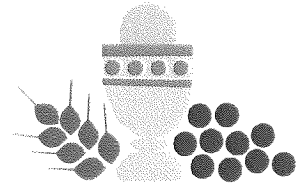


St. Francis of Assisi Parish

First Reconciliation & First Communion



*Congratulations, you have a child receiving First Reconciliation and First Communion this year!
Please read the following information and make note of 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 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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE 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. (See calendar for date)
- **We Learn About The Mass** – Student and at least one parent must attend this meeting wherein the priest explains the signs, symbols and the different parts of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Children will participate in a Scavenger Hunt to learn about special areas in the Church. Students will complete a short booklet, **We Learn About the Mass**, prior to this meeting. (See calendar for date)
- **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). Child care is provided for all parent meetings.

Attire for First Communicants:

Girls:

- Simple white dress must be at or near the knee or no longer than the ankle in length. Dresses that are sleeveless or have spaghetti straps must have a white jacket or sweater over the dress.
- White Veil (not to hang below the waist) should be worn. Flowers must be white and miniature in size if incorporated with the veil.
- Appropriate white dress shoes (open-toe shoes are fine) If socks or tights are worn, they must be white.
- No gloves

Boys:

- Navy Blue Sport Coat
- Tan/khaki pants with belt
- White shirt with conservative tie or white Communion tie
- Dark socks and appropriate dress shoes





St. Francis of Assisi Parish **2017 – 2018 Calendar for First Communion**

October:

29th (Sun) Parent Meeting – Reconciliation (English) 10:30am, SFA School, Activity Room

29th (Sun) Parent Meeting – Reconciliation (Español) 10:30am, SFA School, Library

November:

2nd (Thurs) Parent Meeting – Reconciliation (English) 7:00pm, Parish Life Center, Rm. 113

18 th (Sat)	<u>Celebration of First Reconciliation</u>	10:00am, St. Francis Church
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January:

24th (Wed) **We Learn About Mass** 7:00 pm, St. Francis Church
(Child and Parent must be present)

February:

7th (Wed) Parent Meeting, Eucharist (English) 7:00pm, Parish Life Center, Rm. 113

11th (Sun) Parent Meeting – Eucharist (English) 10:30am, SFA School, Activity Room

11th (Sun) Parent Meeting – Eucharist (Español) 10:30am, SFA School, Library

April:

7th (Sat) **Children's Retreat**

- 9:00am -11:00am, Parish Life Center
- Parents drop children off at PLC gym at 9:00am
- Parents pick up children at 11:00am in the PLC gym

18th (Wed) **Practice for First Communion (Section 1)** 7:00pm, St. Francis Church
SFA Classes of Mrs. Clark & Mrs. Hultman and PRE classes **as assigned**.
(Child and Parent must be present)

19th (Thurs) **Practice for First Communion (Section 2)** 7:00pm, St. Francis Church
PRE classes **as assigned**. *(Child and Parent must be present)*

21st (Sat) **Celebration of First Communion (Section 1)** 10:00am, St. Francis Church
SFA Classes of Mrs. Clark & Mrs. Hultman and PRE classes **as assigned**.
(Children must be in Rm. 108 of the Parish Life Center by 9:15 am for photos)

21st (Sat) **Celebration of First Communion (Section 2)** 1:30pm, St. Francis Church
PRE classes **as assigned**.
(Children must be in Rm. 108 of the Parish Life Center by 12:45 pm for photos)

**Parents are required to attend a total of two meetings: (1) on Reconciliation and (1) on Eucharist. There are no exemptions for attending the parent meetings.*

**Childcare for siblings is provided for all parent meetings, "We Learn About the Mass" session, First Reconciliation and First Communion.*