



## First Reconciliation/Eucharist Information Letter

Dear Parents/Guardians,

First Reconciliation and First Eucharist are a very special events in the life of a child, the child's family, and the life of the entire Parish. We at St. Joseph Church work with parents and children to make these two sacraments positive and memorable events for all participants.

In the Fall we have a preparation session for the Sacrament of Reconciliation in our parish for parents and children, with the sacrament celebrated in January. In the spring we have the preparation sessions for First Eucharist for parents and children with the sacrament celebrated in April.

If your child is entering 2<sup>nd</sup> grade or above, he/she is eligible to prepare and receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion at St. Joseph Church. The following guidelines are required to receive the Sacraments at our parish.

**Public School Children:** Children enrolled in public school must enroll in our Faith Formation program and attend Sacramental preparation class on Wednesday nights from 5:45-6:45pm. Children should have had at least one year of Faith Formation prior to Sacramental Preparation.

**Catholic School Children:** Most Catholics schools offer sacramental preparation, if not, parents should consider enrolling them in our parish program. If your student will be receiving instructions at a Catholic school, but you wish to have your child receive the Sacraments at St. Joseph Church, please contact me, for further details.

**Home-school:** Children who are home-schooled and have a religious component attached to their regular home-school program, may choose to continue their Sacramental preparation at home or attend our Wednesday night program. Please contact me for further details. (Note: home-schooled is not the same as distant or online learner who is still enrolled in public school)

**All families who wish to have their child receive the Sacrament of First Reconciliation and/or First Communion at St. Joseph Church must register with the parish.** (Including those who are home-schooled or attend Catholic School). Registration fee for those attending our program is \$50. For those receiving instruction elsewhere there is a \$25 administrative fee. (no one will be turned away if unable to contribute to the fees).

**Baptismal Certificate:** If your child was not baptized at St. Joseph Church you must provide us with a copy of your child's baptismal certificate.

**Wednesday, September 23rd (6:00-7:00pm)** we will have a mandatory parent meeting for those families who wish to attend our program on Wednesday evenings to explain our curriculum and program requirements.

Due to the pandemic and in order to maintain social distancing, we will be implementing a hybrid model for all elementary classes. Students will attend class every other week and home lesson on off weeks. See our parish website ([www.stjosephmiesville.com](http://www.stjosephmiesville.com)) for more information. **Classes for Sacramental Preparation begin September 30th.**

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

God bless!

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