

First Communion 2018 – At A Glance!

All 2nd graders must be registered for our Faith Formation Program –

- Please use our website – www.stjosephscatholic.org
- Click on PreK thru Grade 5 under Faith Formation Tab
- Page down to find a schedule and our online registration link.

BLESSED 1st Communion and 1st Reconciliation Program:

We are excited to upgrade our 1st Communion curriculum this year to a new and colorful program developed by Matthew Kelly and DynamicCatholic.com. We know you will enjoy this new format and find this time together both fun and BLESSED! Together you must complete both of these books; they will help you both be more prepared for the 2 very *BLESSED* days coming up!

PICK A BREAD DAY ~March 24th OR April 7th

- **Held 9:30am ~ 1:30pm with lunch provided!**
- Please be sure to indicate which Bread Day you would like to attend **ASAP**.
- **PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING A BOWL, SPOON AND AN APRON (if you choose) TO BREAD DAY!**

Reconciliation Prep... Complete ‘Blessed – First Reconciliation’ book.

- Please be sure to have ‘started’ your Blessed 1st Reconciliation Book before this class – the entire book must be completed **BEFORE February 21st**.

Reconciliation Class: Wednesday, February 21st 6:30pm

- Come for dinner any time after 5pm
- One parent attends class with child at 6:30-7:15pm (Church)

Celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Wednesday, March 7th—

- Come for dinner any time after 5pm
- First Individual Reconciliation for your child will begin at 6:30pm in the Church with our Pastors
- Blessed 1st Reconciliation Book must be completed.

1st Communion Prep:

- **All Classes will be held at St. Joseph’s from 6:30pm to 7:15pm**
- **Dinner is available beginning at 4:45pm – join in!**
- **One parent must attend each of these classes with your child.**
- **Please contact me ASAP if child care help is needed – we can provide that for you!**
- **Dinner is available beginning at 4:45pm – join in! (no dinner on 4/4)**
 - Wednesday March 21st ~ Baptism (Church)
 - Wednesday April 4th ~ Prayer Centers: Children and Parents (Classrooms)
 - Wednesday April 11th ~ Liturgy of the Word (Church)
 - Wednesday April 18th ~ Liturgy of the Eucharist (Church)

Complete ‘BLESSED - First Communion’ book by April 26th

- **Chapter 1** focuses on our Baptism, you will need to have this **Chapter completed before class on March 21st**
- **Chapter 3** focuses on the Liturgy of the Word, you will need to have this **Chapter completed before class on April 11th**
- **Chapter 4** focuses on the Liturgy of the Eucharist, you will need to have this **Chapter completed before class on April 18th**

Teaching Aides for Parents:

1. Read with your child: “Blessed – First Reconciliation” book; this will need to be completed before your child receives their 1st Reconciliation on March 7th.
 - Please do your best to have started this book prior to meeting with Father Jerry on February 21st!
 - Read with your child: “Blessed - First Communion” book: Guidelines for completion are detailed above. The entire book must be finished prior to **Thursday, April 26th**; our Potluck Supper at 6pm—each family brings a dish to share! Rehearsal follows.
2. Prepare: Prior to lesson time, review Family Guide to develop ideas.
 - Use the “Leader Guide” available to YOU! This little extra step is super helpful and worth it to take the extra time. You will not regret it. In the family guide you will have an opening prayer, step-by-step layout, tips, and great quotes. Totally worth the extra steps!
 - We have placed a link on our website: www.stjosephscatholic.org, use the Faith Formation Tab on the top of our homepage – click on ‘PreK thru Grade 5’ – and you will find quick links to these helpful resources—you may need to ‘page down’ to see them!
 - If you prefer using a ‘real book’, we have family guides available to check out. Please feel free to ask for one if the book works better for you.
3. In each book it will mention videos that go with each Lesson. You are able to access a Link to these videos at our website (just as above)
 - Each Lesson has multiple videos that are referenced; each video varies from 2-5 minutes. Use the ‘arrow/next’ ► on the right side of video window to access each video for a particular lesson.
4. Some other tips and ideas:
 - Set aside a special time to teach with the least amount of distractions.
 - Complete all activities to reinforce lesson.
 - Share your “Faith and Life Story” with them.
 - You’re their “Spiritual Coach” -- Be Enthusiastic!
 - Most of all Pray Together ~
5. Other Important Dates:
 - Practice and Potluck on Thursday, April 26th beginning at 6pm
 - Pew Crosses must be completed by 4/26 – bring them this night!
 - First Communion is held on Sunday, April 29th during 10:30am Mass – arrive early – more information provided as we get closer!

Please call me any time if you questions. Many Blessings to you all – I am so excited to share this time with your family!

Mandy Foss
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