

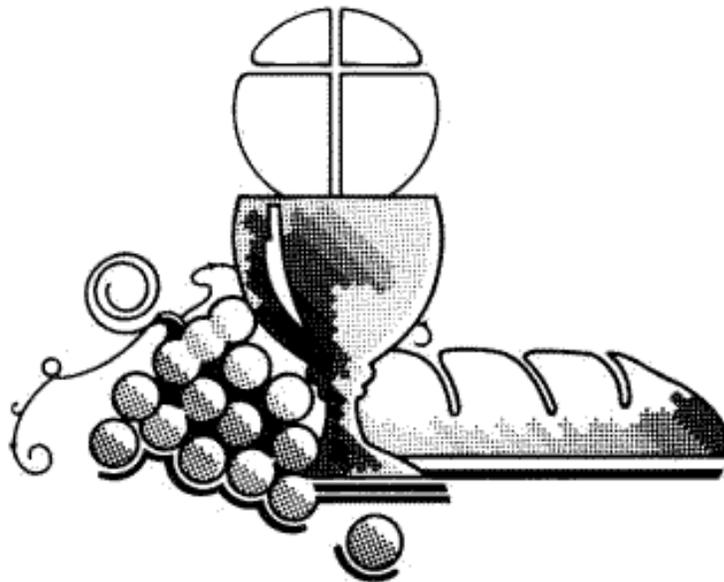
# HOLY NAME OF JESUS

CATHOLIC CHURCH



## *First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion*

*2017-2018 Handbook*



*"I AM the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes  
in me will never thirst." John 6: 35*



## ***Sacramental Preparation Calendar of Events***

### FIRST RECONCILIATION DATES - 2017

September 12 Tuesday	First Reconciliation Family Session 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Meeting
November 16 Thursday	First Reconciliation Sacrament 6:30 p.m.

### FIRST EUCHARIST DATES - 2018

January 16 Tuesday	First Eucharist Family Session 6:30 p.m. – 7:45 p.m. Meeting
March 10 Saturday	First Eucharist "Super Saturday Retreat" 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Share-a-Meal
April 26 Thursday	First Eucharist Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.
April 28 Saturday	First Eucharist Mass 11:00 a.m.
June 3 Sunday	Feast of Corpus Christi Procession 11:30 a.m. Mass

## *General Program Instructions*

***“Let the children come to Me. Do not prevent them. The Kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” Matthew 19:14***

### **Mission Statement**

The First Reconciliation and First Communion ministry prepares the second graders in our parish to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist. This ministry leads the children and their parents/guardians to a joyful response to God's call to know, love, and serve Him and others throughout their lives within the Catholic Church.

### **Sacramental Preparation**

All second grade children of our parish at Holy Name of Jesus who have been baptized are invited to begin the formal preparation through this ministry to receive for the first time the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion.

- Children who attend public schools will receive their sacramental preparation through Holy Name, Sunday Morning Religious Education Ministry.
- Your child is required to enroll in this religious education program. Information and registration forms for religious education classes are available by emailing Joe Chrisman at [jchrisman@holynome.cc](mailto:jchrisman@holynome.cc) or calling him at (317) 784-5454.
- Children who are home-schooled must use the appropriate church approved material. Please contact Joe Chrisman at [jchrisman@holynome.cc](mailto:jchrisman@holynome.cc) or by calling him at (317) 784-5454.
- Children who attend Holy Name of Jesus Catholic School will receive their preparation at school.
- Parents of older children who did not receive First Reconciliation/First Holy Communion in second grade need to contact Joe Chrisman at [jchrisman@holynome.cc](mailto:jchrisman@holynome.cc) or by calling him at (317) 784-5454 during regular business hours to prepare a sacramental preparation plan.

### **Regular Mass Schedule**

At Holy Name, Mass is celebrated ten times each week. We are incredibly blessed to have these opportunities to celebrate and receive Jesus at Holy Mass. **Holy Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith.**

**Note:** Be sure to check the weekly bulletin for changes and Holy Days.

<b>Weekend Masses</b>		<b>Daily Masses</b>	
Saturday Anticipation	5:00 p.m.	Monday & Wednesday	5:45 p.m.
Sunday	7:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, & Saturday	8:00 a.m.

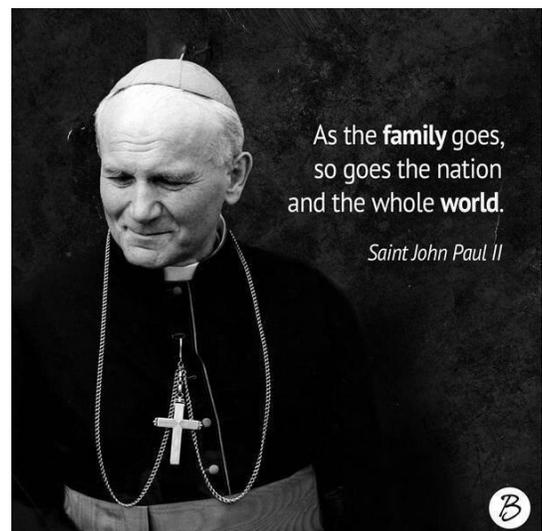
**Ministry of First Reconciliation/First Holy Communion is a partnership with God, Parents/Guardians, and the Church:**

*“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” Proverbs: 22:6*

- **God the Holy Trinity:** The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit guide us through this ministry.
- **Parents/Guardians:** You are your child's **first and primary** religious education teacher. It is **your** personal example and influence that have the most profound impact on your child and their faith.

*Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. They bear witness to this responsibility first by creating a home where tenderness, forgiveness, respect, fidelity, and disinterested service are the rule. The home is well suited for education in the virtues. CCC 2223*

- **Go to Mass– It is the primary and essential cornerstone of the Sacramental Preparation Ministry.** Living your faith by regular participation and celebration of the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist is the best example you can give to your child. This participation indicates that these sacraments are part of your essential faith walk. Also through this ministry, you are preparing your child to share more fully in these sacraments.
- **Encourage your child to return their envelope to the collection basket.** Sometime throughout the week, children are invited to write down how they have given of their time or talents. Children may also choose to make a small contribution to the church. *The envelope should be returned weekly regardless if there is money inside or not.*
- **Church:** We affirm our role as “**Primary Resource**” religious educators for your child and for you. We will present the Church's teaching. *We are grateful to say, you won't see anything new. We present God's Truth handed down by Jesus Christ to Peter to Pope Francis. We strive to make this year of preparation fun and interesting for your child and for you.*



## ***First Communion Housekeeping***

The Sacraments of Initiation are Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Communion. The dress for these sacraments reflects purity.

### **The Traditional Dress for First Communion is:**

- Girls: White dress which should cover the shoulders  
Length should be at or below the knee (Please no floor length dresses due to the danger of tripping and falling.)  
White dress shoes, white socks/stockings  
White veil and/or flowers in hair
- Boys: White dress shirt (short or long-sleeved), dark pants, dress shoes, a tie (White recommended color, but any style).  
If you want a suit or sport coat, please no tuxes

### **Photography Policy**

It is our policy at Holy Name to not permit any photography, either snapshots or videos, during the actual First Communion Mass. You will be able to take still photo and/or videos in any area of the church both before and after the ceremony. A professional photographer will provide you with the opportunity to purchase group professional photos taken on the ceremony day. *We sincerely appreciate your cooperation in maintaining a sacred celebration.*



## *Prayers to Know*

In order to build a strong faith, one must pray. Prayer is a gift from God! Praying helps us to know God. Learning our traditional prayers helps children become able to talk and listen to God. Praying together with your child gives them comfort and confidence. Prayer within our Holy Name community brings unity.

Learning the following prayers is part of the sacramental prep catechesis:

- Sign of the Cross
- The Lord's Prayer/Our Father
- Hail Mary
- Glory Be
- Act of Contrition
- Grace (before and after meals)
- Morning Offering
- Evening Prayer
- Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love
- Prayer to the Holy Spirit
- Consecration to Mary
- Prayer to our Guardian Angel
- Mass Responses
- Spontaneous Prayer



# *The Sacrament of Reconciliation*

## *A Fact Page for Parents*

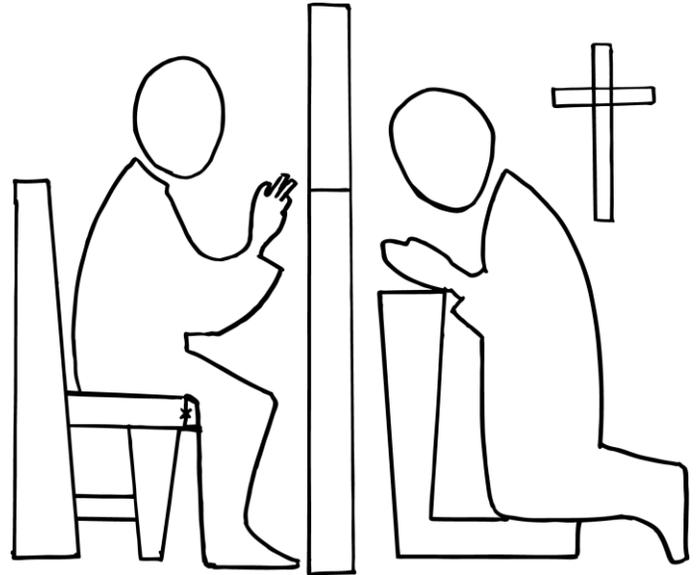
*“Apart from the mercy of God, there is no other source of hope for mankind.”*  
– St. John Paul II

### **Faith**

#### **Catechesis of children for Reconciliation:**

It seeks, first, to make clear the relationship of the sacrament to the child's life; second, to help the child recognize moral good and evil, repent of wrong-doing, and turn for forgiveness to Christ and the Church; third, to encourage the child to see that in this sacrament, faith is expressed by being forgiven and forgiving; fourth, to encourage the child to approach the sacrament freely and regularly.

Parents should be involved in the preparation of children for this sacrament.



### **Facts**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a celebration of God's mercy. It is a meeting with Christ to obtain forgiveness of our sins. This sacrament can be received whenever we are sorry for not loving God and others as we should. While only mortal sins must be confessed, it is helpful to confess lesser sins, too. The sacrament gives us grace to be more like Jesus.

#### **Sacrament of Reconciliation at Holy Name**

Monday	5:15-5:30pm
Wednesday	6:15-7:00pm
Saturday	3:30-4:30pm

- Experiencing temptation is *not* a sin; giving in to it is a sin.
- Sin is choosing to say no to God. It offends Him and hurts others and ourselves.
- The priest forgives us in the name of Jesus. He is bound not to reveal our sins.
- We are encouraged to express why we committed the sins we mention.
- Ordinarily, we are forgiven in the Eucharist.

### **Preparing for the Sacrament**

1. Pray to the Holy Spirit for help in determining how well you love God and love others. (Examination of Conscience)
2. Tell Jesus you are sorry for your sins – for the times you didn't love Him. Ask Him to help you to do better.

# *The Sacrament of Holy Eucharist*

## *A Fact Page for Parents*

### **Faith**

**Catechesis of children for First Communion:** *The Eucharist is “the source and summit of the Christian life.” The other sacraments and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself, our Pasch. CCC 1324*

Parents have a right and duty to be intimately involved in preparing their children for First Communion. *The family is, so to speak, the domestic church. In it parents should, by their word and example, be the first preachers of the faith to their children. Lumen Gentium (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church)*

Catechesis aims to help parents grow in understanding and appreciation of the Eucharist and participate readily in catechizing their children.

### **Facts**

*Can. 913 §1. The administration of the Most Holy Eucharist to children requires that they have sufficient knowledge and careful preparation so that they understand the mystery of Christ according to their capacity and are able to receive the body of Christ with faith and devotion.*

*Anyone who desires to receive Christ in Eucharistic communion must be in the state of grace. Anyone aware of having sinned mortally must not receive communion without having received absolution in the sacrament of penance. CCC1415*

1. He or she must understand the difference between ordinary bread and the bread of the Eucharist.
2. He or she must have a sincere desire to receive this sacrament.

To participate fully in the Eucharist, however, the child must continue to grow in the following ways:

- ◆ Understanding the Eucharist
  - Is a memorial of the Lord's passion, death, and resurrection, and that his sacrifice on the cross and resurrection become present in every celebration.

- Is a meal at which Christ nourishes us with his Word and his Body and Blood so that we have greater love of God and neighbor.
- Reminds us of our unity with our brothers and sisters in Christ.
- Anticipates the banquet of God's kingdom.
- ◆ Knowledge of the Last Supper and the Jewish roots of the covenant meal.
- ◆ Awareness of the Father's love, of the call to participate in Christ's sacrifice, and of the gift of the Spirit.
- ◆ Familiarity with the main events of Jesus' life.
- ◆ Awareness that Jesus is present at our Eucharist, not only in the priest, in the Christian assembly, and in the reading of His Word, but in a unique and most excellent way in the consecrated bread and wine.
- ◆ Desire to visit and pray to the Eucharistic Lord apart from Mass.

### **Preparing for the Sacrament**

1. Participating in the celebration of the Eucharist, the Mass includes praying and singing along. **It also means being present for the entire Mass.**
2. *A person who is to receive the Most Holy Eucharist is to abstain for at least one hour before Holy Communion from any food and drink, except for only water and medicine. **Can. 919 §1***
3. If a person has committed a mortal or serious sin, he or she must first receive the Sacrament of Penance before receiving Communion. **CCC1415**
4. Those who receive Communion must be striving to live a life of charity outlined by Jesus and His followers.
5. Holy Communion may be received twice in the same day if the Masses are two distinct celebrations.
6. Christians not fully united with the Roman Catholic Church generally are not invited to receive Communion. To do so would imply a oneness that sadly does not exist.

### **Finally**

Take your child to Mass on Sundays. *The church obliges the faithful to take part in the Divine Liturgy on Sundays and feast days (CCC 1389).* Sit where he or she can easily see. Share your experiences with each other.

Your efforts to participate in the activities of this program will enrich the relationships between you and your child, between family members, and between your family and the families of others preparing for First Communion.

May this experience deepen your understanding of and appreciation for the Eucharist, the center of Christian life.