



January 2018

Dear First Communion Families,

You are receiving this letter as our data base indicates that you have a child ready for their First Communion – Welcome to the First Communion Program! What an exciting time for your family and St. Joseph's Church, as your child receives First Reconciliation and First Communion this coming Spring. All classes and Celebrations will be held at the church and are for the child and the parents to attend together (except the Parent Meeting on 2/14!). The schedule for the full program is listed on the back side of this letter. You will notice that there are 2 dates for our 'Bread Day' – both held on Saturdays. You may contact me to sign up for your preferred date *anytime* – each class has a limited number of spots, so plan early to get your preferred spot!

This is a Sacramental Enrichment program so children should also be enrolled in the Children's Church program or at St. Joseph's School. If you have NOT registered for our Children's Church Program you may do so online – 1.) [www.stjosephscatholic.org](http://www.stjosephscatholic.org) 2.) Click on **Faith Formation Tab** at top of our home page 3.) On drop down click on **Grade PreK-5 Faith Formation** 4.) The **Registration Link** is found at bottom of that webpage – you then submit the registration form online (hard copy packets are available at the parish office if you prefer).

If your child was *not* baptized at St. Joseph's in Grand Rapids, we will need an official copy of the baptismal certificate before the Sacrament of Reconciliation can be received. J You may send along anytime – or you may bring it to the Parent Meeting on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

Enclosed you will find a small prayer card to pray with your son/daughter. The 'Act of Contrition' is an important part of their 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation – to have this prayer memorized would be SUPER!

I look forward to seeing you all in February. Please call me at 326-1663 ext. 15(Office) or 259-5200 (Cell phone) or email me at [mfoss@stjosephscatholic.org](mailto:mfoss@stjosephscatholic.org).

God Bless,

Mandy Foss

## First Communion Schedule 2018:

**“Parents” Only Meeting:** Wednesday, February 14th —

- Ash Wednesday/Lent Begins!
- Ash Service at 7pm—attend with your family!
- Parent Only Meeting follows at 7:40pm
- Child care available for your 2nd grader during the Parent Meeting
  - lasts only about 1/2 hour

**Reconciliation Prep... Class:** Wednesday, February 21st 6:30pm

- Come for dinner anytime after 5pm
- One parent attends class with 2nd grader at 6:30~7:15pm (Church)

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

- Come for dinner anytime after 5pm
- First Individual Reconciliation for your child held at 6:30pm in the Church with our Pastors

**Communion Classes** with Father Jerry—all begin at 6:30pm

Wednesday (Church) ~ March 21st

Prayer Centers in lower level ~ April 4th

Wednesday (Church) ~ April 11th

Wednesday (Church) ~ April 18th

**Bread Day** *CHOOSE ONE SATURDAY SESSION*

- March 24th OR April 7th Both held: 9:30am ~ 1:30pm

**Celebration: “Share a Meal”**

**Thursday**, April 26th at 6pm

- Potluck Supper—each family brings a dish to share!
- Rehearsal follows.

**Group First Communion**

Sunday, April 29th at our 10:30am Mass