

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI Parish
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM
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March 2, 2019

Parents of Child receiving First Holy Communion

On Saturday, May 18, 2019 your child will be receiving Holy Communion for the first time. The day of First Holy Communion is also a great day of celebration in our parish. We wish to thank the teachers, catechists, and especially you, as parents, for preparing your child for this Sacrament. Your continued reception of Holy Communion at daily and/or Sunday Mass is the most significant example you can provide for your children as they grow into young disciples.

NO flash photography or video recording is allowed during any part of the Mass.

The following events in preparation for this important day are obligatory for you and your child:

REHEARSAL is SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2019

GRADES C-1 AND C-2: 10:00AM IN THE CHURCH.

GRADES C-3 AND C-4: 2:00PM IN THE CHURCH.

At least one parent and the candidate for First Communion are required to attend this rehearsal in the church. **This is the one and only rehearsal, there will be no make ups, so please make sure you are present and arrive early.** .

During the rehearsal we will:

1. practice the responses, songs and the order of the celebration.
2. practice the procession and how to receive the Body and Blood of Christ.
3. show you the seating arrangement.

Confession

Your child will be required to be in the state of grace before receiving Holy Communion

DAY OF CELEBRATION is SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2019

GRADES C-1 AND C-2: 10:00AM IN THE CHURCH (Children need to be in the Church Hall by 9:00am)

GRADES C-3 AND C-4: 2:00PM IN THE CHURCH (Children need to be in the Church Hall by 1:00pm)

*Parents and other family members are asked to take their seats in the Church.

ATTIRE FOR THE HOLY COMMUNION MASS

While we are most concerned with your child's spiritual readiness to receive Holy Communion, we need to stress attire expected for Mass that day.

✳ **Girls:** White dresses and veils (no gloves, prayer books, rosaries, etc. should be carried in)

✳ **Boys:** Dress trousers with long or short-sleeve white dress shirts and dress ties, Suit or Sports jacket and any color dress shoes. (no articles should be carried in)

PHOTOS AND VIDEO:

Under **NO** circumstances can the celebration be disrupted by individuals moving in and out of their pews to take pictures or video footage. **NO flash photography or video recording is allowed during any part of the Mass.** It would be inappropriate to take flash photography during the celebration of any Mass.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AFTER CELEBRATION

† **Your Children MUST CONTINUE GOING TO CLASS. Final Day of Celebration is May 19th**

† **ONGOING CATECHESIS:** As Catholics, we need consistent, life-long catechesis to grow in our relationship with God and to more completely understand how to live out our Baptismal vows. The Church believes and proclaims that we never stop learning about our faith, we are always disciples, always learning, growing and following our Lord.

Catechesis begins in childhood with regular faith formation classes, each having its own year-long scope and sequence. After the reception of the sacraments, children need to continue their faith formation.

Religious Education at St Francis of Assisi Parish offers ongoing faith formation for children that have already made their First Communion through 9th grade Sacrament of Confirmation.

REMINDER for the parents of children who received First Holy Communion this year....

Your child must continue in our Religious Education Program. If your child is out of our program for 2 or more years, they will be considered a new student when they return for Confirmation Preparation and they will need to complete 1 year of Basic Catechism prior to entering the Pre-Confirmation grade.

Confirmation Preparation has 3 phases (3 years):

- **1st phase Grade 7: Practicing Our Faith**
- **2nd phase Grade 8: Decision-making (Pre-Confirmation)**
- **3rd phase Grade 9: A Call to Community & Immediate Preparation for the Sacrament**

PRECEPTS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

All children who have received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion are required to attend Holy Mass every Sunday and Holyday of obligation, confess their sins at least once a year and frequently receive Holy Communion.

We pray that the Holy Spirit be with each one of you during this time of preparation for the Sacrament of Holy Communion, and that the beauty and sacredness of the day will fill your hearts with the love of God the Father and Jesus, His Son.

In Christ's Love,

Leanne Christmann
Director of Religious Education