

FIRST RECONCILIATION FIRST EUCHARIST



SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAM



INFORMATION PACKET
2011- 2012

St. Gabriel Catholic Church

St. Gabriel Catholic Church
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July 1, 2011

Dear Family,

Soon St. Gabriel will begin Sacramental Preparation Programs for Reconciliation and Eucharist. You may have a child who is eligible to begin preparing for the celebration of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist for the first time. These events are a significant step in spiritual development. In order for your child to receive the best preparation, parents should take an active role. Children look to parents and family members for example and guidance, and so your role in the catechesis of your child is critical.

We have prepared a packet which contains the information about our Sacramental Preparation Program. Please review the material carefully. After reviewing the materials, if you and your child meet the requirements for this program, please complete the registration form and return it to the parish office by August 15, 2011.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the parish office. I am looking forward to working with you and your child during this important part of your faith journey.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Myra Tircuit
Director of Religious Education

GUIDELINES FOR FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST EUCHARIST

ELIGIBILITY

1. Applicant must be a baptized Catholic whose family is registered in St. Gabriel Catholic Church Parish.
2. Applicant must be a “***PRACTICING***” member of St. Gabriel Catholic Church. (Practicing means **regularly** attends Mass on Sundays and Holydays)
3. Applicant must be in the second grade or older
4. Applicant must have participated in a Religious Education Program (Catholic School or a Church Parish School of Religion) for one year prior to application.
5. Applicant must be participating in a Religious Education Program at the time of application.
6. A child will not be allowed in the program once classes have started, unless transferring from another program.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

“God forgiveness is revealed in the healing presence of Jesus in our lives. Jesus’ message is that God our Father is extravagantly generous and joyful in forgiving us. He does this because of His limitless love for us individually. This is why Jesus came to find those who are lost, to heal those who suffer, and to save sinners. This forgiveness is celebrated in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.”

SACRAMENT OF EUCHARIST

“The Eucharist is a memorial of the Lord’s passion, death, and resurrection. This holy sacrifice is both a commemoration of a past event and a celebration of the here and now. Through, with, and in the Church Christ’s sacrifice on the cross and the victory of his resurrection become present in every celebration.”

FIRST RECONCILIATION/FIRST EUCHARIST

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

2011 – 2012

FIRST RECONCILIATION

Sept. 06	6:30 P.M.	Workshop for Parents
17	9:00 A.M.	Class for Candidates – Parent remain first 10 minutes of class
Oct. 15	9:00 A.M.	Class for candidates
Nov. 19	9:00 A.M.	Class for candidates
Dec. 10	9:00 A.M.	Morning of Reflection/Practice Parents & Candidates
Dec. 13		Sacrament of First Reconciliation

FIRST EUCHARIST

Jan. 17	6:30 P.M.	Workshop for Parents
22	10:15 A.M	Mass - Rite of Enrollment
Feb. 18	9:00 A.M.	Class for Candidates –
March 24	9:00 A.M.	Class for candidates
April 01	6:00 P.M.	Seder Meal – Parents & Candidates
April 14	9:00 A.M.	Class for candidates
May 05	9:00 A.M.	Morning of Reflection/Practice Parents & Candidates
May 06	10:15 A.M.	Sacrament of First Eucharist

Candidates and their families will be assigned as gift bearers at an assigned mass during the Lenten Season.

Please remember that if your child does not participate in the above scheduled activities, your child may be deferred reception of the sacraments until next year.

There is a \$35.00 fee per child for this Sacramental Preparation Program.

PREPARATION FOR FIRST RECONCILIATION

1. Introductory meeting/workshop for parents.
2. Three instructional classes which will meet one Saturday each month from 9:00 A.M. until 11:00 A.M. in the Kleinpeter Center.
3. During the First Class a parent is to remain with their child for the first ten minutes of class.
4. Morning of Reflection which will include practice prior to the reception of the Sacrament – both parents and candidates are to attend.

PREPARATION FOR FIRST EUCHARIST

1. Introductory meeting/workshop for parents.
2. Three instructional classes which will meet one Saturday each month from 9:00 A.M. until 11:00 A.M. in the Kleinpeter Center.
3. During the First Class a parent is to remain with their child for the first ten minutes of class.
4. The Rite of Enrollment will be held on a Sunday in January during the 10:15 A.M. Mass, where candidates will be presented to the Parish.
5. Candidates and their families will be assigned as Gift Bearers at a Mass during the Lenten Season.
6. A Seder Meal will be held for the candidates and their parents on Palm Sunday at 6:00 P.M. in the Parish Activity Center.
7. Morning of Reflection which will include practice prior to the reception of the Sacrament – both parents and candidates are to attend.

When you request permission and solicit the parish to help have your child receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist in the Catholic Faith, it is an agreement between the parish and the ones seeking the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Sacrament of Eucharist.

It is the policy of St. Gabriel Catholic Church to follow the Canon Laws, Diocesan Guidelines and parish guidelines and policies.

Canon Law 777 states: “In accord with the norms established by the Diocesan Bishop, the pastor is to make particular provision that children are properly prepared for the first reception of the Sacraments of penance and Most Holy Eucharist....”

Canon Law 914 states: “It is the responsibility, in the first place and those who take the place of parents, as well as the pastor, to see that children who have reached the age of reason are correctly prepared and are nourished by the divine food as early as possible, preceded by sacramental confession...”

Diocesan Guideline for Reconciliation #4 states that every parish has the responsibility of assisting parents of candidates by providing:

Adult education for all parents of children preparing to receive a sacrament so that parents are equipped to fulfill their role as the primary teachers of their children, and so that parents have opportunities to continue to grow in the understanding of their faith: these programs should include both the theological understanding of the sacrament and practical ways of preparing children to participate in the celebration of the sacrament and should be designed to nourish the faith life of the parents

Diocesan Guideline for Eucharist #3 states that immediate preparation for full participation in the Eucharist should include all of the following:

- A deepening awareness of the activity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in our lives.
- The gifts of Jesus in his life, death and resurrection.
- An understanding of the Church’s faith in Christ’s continued presence in the Eucharist, as well as in the Christian assembly and his word.
- Familiarity with and opportunities to participate in the whole Eucharistic rite as the central act of worship and primary sacrament of Reconciliation of the Catholic Community.

In order to comply with the above Canons and Diocesan Guidelines, it is necessary for the family to be vigilant in their attendance at mass, as well as a commitment to Stewardship of Time, Talent, and Treasure. Records are maintained in the parish office to adhere to this policy. **It is important that your family commitment to and participation in the faith family of St. Gabriel Parish be acknowledged.**

If there are canonical impediments, which limit your participation in the Sacramental life of the Church, please contact the pastor. Examples of canonical impediments may be those who are not married in the Church, those who have not recently received the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist as required by the Church

Be assured of continued prayers for your family and your child as we begin this segment of our faith journey.

