
First Reconciliation Policies:

Procedures:

Eucharist is at the heart of the life of the Church, so the purpose of preparation for Reconciliation (Penance) is to reconcile adults and children to the Sunday Eucharistic assembly.

Parents are the primary educators of their children. Family life is foundational in the child's moral development.

Moral formation is a lifelong endeavor. Catechesis will be age-appropriate and respectful of development of the whole person.

The social dimension of sin and forgiveness is integral to a mature understanding of the sacrament.

The child will be initiated into the practice of their family and parish.

The parish has a responsibility to support and equip parents to prepare their children for Eucharist.

Catechesis about the sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance) will begin before the celebration of First Eucharist. Materials will be chosen by Faith Formation staff for use by all families. All children except catechumens will receive catechesis about Reconciliation.

Catechesis about the sacrament of Reconciliation will include its connection to Baptism and Eucharist.

Parents will prepare their children and will determine their children's readiness for the celebration of the sacrament.

Parents will receive support from the parish in understanding moral development, Catholic teaching and practice, and Biblical foundations appropriate for sharing with their children.

Preparation for First Reconciliation will be designed for second-graders. Older students will use age-appropriate materials.

Catechetical programs will always include components of continuing moral formation.

Parents will be offered opportunities to learn and grow themselves.

Print catechetical resources will be provided to adults. Communal prayer experiences will be included in preparation of children.

A child's first celebration of the sacrament of Reconciliation will normally be in the context of the parish's local practice in the company of at least one parent. Families will be encouraged to celebrate together.

A meeting for parents who are preparing their first child will be offered early in the school year to learn about Epiphany's programs.

A mandatory meeting for all parents will be scheduled in the fall.

Print/web resources will be provided for parents to support their own growth.

First Eucharist Policies:

Procedures:

Sunday Eucharist is the source and summit of the life of the Church.

Catechetical staff will articulate this vision frequently. The parish will model it.

Parents will bring their children to Sunday Eucharist regularly. Children may participate in Liturgy of the Word with Children.

The Sunday Gospel will be broken open at catechetical sessions.

Eucharist is a sacrament of initiation.

First Eucharist will be celebrated during the Easter season.

Catechumens will celebrate the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.

Catechesis in preparation for First Eucharist will include a deepened understanding of Baptism.

Preparation for First Eucharist is situated in ongoing Faith Formation. The essential knowledge, experience and spirituality take time to develop.

All candidates for First Eucharist must be registered for Faith Formation classes or be enrolled at Epiphany school. Exceptions are made for families who choose to home school, but those families will use the materials selected by Faith Formation staff for the immediate preparation for Eucharist.

It is expected that children will be enrolled for Faith Formation or Epiphany school the years prior to and following First Eucharist.

Parents are the primary educators of their children.

Parents will teach their children using materials the parish provides.

A parent/child retreat will be scheduled during Lent. Participation is mandatory.

The parish has a responsibility to support and equip parents to prepare their children for Eucharist.

A mandatory meeting for all parents will be scheduled in the winter. Print/web resources will be provided for parents who wish to deepen their own understanding of and love for Eucharist.

Children need to understand the gift of Eucharist and the responsibility to live as a member of the Body of Christ.

Reverence for Eucharist will be taught explicitly and by example.

Justice principles and service activities will be presented in age-appropriate ways in preparation for Eucharist.

Opportunity will be provided for deepening a personal relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer.

First Eucharist will be celebrated in the context of the Sunday Eucharistic assembly.
