

## Sacrament Preparation Policies

### Reconciliation Policy:

Formal preparation and reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation for children at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church is in the second grade, after having completed first grade and the second grade fall session in our Faith Formation program. In January of the second grade year the children will receive the sacrament individually with a priest during a Communal Reconciliation Service designed especially for our second grade students.

#### First Reconciliation preparation for second grade children and their parents includes:

1. Child's enrollment in the Faith Formation program. Previous reception of the sacrament of Baptism. A photocopy of the Certificate of Baptism must be provided to the Faith Formation office by October 1, 2011. If your child was baptized at St. Francis of Assisi, a photocopy of the certificate is still required.
2. Regular attendance in the Faith Formation classes, with compulsory attendance from the week of September 25 through the week of January 12. During this period of time catechists will be focusing specifically on the Sacrament of Reconciliation. If your child must miss a class during that time, please contact the catechist for make-up work. If your child has more than one unexcused absence during this period, your child may not be able to receive sacraments this year.
3. Parents' attendance at the **mandatory** Parent Sacramental Preparation Session in order to deepen their understanding of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and its' three elements: conversion, confession and celebration. These sessions will be scheduled during the Monday through Thursday Faith Formation classes the week of October 10, 2011. Sunday Faith Formation families must choose a Monday-Thursday session to attend. You **must attend** this meeting if you wish for your child to receive the sacraments this year. If you do not attend this meeting your child may not be able to receive the sacraments this year.
4. Attendance is **mandatory** at the First Reconciliation Workshop on Saturday, November 5, 2011. This workshop is designed to help the child prepare for this sacrament. A parent or guardian must attend the workshop with the child.

### Eucharist Policy

At St. Francis of Assisi, children typically prepare for and receive their First Communion in the second grade, after two years of participation in our Faith Formation program. Ordinarily, reception of the sacrament occurs in the spring of their second grade year at a First Communion Mass, scheduled for a Saturday.

#### First Eucharist preparation for second grade children and their parents includes:

1. Child's enrollment in the Faith Formation program.
2. Previous reception of the Sacraments of Baptism and Reconciliation.

3. Regular attendance in the Faith Formation classes, with compulsory attendance from the week of January 24 through the week of April 18. During this period of time catechists will be focusing specifically on the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist. If your child must miss a class during that time, please contact the catechist for make-up work. If your child has more than one unexcused absence during this period, your child may not be able to receive sacraments this year.

4. Parents' attendance at the **mandatory** Parent Sacramental Preparation Session in order to deepen their understanding of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and its' three elements: conversion, confession and celebration. These sessions will be scheduled during the Monday through Thursday Faith Formation classes the week of February 6, 2012. Sunday Faith Formation families must choose a Monday-Thursday session to attend. You **must attend** this meeting if you wish for your child to receive the sacraments this year. If you do not attend this meeting your child may not be able to receive the sacraments this year.

5. Attendance is **mandatory** at the First Communion Workshop on Saturday, March 3, 2012. This workshop is designed to help the children prepare for the reception of this sacrament and deepen their understanding of this very special gift. A parent or guardian must attend the workshop with the child.

In addition to the above policies, it is very important to keep in mind that our Sunday classes are **not** meant as a substitute for participating in Mass. Regular Sunday Mass attendance is expected of all Faith Formation students, especially for our students who are preparing for the sacraments.