

First Reconciliation & First Communion

Preparation at Home

2011-2012

General Information:

- **Notifications:** Please complete a registration form for your child through the parish office by September 4th, 2011 if your child will be receiving the sacrament of First Reconciliation/First Communion this school year or even the following year. This helps us make future plans. Two years of intentional preparation is expected and encouraged for a sacrament.
- **Age:** First Communicants should have received Baptism and “it is required that they have sufficient knowledge and careful preparation so as to understand the mystery of Christ according to their capacity, and can receive the Body of the Lord with faith and devotion” (Code of Canon Law Can. 913, §1). “It is the responsibility, in the first place, of parents and those who take the place of parents as well as of the pastor to see that children who have reached the use of reason are correctly prepared and are nourished by the divine food as early as possible, preceded by sacramental confession; it is also for the pastor to be vigilant lest any children come to the Holy Banquet who have not yet reached the use of reason (generally the completion of their 7th year) or whom he judges are not sufficiently disposed” (CCL, Can. 914).
- **Timing:** First Reconciliation is generally held every year in Advent; First Communion is generally held at St. Peter every year in April or May, depending on the date of Easter.
- **Classes w/ Sr. Clara:** Homeschooled children receiving their sacraments may attend class taught by Sr. Clara on Tuesdays, 3-3:45 p.m. in School Room 104. Classes begin in September. Contact Sr. Clara at (402) 346-6845 for more information and to sign up. Donations to the Seraphic Sisters are accepted.

Required Dates:

- **First Reconciliation Interview with Fr. Cook:** Call and schedule the interview with Father at (402) 341-4560, ext. 104, by or on November 1, 2011. Interviews will take place throughout the month of November, 2011. The questions for the oral interview and the form of confession are attached to this document. Not all of the questions listed will be asked for the interview.
- **First Reconciliation Practice for Homeschoolers w/ Fr. Cook:** 3:30 p.m.-5 p.m. in the church on Friday, Dec. 2, 2011.
- **Sacrament of First Reconciliation:** Saturday, December 3, 2011 from 10-10:30 a.m. in St. Peter Church.
- **General Catechism & First Communion Quiz:** Saturday, March 31, 2012 at 10 a.m. in St. Peter School Gymnasium. The child must be able to pass the quiz; retakes are possible. The content of the final quiz will be taken from the prayers, objective quizzes, and test questions in the teacher’s volume of the Faith & Life Series, Volume 2: *Jesus Our Life*.

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- **First Communion Practice:** Saturday, April 21, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. until noon in the gym and then in the church – confessors will be available.
- **First Communion Bilingual Mass:** Sunday, April 22, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. with both catechism and homeschool children
 - Children should arrived dressed at 8:45 a.m. on Sunday, April 22, 2012
 - Because of the projected large number of First Communicants, homeschooled children and some of the catechism children will make their First Communion on April 22 at 9:30 a.m. and we will also have a 2nd First Communion Bilingual Mass for the remaining catechism students on Sunday, April 29, 2011 at 9:30 a.m.

Additional Requirements:

- **Baptismal Certificate:** A copy of the baptismal certificate of the child should be submitted to Sr. Clara via the rectory office by November 1, 2011.
- **Memorized Prayers:** *Act of Contrition, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Hail, Holy Queen, Apostle's Creed, St. Michael, Guardian Angel, Anima Christi, 20 Mysteries of the Rosary, Form of Confession*
- **Letter:** If the family of the communicant is not a member of the parish, a letter from the family's pastor granting permission for classes at St. Peter and/or reception of the Sacrament at St. Peter must be received before any instruction takes place.

Dress & Details for First Communion:

- Because the white alb is the traditional garb in which to receive sacraments – it is a reminder of our baptismal gown and dignity in Christ – we highly recommend that girls and boys dress in white as much as possible. Having said that, we realize that it may be difficult to find boys' trousers or even suits that are white, so we ask families to do the best they can within reason and within their financial limitations.
 - **Girls:** White dress, white shoes, and white gloves. White veils are encouraged, but optional.
 - **Boys:** White, button-down, long-sleeve shirts with collar, white tie or bowtie, nice white pants or trousers (no jeans), and dress shoes. Suit coat optional (dark colors are recommended in the absence of white pants or suit coat).
- Communicants will receive Communion by intinction (Body & Blood) and also be invested with a scapular at their First Communion.
- **Photographs:** There will be no group photos or professional photographers available. Group and individual photos may be taken briefly following the Mass.

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FIRST RECONCILIATION INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

RECONCILIATION:

- What is sin?
- What is original sin? Who committed it? What happened?
- What is actual sin?
- What are the two types of actual sin? What is the difference between a mortal and venial sin?
- What are the 3 conditions for a mortal sin?
- What are the 10 Commandments?
- Is missing Mass on Sundays or Holy Days of Obligation serious? What is a Holy Day of Obligation? Can you think of some examples?
- What are the two Great Commandments of Jesus?
- What is the first sacrament and the one that removes original sin?
- What are the names of the 7 Sacraments?
- What is the definition of a sacrament? **A sacrament is a visible (outward) sign instituted by Christ to give grace.**
- What are the other names for the Sacrament of Reconciliation?
- Who is our Savior? From what does He save us? How did He save us?
- Who alone can forgive sins?
- Who was given the power by Jesus to forgive sins? (John 20:22)
- What does God do for you in the sacrament of Confession?
- What are virtues? In what virtues would you like to grow?
- When do you need to go to Confession?
- What do you need to tell the priest to make an integral confession? Do you have to tell the priest how many times you did mortal sins to the best of your memory?
- Can a priest tell anyone what you say in confession? What do we call that protection?
- What is penance? What are some examples?
- What's the difference between perfect and imperfect contrition?
- Please recite for me by memory the Act of Contrition (the child can recite either the Act of Contrition found in the *Faith and Life Series* or the version found in the attached form of Confession).
- What is absolution?
- Can you say the Our Father? The Hail Mary? The Glory Be?
- Why do you want to go to Reconciliation?

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FORM OF FIRST CONFESSION

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

Priest: May God, who has enlightened every heart, help you to know your sins and to trust in His mercy. Amen.

Penitent: Bless me father, for I have sinned. This is my first confession. (My last confession was _____ ago.) I am _____ (*state vocational status: student, married, a priest, widow, etc.*). These are my sins ...



“The faithful are obliged to confess, according to kind and number, all grave sins committed after Baptism of which they are conscious.” (Catechism) When finished confessing your sins, say something like:

... For these and all my sins, I am truly sorry.

The priest will offer you counsel and a penance and then you pray the Act of Contrition in your own or memorized words.

ACT OF CONTRITION

Penitent: 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.

OR

Penitent: O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You, and I detest all my sins because of Your just punishment; but most of all because they offend You, my God, Who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Your grace, to confess my sins, to do penance, and to amend my life. Amen.

The priest then gives you absolution and as he makes the sign of the cross, you sign yourself.

Priest: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

Penitent: His mercy endures forever.

Priest: The Lord has freed you from your sins. Go in peace.

Penitent: Thanks be to God. Thank you, Father.

(Return to your pew and quietly pray and do your penance)

