving Holy Communion. Veils are optional. For boys: Dress pants & shirt and tie (suit jackets are optional). No denim/jeans or tennis shoes please. Neckline and length of dress must be modest.
- Bibles, rosaries or candles are not used during the celebration of the Sacrament. If you have religious items as gifts for First Communion, you are welcome to ask any priest to bless them after Mass.
- **There is absolutely no photography or videotaping during the First Communion Masses.**
- First Communion Certificates will be available immediately following the Mass in the gathering area.

Important Dates:

September 10, 2017 - Final Day to Register for First Reconciliation and First Communion

October 8 - Important First Communion Parent Meeting in the cafeteria at 9:30am **(In Spanish)**.

October 22 - Important First Communion Parent Meeting in the Media Center at 9:30am **(In English)**.

October 29 – Parents’ Presentation on Reconciliation in **Spanish** at 9:30am in Science Lab Room #225

November 4 and 5 - First Communion Candidates will distribute prayer cards to parishioners at the Mass of family’s choice

November 5 – Parents’ Presentation on Reconciliation in **English** 9:30am in Science Lab Room #225

November 19 -Sacramental Prep Family Day -All candidates and their parent/parents will gather in the gym at 9:30 A.M. Blessing of the Candidates and craft project for the elderly shut-ins or in nursing home.

January 10, 2018 (Wednesday) – Church Tour at 6:30 p.m. At least one parent must attend with their child. 2nd Grade school students may take their tour of the Church during regular school hours, if they so wish.

January 14 - Presentation on the Eucharist for First Communion Candidate **Parents** in **English** at 9:30am in Science Lab Room #225

February 4 - Presentation on the Eucharist for the First Communion Candidate **Parents** in **Spanish** in the Science Lab #225

March 4 - Sacramental Prep Family Day at 9:30am in the gym - All First Communion candidates and at least one parent per child are asked to attend.

March 7 (Wednesday) -First Reconciliation Service **Option A** at 7:00 P.M. in the Church

March 10 (Saturday) -First Reconciliation Service **Option B** at 1:30 P.M. in the Church

-First Reconciliation Service **Option C** -Through Mary Queen School during school hours (date is forthcoming.)

March 24 (Saturday) - Individual First Communion photos will be taken in the Church from 11:00 - 2:00 P.M. by Holifield Photography - **(First Communion attire to be worn)**.

May 9 (Wednesday) - First Communion Instructions and Taste Test at 7:00 P.M. in the Church **(In Spanish)**. Parents and/or Godparents must attend.

May 10 (Thursday) -First Communion Instructions and Taste Test at 7:00 P.M. in the Church **(In English)**. Parents must attend.

May 12 and 13 - First Holy Communion at Mass of Family's choice: (See above)

June 3 (Sunday) - Feast of Corpus Christi (Body and Blood of Christ) – All First Communicants are asked to participate in one of the processions to be held at 11:00 and 1:00 Masses **(First Communion attire to be worn)**