

*Notre Dame of Bethlehem
Sacramental Preparation for the
Sacraments of Penance and Eucharist
2018-2019*



Dear Parents,

Welcome! This upcoming year is a wonderful time in your child's journey of faith. I'm honored to be a part of this journey. Let us offer our prayers this year for our children and for one another as we begin this special time of preparation.

**(Mrs.) Stephanie Freeh
Director of Religious Education**

**Contact information:
Religious Education Office 610-866-1418 or email me at Stephanie_freeh@hotmail.com**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Dates for the SACRAMENTS and the RETREAT

First Reconciliation:	February 21, 2019	7 PM Thursday evening
Communion Retreat:	March 2, 2019	8:00 – 1:30 Saturday Child and Parent
1st Communion Practice	April 25, 2019	Following noon Mass
1st Holy Communion:	April 27, 2019	10:30 AM Saturday

In this Packet

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- I Registration Form (blue form)**
 - A. Please go over the information on this form for spelling and any other errors**
 - 1. IF all the information is correct simply sign and return tonight**
 - 2. IF you find any information incorrect, make the corrections directly on this sheet and return it tonight or to your child’s teacher. This will then be forwarded onto me.**
 - B. Place your email address at the top of the Registration Form**
 - 1. Reminders of Theme Masses, Requests for volunteers, Flyers, etc. will be sent by way of email (blind copy) to save on copying.**
 - C. Check “BAPTISMAL Certificate”**
 - If it states “Yes” next to Baptismal Certificate then you’re all set.**
 - If it states “No” next to Baptismal Certificate then you must send in the Baptismal Certificate to the parish office, so we may copy it for the file.**
- 1. Those attending Notre Dame School; IF the school has a copy of your baptismal certificate, then it will be sent over to the Religious Education Office by the school office.**



II. Mass Booklet “Going to Confession” & “My First Holy Communion”

This is for you to use with your child and for the teachers to use in class
Mass Booklet /Booklet on Reconciliation/ Prayer book

- A. “Going to Confession”
 - 1. How to Examine your Conscience- pages 4 & 5
 - 2. Commandments pages 6-14
 - 3. Act of Contrition - page 17

- B. “My First Holy Communion”
 - 1. Enables you to guide your child through the Mass
Have your child bring their Mass Booklets to Mass.

- C. End of Book: many prayers

- D. Act of Contrition prescribed in the Allentown Diocesan Religious Education Curriculum
See last page for full page copy

Oh my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You
and I detest all my sins because of your just punishments,
but most of all because they offend You, my God,
who are all good and deserving of all my love
I firmly resolve with the help of your grace
to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen



III Theme Masses

A. What is a Theme Mass?

- ✚ Approximately one Theme Mass a month.
 - ✚ Communion Theme Mass Schedule is included
- ✚ Theme Masses brings our parish Communicants and their families together.

B. At the End of Mass –

✚ Mass ends when Father comes down the aisle

- ✚ Bring your child downstairs to the church hall to place their medal on the Theme Board. The medals will be brought out when Mass is completely over. Please do not come downstairs before Father comes down the aisle.

IV. What is a Theme Board?

- ✚ It's a foam door-hanger.
- ✚ These boards journey the preparation of your child during this sacramental year with Saint Medals.
- ✚ The board will have “Notre Dame” on it along with your child’s name and the year of preparation.

A. Where are they located and when do we use them?

- ✚ Theme Boards will be laid out on tables (Alphabetically) in the church hall. Look for the Letter Signs on each table.

- ✚ We place a new medal on the Board after each “Theme Mass”

- ✚ Make sure you leave the Theme Boards, because there will be many more medals for your child as we work toward Communion.

- ✚ Once Mass ends – this means when Father comes down the aisle. The medals will be brought out when I get to the basement.

B. Saint Medals for each Theme? - these will be removable afterwards

- ✚ A small Saint Medal will be attributed to each monthly Theme.
- ✚ A small glue dot will be given after Mass to your child to glue dot the medal onto the Theme Board. These are removable so that in April if your child wants to place them on a chain you can do that.

C. When do we take the Theme Boards home?

- ✚ After the last Theme Mass.



V. DAY OF RETREAT

Communion Retreat
March 2, 2019 – Saturday – 8:00 am to 1:30 pm
Parent with child

We begin with Mass

Mass begins at 8:00 (Come directly to church with your child). After Mass we'll continue the day with activities and quality time for you and your child. Our day is spent doing activities in the Parish hall and the school. Remember to pack a lunch.



A Project of Love



Sometime before the February Theme Mass (January 13, 2019) you're asked to write a "Palanka" to your child.

What is a Palanka?

Palanka means "to lift up". It's a letter from you to your child.

As a parent, you're asked to write a letter "to lift up" your child's spirit. In this letter you can remember special times in his/her life. Telling your child how proud you are of him/her. Why he/she is so very special to you. What it was like when he/she came into your life.

When do I hand in my Palanka? - By the February Theme Mass (February 17, 2019)

Palankas should be handed in only at Theme Masses to myself in the basement of the church. We will have a special envelope designated for the Palankas. Once you hand in your Palanka a SMILE STICKER will be placed on your Theme Board back when I get back to the office. Please note that one smile sticker will be given per child.

When will this Palanka be read? - At the Retreat

AT THE RETREAT - This letter will be shared **only between You and Your child** at the retreat. You'll read this letter to your child at a particular time on that day. It's a very beautiful time in the retreat.

Can others write a Palanka to my child?

Absolutely! Many times, parents write one together, other times Dad writes one and Mom writes one. Many times, grandparents, or godparents, or siblings also write Palankas. Gather them together by February, tie them together in some way – ribbon, a manila envelope, a rubber band, etc. Bring the Palankas to the next Theme Mass. Make sure your envelope(s) are marked "PALANKA" and your child's first and last name.

- VI. **Sacramental Fee - \$30.00** * Checks made out to “Notre Dame Church”. Please send these into your child’s teacher in a plain white envelope marked “Communion Fee”. If you are PREP family this fee has been included with your tuition.
- o This fee goes for items such as; Mass Booklet, copying throughout the year for Penance and Communion Theme Masses, Theme Boards, Saint medals, programs for the day of First Holy Communion, flowers on the altar for Communion Day, Certificates for Penance and First Holy Communion, and for the projects and items distributed at the Communion Retreat.

VII. Day of Practice

**April 25, 2019 (Thursday)
6:30 PM in Church
Every child MUST be in attendance.
Parent passes will be handed out at practice.
Practice will start promptly at 6:30 PM**



**IX. The Day of First Holy Communion
April 27, 2019 - Saturday**

10:30 AM Liturgy

9:00 AM - children meet in the Parish Hall.

A. First Communion Attire

Girls

White Dress
White anklets, tights or stockings
White Dress Shoes
A veil or a wreath of flowers may be worn
Gloves and purses must be left with a parent.

Boys

Suit, (Black, Dark Blue or White)
Dress shoes (no sneakers)
Button down shirt w/collar (any color)
White Tie



B. Two PASSES for the Parent Section (2 per Family not per child). Please note that none of your family members or friends will need passes to attend. We do ask that you ask no more than 10 guests to attend. The Communicant with two parents are not part of the 7 guests.

These will be distributed at practice on April 25, 2019 to families that have handed in all documentation and fees.

These Parent Passes allow the parents for each child into the parent section of the Church. The Parent Section will be the 6 pews immediately behind the children. Pews will be marked to show parents at practice.

How Many Guests May Our Family Invite? 7

We ask that you limit your family members to no more than 7 people (2 Parents and the Communicant are not part of the 7).



C. Still Photographs on the Day of First Communion

On the day of First Holy Communion, will be taking pictures in the Church hall. If you would like a professional photo package of your child please arrive at the church at 9:00 am. Photos will be taken between 9:00 and 9:45. The children must be in their seats by 10:00 so that we can organize them for the group photo.

During the Communion Mass:

You may not leave your seat to take pictures during the ceremony. We will have a photographer take a picture of your child receiving First Holy Communion. These pictures will be given to you as a gift from the parish.

Group picture will be taken prior to Mass. These may be purchased separately. Forms should be dropped off to the photographers in the Church hall for the group picture.



X. SCHEDULE of EVENTS

**Schedule of Theme Masses
Sacraments, Retreat, and Meetings
2018-2019**

September 20, 2018	Tuesday	7:00 PM	In the Church Pick up your Communion Packet tonight
October 14, 2018	Sunday	10:30 AM Mass	Eucharist: It's About Belonging Medal: Communion of Saints
November 11, 2018	Sunday	10:30 AM Mass	Eucharist: It's About Making Peace Medal: Padre Pio
December 16, 2018	Sunday	10:30 AM Mass	It's about Evangelization Medal: St. Pope John Paul II
January 13, 2019	Sunday	10:30 AM Mass	Eucharist: It's About Giving Thanks for Creation Medal: St. Francis
February 17, 2019	Sunday	10:30 AM Mass	Eucharist: It's About Caring Medal: Mother Teresa
February 21, 2019	Thursday	7:00 PM	Sacrament of First Penance Medal: Crucifix
March 2, 2019	Saturday	8:00 – 1:30	1 st Communion Retreat. Parent & Child All documentation & fees finalized
March 24, 2019	Sunday	10:30 AM Mass	Eucharist: It's about Celebrating Medal: Holy Family
April 19, 2019	Good Friday	3 PM Mass	Special Children's Liturgy of the Word Medal: Divine Mercy
April 25, 2019	Sunday	6:30 PM	First Holy Communion Practice
April 27, 2019	Saturday	10:30 AM	First Holy Communion

X. Act of Contrition to be memorized.

**This is the version prescribed by the
Allentown Diocesan Religious Education Curriculum**



**Oh my God,
I am heartily sorry
for having offended You
and I detest all my sins
because of your just punishments,
but most of all because
they offend You, my God,
who are all good and deserving of all my love.
I firmly resolve
with the help of your grace
to sin no more and
to avoid the near occasion of sin.
Amen**

Some Study Ideas:

- 1) Take this page and have your child color and decorate it. Hang it close to their bed.*
- 2) Cut around this prayer and glue it onto a piece of felt. Attach ribbon to the top and hang it by their bed for night time prayers.*
- 3) Make a copy this page. Cut up the prayer by lines. Make a game of putting the prayer back together. Help your child reassemble the words in the proper order.*



DVD Order Form

A videographer will be present the day of First Holy Communion. The cost for the DVD is \$30.00. If you would like to purchase a DVD please fill out the slip below and return it to the Religious Education office by March 8, 2015. All orders must be placed prior to First Holy Communion

Yes, I would like to order a DVD of my child's First Holy Communion:

Family Name:-----

Child's Name:-----

Room:-----

Phone #:-----

Email:-----

Please enclose cash or a check made payable to Notre Dame of Bethlehem in the amount of \$30.00