

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Sacramental Reference Book – 2016/17

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Called forth by the Holy Eucharist, we are one family committed to sharing our blessings within our Parish and with the world community, in order to promote the dignity and sanctity of human life.



Pastor: Rev. Khanh Ho, S.T.L, J.C.L

DRE: Jim Bergstrom and Mary Cole

Teachers: David and Heather Workman

Classroom Assistant: Erica Smith

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September 14, 2016

Dear Parents & Students:

Welcome to 2nd grade CCE! We are excited to welcome you and your child to a very special year in preparation of the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Your teachers this year will be David & Heather Workman. Our classroom assistant is Erica Smith. This is the fourth year we have taught 2nd grade CCE at Holy Trinity and we are blessed to have the opportunity once again.

Each week from now until the end of December your child will study various Bible stories to help us prepare and grow in our faith. From January forward we will focus primarily on the preparation of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. They will understand the roles of the priest, liturgical ministers, the community, as well as the responses of all other actions that take place during the liturgy. We would like to stress the importance in attending class. We need this time together to fully grow and reflect in our faith and understand our relationship with God. Also, regular attendance at Mass on the weekend and Holy Days of Obligation is a necessary part of our students' religious education.

Second grade students will be expected to have memorized the Glory Be, Hail Mary, and The Our Father by February 2017 (see attached). We will practice these each week and we encourage you to take time to practice them with your child. We will have time set aside for the children to demonstrate their memorization of the prayers throughout the year.

Each week we will have a combination of discussion, crafts, games, and activities to emphasize the bible story lessons, prayers, and the sacraments. Please remember to sign up for text alerts as soon as possible.

We will have an upcoming parent meeting on September 28th at 6 pm in the church to discuss important information and dates for the coming year as well as to answer the many questions you have. The children will be in class while the parents are in the church for the meeting. Also, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

David and Heather Workman

Contact Information

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Parish Office

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Hours: Monday and Tuesday, 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

Wednesday and Thursday, 8:30 am – 2:30 pm

Friday, 7:30 am – 12:30 pm

Communication will be sent via email primarily. Please ensure you have an active working email address on file. Reminders will be sent via text message. Instructions on signing up for text alerts will be given to you at the parent meeting.

Guidelines for the Sacrament of Eucharist

The Eucharist is "a sacrament of love, a sign of unity, a bond of charity, a Paschal banquet, the source and summit of the Christian life, the sum and summary of our faith: 'Our way of thinking is attuned to the Eucharist, and the Eucharist in turn confirms our way of thinking.'" (CCC, 1323, 1324, 1327)

The Goals of Preparation for First Eucharist are:

1. To provide parents with an updating on the Sacrament of Eucharist and the Liturgy of Eucharist. (See Curriculum for Parents, pages 2-8.)
2. To provide catechesis for children based on the above understanding of Eucharist, and also an understanding of the Liturgy of the Eucharist. (See Curriculum for Children, pages 9-10)
3. To engage parents in the process of preparing their child for this sacrament.

Requirements for Participation in Eucharist Preparation:

1. Preparation for the Sacrament of First Eucharist takes place after preparation for Reconciliation.
2. The person has reached the age of discretion. (Cans. 97.2, 988 and 989)
3. The person has completed at least one year of catechesis in either a parish Religious Education Program or Catholic School.
4. The family is registered as members of the parish. If unregistered, registration occurs at the time of Catechesis for Parents (for territorial parishes).
5. Proximate preparation for parent/child takes place in the parish in which the family is a member.
6. Sacramental preparation is separate from and in addition to the regular religious formation/education that occurs in school or parish programs.

Requirements for Reception of the Sacrament of Eucharist:

1. Candidate has been baptized.
2. Candidate is able to understand that during the Mass the bread and wine becomes the Body and Blood of Jesus.
3. Because children reach the "age of discretion" at different times, when a candidate cannot make the distinction indicated in #2, reception of the sacrament is delayed for a short period of time, until that distinction can be made.

Celebration of the Sacrament of Eucharist:

Ordinarily, first reception of the sacrament takes place at a weekend liturgy during the Easter Season, in the parish in which the family is a member.

Participants:

1. Parents, grandparents, or guardians
2. Godparents
3. Candidates
4. Lay Catechists
5. Priest/deacon

Holy Trinity's Guidelines for receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

1. Attendance to CCE

- a. Your child will allowed no more than 1 absence per semester.
- b. Parents are expected to notify the teacher by email/text or phone if their child is going to be absent prior to class.
- c. More than 1 unexcused absence per semester may delay your child in receiving the sacrament for the enrolled CCE year.

2. Attendance to mass

- a. Students are expected to attend **weekend mass and holy days of obligation.**
- b. Students are required to sign in at the first communion log in the foyer beginning in January.
- c. If a student attends another Catholic church other than Holy Trinity, they are expected to bring a bulletin as confirmation of their attendance to mass. This should be given to his/her CCE teacher the following Wednesday for proper attendance tracking.

3. Attendance to the Jesus Day

- a. All students along with a parent are expected to attend the scheduled Holy Trinity Catholic Jesus Day.
- b. If a student is unable to attend, they must make arrangements to attend another parish's Jesus day and provide proof of attendance.

4. Reconciliation

- a. All students are expected to attend reconciliation no less than one week prior to receiving their First Holy Communion.

5. Adoration

- a. Students along with a parent will be required to attend one hour of adoration at Holy Trinity.
- b. Adoration is held the first Saturday of each month from 9-5 pm.
- c. Students must sign in/out.

Calendar of Events

Wednesday, September 14	First Class
Wednesday, September 28	Parent Meeting in Church @ 6 pm (Kids in class)
Sunday, November 13	“Promise Sunday” 10:30 am Mass Presentation of Candidates to Parish Family
Wednesday, November 23	NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Holiday
December 14 – December 28	NO CLASS – Christmas Holiday
Wednesday, January 25	Parent Meeting in Church @ 6 pm (Kids in class)
Wednesday, March 1	NO CLASS – Ash Wednesday
Wednesday, March 15	NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK
Wednesday, March 29	First Reconciliation, 6 pm in Church
Wednesday, April 5	First Communion Practice In Church, 6 pm – 7:30 pm
Wednesday, April 12	NO CLASS – HOLY WEEK
Wednesday, April 19	First Communion Practice In Church, 6 pm – 7:30 pm
Saturday, April 22	Jesus Day, 8:30 am – 12:00 pm
Sunday, April 23	First Holy Communion Celebratory Mass, 3 pm
Wednesday, April 26	Last Class, May Crowning

Class Expectations

1. Be respectful
2. Keeps hands/feet to yourself
3. Leave food/drinks in the car
4. Use restroom before class begins
5. No toys/phones
6. Be on time

Promise Sunday

As we prayerfully prepare for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion children are expected pray, attend mass/holy days, and attend all CCE classes.

At our Promise Sunday mass (see calendar of events for exact date), the children will be formally introduced to our parish family. They will present to Father their intent, or promise, to Pray – Attend Mass – Attend CCE.

The children will be recognized at the end of mass. Normal church attire is adequate.

HOLY TRINITY PROMISE SUNDAY

I PROMISE TO

ATTEND MASS EVERY SUNDAY

I PROMISE TO

ATTEND MASS ON HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

I PROMISE TO

ATTEND CCE CLASS EACH WEEK

I PROMISE TO

PRAYFULLY STUDY MY FAITH

SIGNATURE _____

Eucharistic Adoration (Holy Hour)

As your child prepares for their full reception of Holy Communion, it is a requirement that they attend 1 full hour of Eucharistic Adoration. Adoration at Holy Trinity is offered on the first Saturday of each month between 9 am and 5 pm. Children are to sign in and out once they arrive. A parent is expected to attend with their child. Below are benefits of Holy Hour:

1. Children, who previously had only the weekly experience of Mass, discover that the Host is actually the person of Jesus, *mysteriously hidden*.
2. They develop a greater interest in the mysteries of our Faith and the liturgy of the Mass.
3. They understand—more than other children of their age who have not experienced Eucharistic Adoration—the relationship between the gift of the Eucharistic Presence of Jesus and His sacrifice on the Cross out of love for mankind.
4. They become much more aware of the various degrees of sin and seem very eager to receive the sacrament of Confession often.
5. Families accompanying their children witness a growing desire for peace and forgiveness within the family.

Some things to do during Holy Hour:

Pray the rosary

Read the Bible or other spiritual material

Pray silently

Adore the Blessed Sacrament

"Were you not able to keep watch with Me for one hour?"

Jesus Day

A Special Day of Reflection and Final Preparation

Jesus Day is a retreat that is held on the Saturday before your child receives Holy Communion for the first time. The retreat is a requirement of the Diocese and Holy Trinity for all children receiving the sacrament, therefore, attendance is mandatory. Please refer to the calendar of events for the exact day for the retreat. A typical agenda for the day is listed below:

- 8:30 am Arrive/Registration
- 9:00 am Station 1 – Banner Making
- 9:45 am Station 2 – First Communion Video (light snack)
- 10:30 am Station 3 – Objects/People of Mass
- 11:15 am Final rehearsal in church
- 12:00 pm Dismissal

In the second parent meeting, we will take up a list of volunteers to assist with Jesus Day. We appreciate your assistance in helping to make this a great day for the children.

Prayers to know from Memory

Glory Be

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning,
is now,
and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen.

Our Father

Our Father, Who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy Will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.

Hail Mary

Hail Mary,
Full of Grace,
The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit
of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary,
Mother of God,
pray for us sinners now,
and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

First Reconciliation

Please refer to the calendar of events for the exact date of First Reconciliation. First Reconciliation, or confession, is a sacrament of our faith and it must be completed after baptism and before first Holy Communion. Preparations for this Sacrament will begin in February. Below are expectations for this special event:

1. A parent must attend with their child
2. Children must know their prayers by memory
 - a. Glory Be
 - b. Our Father
 - c. Hail Mary
 - d. Act of Contrition
3. First Reconciliation will occur in the church and Father has several area priests with him to assist with this sacrament
4. Once your child has received the sacrament, please remember this should not be their last time at confession! All first communicants should go to confession a week before they receive Holy Communion for the first time
5. According to the Church's command, "after having attained the age of discretion, each of the faithful is bound by an obligation faithfully to confess serious sins at least once a year." CCC 1456:56

Role of Godparents

According to the Code of Canon Law, "Insofar as possible, one to be baptized is to be given a sponsor who is to assist an adult in Christian initiation, or, together with the parents, to present an infant at the baptism, and who will help the baptized to lead a Christian life in harmony with baptism, and to fulfill faithfully the obligations connected with it" (No. 872).

A godparent should always have an active role in the faith of their godchild. Below are some ways to have godparents actively engaged in this special journey:

- Attend a CCE class with the child
- Attend their First Reconciliation
- Attend the Jesus Day retreat
- Attend their First Communion celebratory mass
- Have a special day of reflection over the course of the year where they talk about our Catholic faith
- Attend Eucharistic Adoration with the child
- Take up a daily mass with their godchild
- Offer regular prayers for the child and their family
- Help with ensuring the child gets to CCE class
- Provides encouragement and support throughout the year

There are many more ways a godparent can be there for their godchild and we encourage active dialogue early on with the godparents so they can be a part of this faith journey. At Holy Trinity, godparents do not accompany their godchild in the communion line.

First Communion Attire

Girls

White Dress

No spaghetti straps or strapless dresses

Veils optional

Gloves optional*

Dress shoes

*Please know that if your child wears gloves, Communion cannot be given in the hand

Boys

White shirt (long or short sleeve)

Black pants

Black tie

Dress shoes

Suits are OK (all white suit is acceptable)

Religious keepsakes should remain with parents and will be blessed by Father at the First Communion reception following mass. Any jewelry the girls wear must be free from distraction during the mass.

If there are financial difficulties in providing your child appropriate attire, please reach out to me directly.

Absolutely NO GUM or CANDY during mass

First Communion Ministry Assignments

We strongly encourage the children to take an active role in parish ministry. For their celebratory mass, many children will sign up to do various ministries. Listed below are ministries your child will be asked to serve in. Reminder, children should sign up for what they feel comfortable with.

Lectors/Readers

These children will take turns reading the Liturgy of the Word for Children.

- First Reading
- Responsorial Psalm
- Second Reading
- Prayers of the Faithful (Petitions)

Gift Bearers

These children will present the gifts to Father during mass.

Hospitality

These children will greet parishioners and guests on arrival for mass and pass out programs, hymnals and missalettes. They will also help people with finding the restroom and water fountain.

Signups for the celebratory mass ministries will be taken at the second parent meeting. It is our goal to have reviewed these ministries with your children to allow them an opportunity to choose what they would like to do.

If your family has an altar server or Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion that would like to participate in serving at the celebratory mass – please let me know. These are first come first served assignments.

Behavior expectations at Mass

At our celebratory mass for First Holy Communion, your child will be seated with their class in the front row. To help prepare your child for the hour long mass, below are expectations you should be helping your child with today:

- Must be able to sit quietly and respectfully for Mass
- Refrain from exiting the sanctuary for water/bathroom
- Refrain from talking/playing with neighbor
- Practice at Mass for them to be involved
- Genuflect
- Sign of the Cross
- Holy water font
- Follow along in the Missalette/Hymnal

We think of second grade children as children who have reached the age of discernment. In other words, they know right from wrong. Please encourage your child during mass to follow along in the missalette and sing hymns. It will make the time go by much faster!

During our celebratory mass, children will be expected to stay seated for the duration of the mass. Teachers will be seated in the vicinity and will only address issues of disrespectful behavior.

First Communion Mass Expectations

Below are some key points to assist you in knowing what is expected during the celebratory mass of First Holy Communion:

- No saving seats
 - Our church is small, so plan ahead
 - Church will open 2 hours before mass is scheduled to begin
- Personal photography before and after mass is acceptable
 - Please be respectful of the Blessed Sacrament
 - Please refrain from going behind the altar
 - Please do not let small children wander alone
- Personal photography during Mass is acceptable **IF**
 - Shutter sounds are muted
 - You remain in your seat and seated
 - Refrain from disrupting those around you
- Professional photographer will get the “shot”
 - Professional photographer will capture child receiving First Communion
 - Class photo will be taken at the end of mass
 - Photographer will also get various photos during mass of the children

Answers to Commonly Asked Questions

Children should **NEVER** take Holy Communion until their First Communion Mass.

A parish reception takes place following First Communion Mass:

Religious items can be blessed by Father at the reception

Certificates handed out at reception

Hosted by our parish's Catholic Daughter of America

Please talk with your child on how your family prefers to take Holy Communion.

Class instruction will be by taking in the hand.

A name verification sheet will be handed out at the spring meeting.

Verify spelling of child's name.

Instruction on how your child should be called to the Table of Plenty.

Things Happen!

Any changes to dates will be communicated well in advance.

Please monitor email / text alerts for updates.

Children will be expected to sign in at mass each week beginning in January.

This is necessary to ensure children are being adequately exposed to our faith.

You **MUST** submit a baptismal certificate upon registration, even if it was at Holy Trinity.

Children not baptized must call the church office to schedule their child for baptism.

Please let us know of any transportation difficulties in getting your child to Mass each weekend.

Does my child have to take communion in the hand?

No. Please talk to your child on how you prefer they take communion. Children that choose to take communion on the tongue will be provided proper training on receiving communion that way.