

First Reconciliation/First Eucharist Requirements

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

First Reconciliation

- † **Parent Meetings.** At least one parent must attend ONE of the scheduled Parent Meetings in the Fall.
- † **Parent/Child Session.** There is one required parent/child session prior to receiving the sacrament in November. Please make all necessary arrangements to attend, as there are no make-up classes.
- † **Complete the assigned work.** The majority of the preparation for this sacrament is conducted at home where the child is the most comfortable and flexibility in schedules is optimum. This allows the parent to be fully present to their child in this learning process and to allow more relaxed setting for learning. In addition to the preparation materials, each child will be given a Mass booklet that he/she can take to Mass to facilitate a better understanding of and participation in the Mass.

First Eucharist

- † **(Tentative) Optional Format.** Parents have a choice of two preparation options for First Eucharist. Option 1 is for parents who have not prepared a child for this sacrament yet. It requires that one or both parents attend a Parent Retreat in January. Preparation materials will be distributed at the Retreat for parents to conduct sacrament preparation at home with their child. Option 2 is for parents who have attended the Parent Retreat previously. It requires that one or both parents attend a Parent Meeting also offered in January.
- † **First Communion Fair.** All children and at least one parent must attend the First Communion Fair in April to complete their preparation.
- † **Interviews.** Each child will participate in a brief interview prior to receiving the sacrament to confirm the child's readiness to receive.
- † **Rehearsal.** Rehearsal is necessary to allay any anxiety the children may have about their First Communion day. It has proven to be an invaluable exercise, and takes place the Friday evening prior to celebration of the sacrament.

Both Sacraments

- † **Attend Mass regularly.** This is not optional. Our faith teaches that the celebration of Mass is the source and summit of all that we believe as Catholics. Our experience teaches that attending Mass helps us to form a better community with one another. In God's wisdom we discover that attending Mass does not make God better. It makes us better! With your nurturing and guidance, your child is ready to begin experiencing this reality.
- † **Provide a copy of the child's Baptismal Certificate.** Copies of certificates for children baptized at OMOS are already on file. Copies of certificates for all non-OMOS baptisms must be provided.
- † **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. Each child will be given a Ten Commandments sticker book to help them understand these commandments better.