

October 5, 2016

Dear Parents:

Peace in Love of Jesus Christ. It is time to get prepared for First Reconciliation and First Communion for the Religious Education Second Grade Class. The following are the key dates to remember:

- First Reconciliation: Saturday March 4, 2017 at 11:00 am in the Church
- First Communion Practice: Saturday May 6, 2017 at 11:00 am in the Church
- First Communion: Sunday May 7, 2017 at 12:00 Noon Mass in the Church

Your child must be baptized in order to receive the Sacraments. If your child was not baptized at Saint Joseph Parish, Coraopolis PA, we will need for you to provide a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate to the Religious Education Office. Also, if your child does not receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, they will not be able to receive First Communion.

Every child is expected to attend the practice for First Communion. Each child will have a part to play in the Mass, so it is critical that they learn their special role for the day.

A seating chart will be provided for your child and family members the day of practice. As children process, they will take the seats on the aisle (so please leave him/her space). You and your closest family members may sit in the remainder of the pew. Excess guests are to sit in the congregation.

Each family may have one "designated photographer". It is suggested that this person sit next to your child near the center aisle. Children will receive Communion one at a time. Parents may video the Mass but are asked to stay in their seats.

After the Mass, a professional photographer from Lifetouch will take group photo of the children along with a portrait of each child. Order forms for these professional pictures will be distributed during the practice session.

The parish would also like to publish pictures of the First Reconciliation and First Communion ceremonies in our bulletin. We will need your permission. If you have not already completed the photo release form included with your fall registration form you can obtain a copy from the Religious Education Office.

Following Mass, a reception will be held in Healy Hall for the children, their families and anyone who attended the Noon Mass.

First Communion Dress Code – Guidelines 2017

Fasting: All Children

Children should not be chewing gum or bringing any kind of food or drink with them. **(Fasting rules: no food or drink, except water, for one hour before receiving Communion.)**

Dress Code: Girls

White dress, veil or headpiece, and white shoes. Please remember children are not to carry gloves, rosaries or prayer books. You may give these to your child after Mass for their individual portrait.

Dress Code: Boy

White or dark suit, white shirt, tie and dress shoes. Please remember children are not to carry gloves, rosaries, or prayer books. You may give these to your child after the Mass for their individual portrait.

We look forward to meeting you and are sincerely grateful to have the opportunity to prepare your child in receiving the Sacrament of First Reconciliation and First Communion.

If you have any questions, please contact the Religious Education Coordinator, Sandra Troia at 412-352-1762.

God Bless,

Religious Education Department