



## **St. Frances of Rome Reconciliation & Communion Process Handbook**

We welcome you and thank you for choosing St. Frances of Rome to help you prepare your child to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Communion! We are excited to journey with your family towards these sacraments of initiation. As this journey begins please read this handbook in order to understand our entire process.

### **SFR's Reconciliation & Communion Process**

Our two year process is designed to share the Gospel message of Jesus with the children and families of our parish so that together they can dive deeper into the incredible gifts God gives us - Reconciliation and the Eucharist.

In order to do this we have adopted a hybrid model of preparation that includes sessions at church and at home experiences called Family Meetings. This model allows for greater flexibility for schedules, meets families where they are, and allows for greater intimacy and real sharing as children and families engage and grow together. Most importantly, this model reinforces what the Church has always taught - a child's faith journey begins at home. Our role as a parish then is to assist and support parents in the faith growth of their children at home.

We do this by first sitting down with families individually to assess their family needs. We then assign families to small groups whom they can journey with together throughout the process and interact with during sessions at the church. Once assigned, parents are taught how to lead a Family Meeting in the home and given all the materials needed to successfully do so. Along the way catechists will also accompany families to help address their individual needs and keep them connected to the parish community.

It is our hope that by shifting from focusing on "content about Christ" to "encounters with Christ as a family" and by encouraging prayer, bible time, rituals, service, and faith conversations in the home that families will encounter Jesus together and develop the faith skills needed to sustain a lifelong development of faith within the family.

### **Sessions & Family Meetings**

Parents and children are required to attend all sessions listed on the schedule that take place at SFR. For Year 1 Families this will typically be about once a month. For Year 2 Families this will typically be about once a quarter. These dates will be clearly listed on the schedule which is distributed at the beginning of the formation year. All other sessions will be Family Meetings which take place in the home and are self directed. This allows families to move at their own pace.



Each family meeting is designed for the whole family to participate in with each meeting including: a gathering ritual, family check-in question, hands-on activity, concise teaching, and a closing prayer. Each meeting is designed to take an average of 20-40 minutes. After completing a family meeting parents will complete a family follow through using our Martha Formation Management System.

### **Martha Formation Management System & Flocknote**

After every family meeting parents will log in to Martha to upload evidence to verify the session was completed. This will vary from simple text responses to images, videos, and/or voice recordings. Martha will also be used to deliver content and communicate with your assigned catechist.

Besides Martha, our primary way of communicating with families is through Flocknote. Flocknote is a messaging system we use to exchange text messages and emails with families. Standard text messaging rates may apply to Flocknote messages, based on each individual's cell phone carrier and text messaging plan, but there are no added costs. In other words, getting a Flocknote message via text is exactly the same as getting a text message from anyone else. During the registration process you can opt in to receive Flocknote messages or choose to have only one family member receive the updates.

### **Mass Attendance**

The Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith and as such Mass attendance is extremely important. It is the expectation of the Catholic Church and the Faith Formation Office that all families attend mass weekly. In addition to weekly Mass attendance, all Holy Days of Obligation should be observed. Keeping the Sabbath holy within family life can be a challenge, but it is also a great joy! The joy comes from spending time with our family, praying together at mass, sharing a meal, and spending time at rest and in recreation. When you and your family are at Sunday Mass, you are sharing your holiness with others and contributing to the worship experience of the faith community.

### **Family Faith Sessions**

Family Faith Sessions are opportunities for families to connect with the larger parish community and learn about faith skills and topics not normally covered within the Reconciliation & Communion Process. These gatherings are hands-on, experiential, and engages the entire family. Families are encouraged to participate in as many sessions as possible. However, these gatherings are open to all families in the parish so feel free to invite others to join you!



## **Service and Outreach**

It is a part of the Christian life to serve others with love and care. While we do not have a set requirement for families to fulfill a certain number of hours we do encourage families to participate in service opportunities as they arise. We will do our best to notify families of upcoming service opportunities, but families are encouraged to seek out opportunities where they can serve their community and others as well.

## **Fees**

All fees are due no later than the first session. We accept cash, checks, and online payments through Zelle and Paypal. Please make all checks payable to St. Frances of Rome Church and in the memo of the check write your child's name and "Yr # Communion" For online payments include your child's name and "Yr # Communion" in the comments section. Please keep in mind that once a payment has been received, all fees are nonrefundable.

If you are in need of financial assistance please feel free to contact us because we will never allow money to be a reason a child does not participate.

- ❖ Year 1 Registration Fee = \$100/child
- ❖ Year 2 Registration Fee= \$125/child

## **Birth Certificate and Baptism Certificates**

Copies of the child's Birth Certificate and Baptismal Certificate are due with registration. If you do not have a baptismal certificate contact the parish of baptism to get a copy. This applies even if your child has received the sacrament at St. Frances of Rome.

## **Registration Process**

- Step 1: Review the St. Frances of Rome Reconciliation & Communion Process Handbook
- Step 2: Complete the Online Registration Form available at [www.sfrchurch.org](http://www.sfrchurch.org)
- Step 3: Pay the registration fee online or visit the Parish Office to pay by cash or check.
- Step 4: Submit any necessary documents to the coordinator at the Parish Office.
- Step 5: Save the Date! Gatherings will begin at the end of September.
  - Year 1 Parent Welcome Session - Sept 21 6-7:30pm (Bi-Lingual) at Parish Auditorium
  - Year 2 Parent Welcome Session - Sept 22 6-7:30pm (Bi-Lingual) at Parish Auditorium