

First Communion Preparation Details for 2009-2010

Revised October 12, 2009

First Year

- Child participates in faith formation instruction in the school or SRE
- Parents/guardians affirm, review, and apply the child's faith formation instruction in the life of the family as they foster participation and formation in:
 - Knowing who Jesus is
 - Experiencing prayer as a part of daily life
 - Regular Sunday Mass attendance
 - Knowing the difference between the bread and wine and the Body and Blood
 - Desiring to receive Jesus
- Register for the two year process in the FLM Office, including a copy of the child's baptismal certificate with the completed registration form.
- Families are encouraged to participate in Family Catechesis Sessions – choose one date per topic:

“Advent...Preparing for Jesus” - RSVP by Friday 11/27/09

Wednesday 12/2/09 from 6-7:30pm Saturday 12/5/09 from 6-7:30pm Sunday
12/6/09 from 1pm-2:30pm

“Coming to the Table of the Lord” - RSVP by Friday 1/29/10

Wednesday 2/3/10 from 6-7:30pm Saturday 2/3/10 from 6-7:30pm Sunday
2/7/10 from 1pm-2:30pm

Each experience includes sharing a meal, intergenerational group activities, a break out session separating adults and children into age appropriate activities, and prayer time.

- Parents/guardians participate in the Parish Mission, January 10-13, 2010, or other adult faith formation experiences offered. See website or Sunday Bulletin for continued updates on scheduled events.

Second Year

- Continue participation in process as listed above in **First Year**
- Parents/guardian and child attend a **First Communion Retreat** together at the Heart of Jesus Retreat Center.
Both parents are welcome; one adult per child is requested to attend. Choose one of these dates:

Sunday 2/21/10 or Sunday 2/28/10 from 10am to 3pm (includes lunch and Mass)

For information on the location, check out

www.sacredheartsisters.com/heartofjesusretreatcenter.html

- **“Communion Poster” - a family project to be completed by Wednesday, March 24, 2010**

“Communion” means sharing with more than just the people we get along with. Jesus calls us to be in communion with our family and friends and also with people in our neighborhoods, in our parish community, and in the world. As Christians we are to help each other and do what Jesus did. All of the “Communion” posters will be displayed together in the gathering space of the church during the Easter Season, when the First Communions are celebrated.

Instructions: Use a 12” x 18” piece of construction paper in your choice of color. Make a collage of pictures. In the center of the poster put your own family (kids, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc.) and friends. Around the outside of your family and friends make a collage of pictures from magazines, etc. that show the world community.

Make this project a special family time and talk about the way your family interacts with or could help those on some of the pictures you have chosen for your collage.

First Reconciliation Services:

Friday, January 29, 2010 at 7pm in the church or Saturday, January 30, 2010 at 9:30am in the church

Preparation and celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is to precede the reception of First Communion. There are two opportunities offered in January during the second year of preparation for the families to come together and celebrate First Reconciliation with their children. There will be a reception with punch and cookies in Quinn Hall after each First Reconciliation Service. Contact the FLM Office if other arrangements for receiving First Reconciliation are made.

First Communion Celebrations:

April 10&11, 2010 April 24&25, 2010 May 1&2, 2010 May 8&9, 2010 May 15&16, 2010

All First Communions take place at a Sunday Vigil on Saturday or Sunday Mass during the Easter Season; at the 5:30pm Saturday Mass, and the 8:30am, 10:30am and 12noon Sunday Masses.

Important Note: Due to the school's May Crowning event, all children attending St. Hedwig School are requested to schedule the First Communion Mass no later than the weekend of May 8&9, 2010.

To RSVP for Family Catechesis or to schedule your child's First Communion Retreat, First Reconciliation and First Communion Mass contact the Family Life Ministries Office at (562) 296-9040 or by email to kluckey@sainthedwigparish.org