

First Reconciliation/First Eucharist Requirements

In order to be successfully prepared to receive the sacraments, the following requirements must be met:

- † **Attend each session with at least one parent.** Attendance is mandatory. Any missed sessions must be made up within ONE WEEK of the missed session and will require picking up the missed materials from the Religious Education Office.
- † **Complete the assigned class work.** In addition to the lessons the children will be doing during our group sessions, there will be additional material to be completed at home. It is not intended to be a strenuous exercise in homework, but rather a gathering time for you and your child to review what he/she has learned. During First Eucharist Preparation, each child will be given a workbook entitled, “Called to His Supper.” Throughout the course of our preparation time leading up to receiving the sacrament, the children will be asked to complete the pages in the workbook. In late April and early May, individual meeting times will be scheduled with each child to review their progress in the workbook and their understanding of the sacrament.
- † **Attend Mass regularly.** Our Catholic faith teaches that celebration of Mass is the source and summit of all that we believe as Catholics. “For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1324). The “WHOLE SPIRITUAL GOOD” – the enormity of this cannot be underscored enough. What it means is that our orientation as Catholics should always be toward the Eucharist – coming to the table of the Lord and sharing in Christ’s sacrifice. As adults, we continue to try to comprehend God’s act of ultimate self-giving and how it has changed our lives forever. While still very young, we believe that your children have reached the age where they are capable of beginning this life-long journey of participating in and growing in understanding of the Eucharist at Mass. To nurture this continued growth and maturity, however, they **MUST** attend Mass. It goes without saying that your role as parents is essential to accomplishing this requirement. You stand as role models for them as you help them to participate at Mass and become holy members of our worshipping community.
- † **Provide a copy of the child’s Baptismal Certificate to the Office of Religious Education.** Even if your child was baptized at Our Mother of Sorrows or St. Peter’s, we need to have an **actual copy of the certificate** in your child’s file. (Copies of certificates for children baptized at OMOS were not kept on file until 2007.)
- † **Learn the following prayers:** Act of Contrition, Our Father, Hail Mary, and the Apostle’s Creed. These are foundational prayers of our faith. I recommend that you make these prayers part of your child’s daily routine. The more often that they say them aloud, the more quickly they will commit them to memory.
- † **Learn the Ten Commandments.** While these commandments are explored at age-appropriate levels in their regular religious education classes, it is important that they have at least a basic understanding and familiarity with them.