



FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST COMMUNION **2015- 2016 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 the 34 Sundays of August 23, 2015 through May 8, 2016. 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.

Formation 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. These classes are held from 9:30-10:45 A.M.

Please submit a copy of the candidate's Baptismal certificate to the attention of Karen Estes - 1st - 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 where your child was Baptized can fax the certificate directly to the attention of Karen Estes or Angie Allen at Fax # 859-278-2453.

Community 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, 1st - 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 family will be given five prayer cards. These cards will have a short prayer for their candidate. Families will give these prayer cards to five parishioners asking them to pray for their candidate.

Also, we are asking each First Communion family to participate in at least two (2) of the following, as part of their child's Sacramental Preparation:

- Family Holy Hour - At Mary Queen, the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 6-7pm
- Children's Liturgy of the Word during the 11am or 1pm Masses MOST Sundays
- Gift-bearers during Mass -Arrive to Mass at least 15 minutes early and speak with an Usher to sign up.
- Thanksgiving "Mission of Love" Project: Donate baby items to Birthright (more information will be forthcoming)
- The Stations of the Cross during Lent

First Reconciliation Dates:

All candidates will receive Reconciliation Formation prior to March 9, 2016. There are two dates to choose from:

Option A – Wednesday, March 9 at 7pm or

Option B - Saturday March 12 at 1:30pm.

At least one parent is asked to make their confession immediately prior to their child.

First Communion Photos

A photo shoot is scheduled for **Saturday, April 23 from 12:00 - 3:00 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 will be forthcoming).

First Communion Instructions and Taste Test:

Wednesday, May 11, 2016 for candidates, parents and Godparents at 7pm in the Church **(In Spanish)**

Friday, May 13, 2016 for candidates and parents at 7pm in the Church **(In English)**.

The children will have the opportunity to taste test unconsecrated bread and wine.

First Holy Communion:

Families have their choice of any regular Mass on May 14 or 15, 2016 to celebrate First Communion.

May 14, 2016 - 4:00pm English Mass -Candidates sit with family and guests with no procession.

May 15, 2016 - 8:15am English Mass -Candidates process in together and sit by themselves with an adult in each row.

May 15, 2016 - 9:30am Spanish Mass - Candidates process in with their Godparents **or** parents.

May 15, 2016 - 11:00am English Mass -Candidates process in together and sit by themselves with an adult in each row.

May 15, 2016 - 1:00pm Spanish Mass - Candidates process in with their Godparents **or** parents.

May 15, 2016 - 5:30pm English Mass -Candidates sit with family and guests with no procession.

Day of First Communion:

***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.

*No gum chewing.

*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. Pictures may be taken with the priests, and anywhere in the Church, after Mass.**

*First Communion Certificates will be available immediately following the Mass in the gathering area.

Important Dates:

September 13, 2015 - Final Day to Register for First Reconciliation and First Communion.

September 27, 2015 - Mandatory Parent Meeting in the gym at 9:30am **(In English)**.

October 4, 2015 - Mandatory Parent Meeting in the gym at 9:30am **(In Spanish)**.

November 15, 2015 -Sacramental Prep Family Day -All 2nd grade First Communion candidates and at least one parent in the gym at 9:30 A.M. Blessing of the Candidates and craft project for the elderly in nursing home/s.

January 13, 2016 (Wednesday) - Tour of the Church for all First Reconciliation/Communion students at 6:30 P.M. At least one parent must attend.

February 7, 2016 - Sacramental Prep Family Day - All First Communion candidates (2nd - 12th grade) and at least one parent to attend Prayer Service and Quilt & Rosary Box craft activity in the gym at 9:30 A.M.

March 9, 2016 (Wednesday) -First Reconciliation Service option A at 7:00 P.M. in the Church

March 12, 2016 (Saturday) -First Reconciliation Service option B at 1:30 P.M. in the Church

April 23, 2016 (Saturday) - Individual First Communion photos will be taken from 12:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. by Holifield Photography **(First Communion attire to be worn)**.

May 11, 2016 (Wednesday) - First Communion Instructions and Taste Test at 7:00 P.M. in the Church **(In Spanish)**

May 13, 2016 (Friday) -First Communion Instructions and Taste Test at 7:00 P.M. in the Church **(In English)**

May 14 and 15, 2016 - **First Holy Communion at Mass of Family's choice:** See above

May 29, 2016 (Sunday) - **Feast of Corpus Christi** (the Body and Blood of Christ) – All First Communicants are asked to participate in a procession at the 11:00 A.M. or 1:00 P.M. Mass. **(First Communion attire to be worn)**