

FAMILY BASED MYSTERIES OF LIFE

3 Tips for Preparing Your Child to Receive First Reconciliation and Eucharist

Stop by and pick up your Summer Workbook today or call 662-2169 to make arrangements.
Faith Formation Office is open Monday – Friday, 10 am – 2 pm

1. FAMILY PARTICIPATION IN THE SACRAMENTS

- † At a Child's Baptism - At the Baptism of a child, parents give witness and express their intention to train the child in the practice of the faith. It is thereby the duty of the parents to bring the child up to keep God's Commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God, (participating in the Sacraments), and loving neighbors as ourselves by acts of charity, peace, and justice.

- † Mass on the Lord's Day (Sunday) - Witnessing your regular Communion with Christ and our community will help your children grow in faith; by the Grace of God, they will gradually come to recognize Him in Word, Sacrament, and the community gathered in prayer.
 - In the Eucharist, Jesus does not give us a "thing, but himself; he offers his own Body and pours out his own Blood. He thus gives us the totality of his life and reveals the ultimate origin of this love. He is the Eternal Son, given to us by the Father." *Apostolic Exhortation Sacramentum Caritatis of the Holy Father Benedict XVI*
 - "In the Eucharist, Christ is always renewing His gift of self, which He made on the Cross. His whole life is an act of total sharing of self out of love." "It is so important to go to Mass on Sunday," Pope Francis spontaneously added to the text of his February 5 audience, "not just to pray, but to receive Communion. It is a beautiful thing to do," Sunday is "precisely the day of the resurrection of the Lord. That is why Sunday is so important to us" *Pope Francis – Wednesday Audience February 2016*

- † Reconciliation - Additionally, parents that receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly and joyfully impress in the hearts and minds of their children the truth of the grace received when we ourselves open our hearts and minds to the mystery of Divine love. In the administration of the Sacrament of Pardon and of Reconciliation, the priest - ...acts as "the sign and the instrument of God's merciful love for the sinner." What takes place in this Sacrament, therefore, is especially a mystery of love, a work of the merciful love of the Lord.

2. FAMILY TIMES

- † Next to the family's reception of the Sacraments, (especially receiving the Eucharist), prayer, & reflection at home are the second most important elements in a child's formation. To help prepare their children, families will receive various resources at the Family Gatherings. At home catechesis is vital to your child's preparation for every sacrament.

- † Children develop best through what their families live out in their daily lives. [In addition to praying as a family, and participating in the life of our parish, your child's regular attendance at either Faith Formation Sessions or a Catholic School is necessary.](#) If your child is not attending a Catholic school, please be sure to enroll in both and submit both the General Enrollment and the Mysteries of Life Forms.

3. FIRST EUCHARIST FAMILY GATHERINGS - (Parking for Family Gatherings is in the school parking lot)

- † In addition to your Family's example of celebrating at home and participating receiving the Sacraments, preparations includes Family Gatherings. Workbooks for summer at home activity are available beginning in the spring. Family Gatherings begin in September. All events begin with Sunday Liturgy followed by a thirty minute Family Gathering in the school cafeteria.

- † Sacramental preparation is a family endeavor; parents, candidates and siblings should attend these gatherings. Please see the Family Based Mysteries of Life schedule for dates.