**St. Francis of Assisi Parish**

**First Communion & First Reconciliation**

**Information**

*Congratulations, you have a child receiving First Reconciliation and First Communion this year! Please read the following information and note the dates on your calendar.*

**First Reconciliation**

First Reconciliation is celebrated in the fall. After their First Reconciliation, children should be encouraged to celebrate this sacrament regularly with their families, especially during the Liturgical seasons of Advent and Lent.

**First Communion**

Our Diocese encourages First Communion to be celebrated during the Easter Season. To make the celebration more personal, we will divide the students from our parish into two sections according to their class

**Candidate Requirements**

***According to Sacramental Norms of the Diocese of Memphis and guidelines of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, the following are required of First Communicants:***

* **Grade Requirement** – Children must be at least in the second grade
* **Registration**
	+ Complete the Registration Form
	+ Certificate of Baptism – A copy of the child’s baptism certificate is required if your child was baptized at a church other than St. Francis.
	+ Parish Registration **–** one of the following criteria must be met:
		- Your family must be registered members of St. Francis Parish.
		- If you are a registered member of another parish but wish for your child to receive First Reconciliation/First Communion with St. Francis Parish, you must provide a letter from your pastor stating your child has permission to do so.
		- If you would like your child to receive First Reconciliation/First Communion in the parish in which you are registered, we will be happy to provide a letter certifying his/her participation in our program, at your request.
	+ Supply Fee - $25.00 payable at Registration
* **Mass Attendance** – All children are expected to attend Sunday Mass on a weekly basis in order to connect religious education, sacramental preparation and prayer, to the Liturgy of the Mass. It is almost impossible to teach children the importance of the Eucharist if they do not participate in Mass on Sundays. When out of town, be sure to check [www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) or call (410)676-6000 for churches and Mass times. Please make Mass attendance part of your travel plans.
* **Religious Education Classes** – Child must be attending a Catholic school or be enrolled in Parish Religious Education classes for at least the year prior to the sacramental year. In other words, a child in second grade may receive First Reconciliation and First Communion only if he or she was enrolled in a Catholic school or Parish Religious Education class during their first grade year. Please provide evidence of this enrollment if the child was not enrolled here at St. Francis last year.

**IMPORTANT EVENTS:**

* + **Children’s Retreat** –This retreat is held on a Saturday morning. During the retreat, the children will have the opportunity to practice the gestures and movements of receiving Communion and actually taste the un-consecrated host and wine.
	+ ***Let’s Explore Our Church***!– This is a fun, hands on activity where the children will explore the church and learn about the images, statues, vessels, sacristy, and other sacramentals. Children should be accompanied by at least one parent.
	+ **Parent Sacrament Meetings –** The Diocese of Memphis requires parents to attend two sacrament meetings, one on Reconciliation and one on Eucharist. Parents have a choice of meeting dates (see calendar for dates). ~~Childcare is provided for all parent meetings.~~

**Attire for First Communicants:**

**Girls:**

* + Simple white dress, no longer than the ankle in length. The dress may be short sleeve, long sleeve or sleeveless. No spaghetti straps please!
	+ A white veil can be worn, not to hang below the waist. Flowers incorporated with the head piece should be white and miniature in size. No tiaras should be worn.
	+ Appropriate white dress shoes (open-toe shoes are fine) If socks or tights are worn, they must be white.
	+ No gloves should be worn.

**Boys:**

* + Navy Blue or Black Sport Coat with tan/khaki pants
	+ OR Gray, navy, blue or black suit may be worn.
	+ White shirt with simple tie or white Communion tie
	+ Belt, dark socks and appropriate dress shoes. No tennis shoes.



 **FIRST COMMUNION CALENDAR**

**Attend one parent meeting before Reconciliation**

**Sunday, October 24** **Parent Meeting, Reconciliation (English)**

 **10:30 a.m., St. Francis School - Activity Room**

 **OR Parent Meeting, Reconciliation (Spanish)**

 **10:30 a.m., St. Francis School – Library**

**Wed., October 27 Parent Meeting, Reconciliation (English), Rm 113 Parish Life Center**

 **Parent Meeting, Reconciliation (Spanish) Rm 108, Parish Life Center**

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**Sacrament of First Reconciliation for all students**

**Saturday, November 13th 10a.m. – 12noon at St. Francis Church**

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**Thurs. January 13 “Let’s Explore Our Church”, for all students accompanied by a parent**

 **A fun activity for all. 5:00p.m. – 7:00p.m. at St. Francis Church**

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**Attend one parent meeting before First Communion**

**Wed. February 23**  **Parent Meeting, First Communion (English), Rm 113 Parish Life Center**

 **OR Parent Meeting, First Communion (Spanish) Rm 108, Parish Life Center**

**Sunday, February 27 Parent Meeting, First Communion (English)**

 **10:30 a.m., St. Francis School - Activity Room**

 **Parent Meeting, First Communion (Spanish)**

 **10:30 a.m., St. Francis School – Library**

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**Sat. April 2 First Communion Retreat for all students**

 **10a.m. – 12noon St. Francis Parish Life Center Gym**

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**Saturday, April 30th Sacrament of First Communion**

**Saturday, April 30th at 10:00 am** (arrive at 9:15am)- SFA School students of Mrs. Sanford, Mrs. Micheletti and PRE classes of Mrs. Bradley and Mrs. Williams

**Practice for this group is Wednesday, April 27th at 7pm at the church. Each First Communicant should be accompanied by a parent.**

**Saturday, April 30th at 1:30 pm**(arrive at 12:45)- PRE classes of Mrs. Knight, Mrs. Perdue, Mrs. Hurler and older students

**Practice for this group is Thursday, April 21 at 7pm at the church. Each First Communicant should be accompanied by a parent.**