



Sacramental Preparation for Children First Reconciliation (Penance) & First Eucharist (Communion)

Preparing for the sacraments is an exciting time for the entire family. We are happy to be in partnership with you! Your involvement in the preparation of your child's First Holy Communion is very important. The entire parish is here for support, but the parish does not replace your part in this process of leading your child in the development of his/her faith, it's by your faith and your example. The Eucharist is the greatest gift we have received from Jesus - the gift of himself.

This sacramental preparation is in addition to Religious Education classes and the preparation is offered twice a year during spring and fall.

To receive this special gift your child has to complete the following requirements:

- 1) Must be registered in Elementary Religious Education classes.
- 2) Must have completed two consecutive R.E. school years starting 1st grade and with an attendance of 95% or above. These 2 years must be the 2 years immediately prior to signing up for Sacramental Preparation.
- 3) If your child is in a Catholic School or registered in R.E. at another parish you must provide a letter of attendance.
- 4) Attendance and participation at Mass each week is required. Your child must have "sufficient knowledge and careful preparation to understand the mystery of Christ according to their capacity" (*Code of Canon Law 913*). They must know the difference between traditional food and the Eucharistic bread in order to receive communion "with faith and devotion. (913).
- 5) If your child has completed **5th grade in Religious Education** (April) – he/she will go through the middle school Sacramental Preparation program. (For information, contact Beatriz Green ext. 237).
- 6) **Present the original birth and baptismal certificates at registration.** If the certificates are not in English or Spanish, you must have it translated and certified. Please anticipate the dates your child will begin sacramental preparation and request the baptismal certificate from the church, if needed.

THE PROCESS for Parents & Children:

- There will be a total of 10 classes, 100% attendance is required. Parents will receive a calendar the day of registration.
- Each child will be given homework that must be completed between classes at home with the help of parents. Parents must purchase a book or materials for each child enrolled and must be purchased by the second day of class. The cost will be announced at registration.
- Classes are ONLY for the children preparing for the sacraments and their parents.
- Children and their parents are expected to **attend Mass** each week.

IMPORTANT:

- **Birth and Baptism Certificates must be turned in upon the registrations.** Please request your certificates at least two months before the registration date, especially if obtaining certificates from outside the United States.

Any other information contact:

Aida Silva or Adriana Pruneda: 713-789-1250 Ext. 263 or 319