

# St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

## Parish Religious Education (PRE) 2017-18 Family Handbook and Calendar



### Office of Religious Education

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Visit our website (under "Faith Formation") for updates throughout the year:  
[www.stfrancismemphis.org](http://www.stfrancismemphis.org)

# **2017-18 PRE Class Schedule**

*Classes meet on Sundays, 10:15am – 11:45am*

**September 10**  
**September 17**  
**September 24**  
**October 1**  
**October 8 - no class**  
**October 15 - no class**  
**October 22**  
**October 29**  
**November 5**  
**November 12**  
**November 19**  
**November 26 - no class**  
**December 3**  
**December 10**  
**December 17- no class**  
**December 24 - no class**  
**January 31 - no class**  
**January 7**  
**January 14**  
**January 21**  
**January 28**  
**February 4**  
**February 11**  
**February 18**  
**February 25**  
**March 4**  
**March 11 - no class**  
**March 18 - no class**  
**March 25**  
**April 1 - no class -Easter**  
**April 8**  
**April 15**  
**April 22**  
**April 29 - May Crowning**

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**A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION...**

*Dear Parents,*

*Thank you for making faith formation a priority for your children! We hope this will be a great experience for your children and lead them into a closer, life-long relationship with Jesus Christ and the Catholic faith.*

*Our religious education philosophy is to provide a strong foundation for the child's Catholic faith. Parents are the primary providers of that foundation with the religious formation program (PRE) as their support.*

*Our lives as Catholics are strengthened by regular participation in the weekly Eucharist and frequent reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Our religious education program fosters understanding and practice in these areas for our students and their families.*

*Please keep this handbook in a convenient spot for ready reference throughout the school year. If you have any questions, please contact the religious education office at 435-3616 or email Betty Siano at [betty.siano@sfawolves.org](mailto:betty.siano@sfawolves.org)*

*May God bless you and your family as we journey together learning and practicing the truths of our faith.*

*Sincerely,*

*Betty Siano*

*Betty Siano  
Director of Religious Education  
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church  
8151 Chimneyrock Blvd.  
Cordova, TN 38016  
381-2545 office  
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## Parent Involvement

**“Parents are the first and foremost catechists of their children. They catechize informally but powerfully by example and instruction. Their active involvement in the parish, their readiness to seek opportunities to serve others, and their practice of frequent and spontaneous prayer, all make meaningful their professions of belief.”**

*Sharing the Light of Faith  
National Catechetical Directory for Catholics of the United States  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*

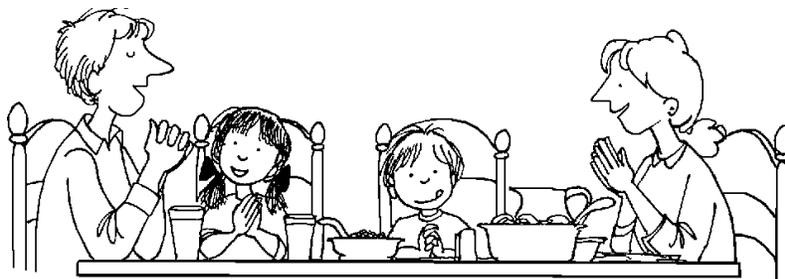
Our PRE program is specifically designed to minister to and support parents as they strive to fulfill their important mission of bringing up their children in the Catholic faith.

Adult faith formation opportunities and community-building events are offered by the parish throughout the year. Parents are strongly encouraged to participate in order to: develop their own spirituality, demonstrate to their children the importance they place on growing in wisdom and grace before God, better equip themselves for their continuing mission as their children’s primary catechists, and, lastly, enjoy the fellowship of the parish community.

Children learn best when they can connect the topic to their everyday lives. By making the Catholic faith part of the daily life and decision-making of the family, parents provide the vital link between what we learn in religious education and how the children actually live their lives, now and in the future

The following are some specific ways parents may take an active role in their child’s religious education:

- Attend Mass regularly on Sundays as a family. This is the one most important thing you can do to form a strong and lasting relationship between your child and God. Parents are most effective when they set good examples. If faith is important to you, your child will embrace his/her faith as well.
- Take time to greet our parish priests with your family after Mass. Talk to your children on the way home about the Mass. One of our teachers likes to ask her own children “How did God speak to you at Mass today?”
- Ask your child what he/she is being taught in Religious Education and don’t take “nothing” or “not much” as an answer! Our teachers follow a teaching guide, and specific teaching goals are set for every grade level.
- Meet your child’s catechist either before or after class. Parents should know who is teaching their child, and teachers appreciate your interest.



# Guidelines for Placement in Religious Education Classes

## Traditional classes

To be placed in our traditional classes, students should meet the following requirements:

- **4K, 5K & 1<sup>st</sup> Grade** – students must be baptized in the Catholic faith.\*

*\*Children who have never been baptized and wish to be baptized into the Catholic faith will be enrolled in a traditional PreK, Kindergarten or 1<sup>st</sup> Grade class. Parents must attend a baptism preparation class. The child will receive the sacrament of baptism in the spring.*

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade** – student must be a baptized Catholic and have attended 1st grade religious education classes. Students will be prepared to receive the sacraments of First Reconciliation in the fall and First Eucharist in the spring.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade** – student must be a baptized Catholic and have celebrated First Reconciliation and First Eucharist.
- **8<sup>th</sup> Grade and High School Confirmation Classes** – students must be baptized and have celebrated both First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Students must have also been enrolled in religious education in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. The sacrament of Confirmation will be received in the spring.

## Sacrament Classes (For students who did not receive their Sacraments at traditional time)

This class is designed for children in grades 2 through 5 who are baptized in the Catholic faith but did not attend Religious Education classes for two consecutive years in order to receive First Eucharist and/or First Reconciliation at the customary time.

- The first year in Religious Education, the student will be placed in their current grade level class - no sacraments will be received.
- Sacrament classes will be for the second year of preparation. That year, the student will receive First Reconciliation and First Communion.
- Parents who have children in this program are required to attend parent meetings that pertain to your child's sacrament(s) during their Sacrament year. You will receive a calendar with the dates of the meetings you are to attend.
- After the child has received their sacraments, they will be enrolled in their appropriate level of Religious Education the following year.



## **Children with Disabilities or Special Needs**

St. Francis of Assisi Parish desires to provide effective catechesis for those students with disabilities. If your child has disabilities or special needs, please talk with the DRE and your child's catechist to develop a plan for your child. We want to make inclusion successful for everyone.

## **Homeschooling**

Catholic homeschooled students are those students defined as being home schooled in all academic subjects by their parents, not just religion.

Home schooling families are encouraged and welcomed to participate in our Religious Education Program. This is a wonderful opportunity to foster a sense of community with the parish and interact with other Catholic children in a controlled and caring environment.

Homeschooled children who are in a year that a sacrament is being received must attend PRE classes that year (2<sup>nd</sup> grade and 8<sup>th</sup> grade).

As a rule, we do not permit students to be homeschooled in religious education unless they are homeschooled in all academic subjects.



# General Information

## Teachers of The Word...The Catechist

We are very blessed to have the involvement of so many dedicated men and women who volunteer to be teachers (catechists) and classroom aides. Their service to our program is deeply appreciated, and we encourage parents to get to know their child's catechist.

## Class Time

All PRE classes begin promptly at 10:15am and dismiss at 11:45am on Sunday. Please arrive early so that your child has time to find their classroom and get settled before classes begin. Teachers will open their classroom doors at 10:00am for children to start arriving.

Prayers will be led over the intercom beginning at 10:15am. At that point, all outside doors and gates will be securely locked for the safety of our students. **Students arriving after 10:15am should enter through the main office doors at the front of the school.**

## Attendance

- Please make PRE attendance a priority! We want your students there EVERY week! We have a limited number of hours a year to meet our requirements, so every class is important.
- When absence is unavoidable, please request a "make-up" lesson from your child's teacher to complete at home; this will aid in the continuity of curriculum for the child.
- **In the rare event that you should need to pick up your child early from classes, you must park and come into the main office to ask for the child.** We will call the child's room over the intercom and have them sent to the front office. You will be required to sign your child out – for the child's safety, we will not allow a child to leave the building unescorted.
- **Please note: We are unable to accommodate visitors to our Religious Education program due to safety and liability.**

## Drop-off and Pick-up Procedures

The safety of our children is very important to us! **To insure safety in a high-traffic parking lot please follow these rules:**

- **Students in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and below must be escorted to and from their classroom by a parent or older sibling.** In order to do this, parents will need to park their vehicle and accompany their children into and out of the school building.
- **Students in 4<sup>th</sup> – High School may be dropped off and enter the building on their own.** At the end of the PRE session, these students may go to either the middle drive or the drive in the front of the school to be picked up.
- Children are released to parents/step-parents/guardians upon dismissal. If your child may NOT be released to certain parties, you MUST provide official documentation specifying legal custody to the Pastor or Director of Religious Education.

- Parking is allowed only in the school drive along Chimneyrock (left curb side) or along the middle parking lot “white line” in front of St. Edward Hall. Parents may also park in any available parking spaces on campus or across the street at the church.
- The drive through the middle of the school campus is for pick-up and drop-off only. You may not park and leave your car in the middle drive. Please review the traffic flow maps on page 11.

## **Safety**

- All outside doors and gates will remain locked during the PRE session. If a parent needs to come into the building, please come to the main office doors and ring the doorbell. After identification, you may enter the front office.
- The entire school campus is equipped with cameras to monitor hallway, stairwell, entry doors and outside areas.
- We will unlock parking lot gates and main entrance doors 10 minutes prior to the end of each session.
- Don Thompson, Director of Safety and Security for SFA School, will be on campus during PRE hours to help with safety concerns and emergency drills.
- Fire Drills: For our student’s safety, we will conduct one fire drill at the beginning of PRE to make our students aware of emergency exits and safety procedures in the school building.

## **Inclement Weather**

In the event of inclement weather, we will post closings on the church website at [www.stfrancismemphis.org](http://www.stfrancismemphis.org) and on the church phone answering system at 901-756-1213. Please use your own best judgement when deciding if you should venture out in severe weather.

## **Communication**

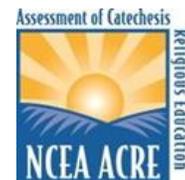
The Office of Religious Education will communicate with families in these ways:

1. Distributing newsletters or flyers during sessions
2. Sending information through email (or U.S.Mail if the family does not have an email address)
3. The parish Weekly Bulletin
4. The parish website at **www.stfrancismemphis.org**
5. We are only a phone call away! Please contact the Office of Religious Education if you have any questions or concerns at 901-435-3616 or call the church office at 901-756-1213.

## **Homework/Assignments**

- Each student will have a PRE folder that they bring back and forth from PRE to home. Inside, the lesson that was taught that day will be placed in the folder.
- If your child has an absence, the assignment for that lesson will be included in the folder. Please have your child read and complete the assignment and bring it back to PRE with them the next week.





## **ACRE test**

NCEA ACRE is designed to assist in the evaluation of catechetical / religious education programs in Catholic schools and parishes. As an integrated assessment tool, NCEA ACRE provides faith knowledge questions (cognitive domain) and questions related to religious beliefs, attitudes, practices, and perceptions (affective domain). At St. Francis, we will administer the ACRE test to students in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and 8<sup>th</sup> grade each year.

## **Discipline**

Most of our children in our PRE program are well-behaved, which is expected and appreciated! However, if there is a problem, it will be handled on an individual basis by the catechist, the DRE and the parents.

- Normal discipline problems will be handled by the catechist. If a problem becomes persistent, the student may be sent to the PRE office for a short "time out".
- If a child's behavior is too disruptive to remain in the classroom, the child may be asked to complete the lesson in a separate space.
- A continuing problem may necessitate a phone call to the parents and a conference with the parent and child may be requested by the Director, catechist or another staff member.
- If a problem persists, we may ask the child's parent to attend the class with the child until the child has the ability to attend classes independently.

## **Cell Phones**

Cell phones should not be seen or heard during class time. If a student uses a cell phone during class (texting, playing games, taking pictures, etc.) the teacher may take it and then return it to the student at the end of class. If the problem persists, the parents may be contacted.

## **VIRTUS "Touching Safety" Program for K-8**

"Touching Safety" is a companion to the VIRTUS program in which many of us have participated. With VIRTUS, we were educated to identify the warning signs of child abuse. In the "Touching Safety" program, our children are given age-appropriate instruction about establishing boundaries important to personal safety. This program consists of a short video introduction for each grade level and a series of discussion points. The material is developmentally appropriate for each age group and includes content and activities that reinforce the message.

The St. Francis PRE program will present these lessons in the month of November, during one class period. Parents have the opportunity to view all of the materials and download a parent handbook at our parish website [www.stfrancismemphis.org](http://www.stfrancismemphis.org). Go to *Faith Formation*, then to *Religious Education*. Parents are given the opportunity to "opt out" of this program on their registration form each year. They may also download an "opt out" form from the parish website. Please call the Religious Education office if you have any concerns.

## **VIRTUS Training for Adults**

**Protecting God's Children** is mandated by the United States Bishops and thus the Diocese of Memphis. Anyone having regular contact with youth must attend the Virtus Training Program and agree to a background check. All of our Teachers and Assistants have attended the training and agreed to the background check as required.

## **Volunteers - You Can Help!**

The involvement of parents over the years has significantly contributed to the strength of the St. Francis PRE Program. Active parental involvement is encouraged and needed. Numerous opportunities exist to get involved and take part in your child's faith formation. For more information, call the Religious Education office at 435-3616.

# Our Curriculum

All of our textbook series are on the Conformity Listing of Catechetical Texts and Series approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

## **Stories of God's Love (4K and K)**

This series, published by RCL Benzinger, serves the parish in readying young children for learning about our Catholic faith. Using a Scripture-based approach, it assists young children and their families in learning and living Christian values.

Parents will find interactive games, stories, and additional support by going to this website: <http://rclbstoriesofgodsllove.com/preschool.html>

## **Christ Our Life (Grades 1 - 7)**

Written by the Sisters of Notre Dame, the new 2016 edition of *Christ Our Life* fosters children's love of God and a rich knowledge of our Catholic faith so they can proudly go out into the world and proclaim it. With its thorough presentation of the authentic teachings of the Catholic Church, its comprehensive approach, and its variety of teaching methods, *Christ Our Life* is the only program that is aligned with the Church's mission for a New Evangelization, the NCEA:IFG ACRE assessments, and the Six Tasks of Catechesis.

## **CHOSEN (8<sup>th</sup> grade)**

*Chosen: Your Journey Toward Confirmation* is a twenty-four-lesson program that prepares students both intellectually and spiritually to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and to become lifelong disciples of Christ. All too often we see teens drift away from the Church after Confirmation. *Chosen* seeks to reverse this trend by winning over the hearts of teens at a critical time in their lives and keeping them firmly planted within the faith community of the Church. Students will also use the YouCat (Youth Catechism), the Bible and a Confirmation folder among other materials.

## **Heritage (Sacrament Class)**

This program published by RCL serves as a text for youth being initiated into the life of the Church. Following the directives of the General Directory for Catechesis, it uses the RCIA model prescribed by the bishops to evangelize and catechize new learners in the intermediate grades. It presents the life and teaching of Jesus; introduces the rites of Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist and Reconciliation; presents Catholic prayers and practices, and presents key teaching and online support. Go to <http://www.bemydisciples.com/och-home> for activities to do at home.

## **Called To Be Catholic (High School)**

Called to Be Catholic is a program that provides directors, catechists, and parents with all the tools and resources they need to help young people know what it means to be Catholic, spark a desire to further investigate their faith, and grow in their relationship with God.



## Other Books Used In Our Program:

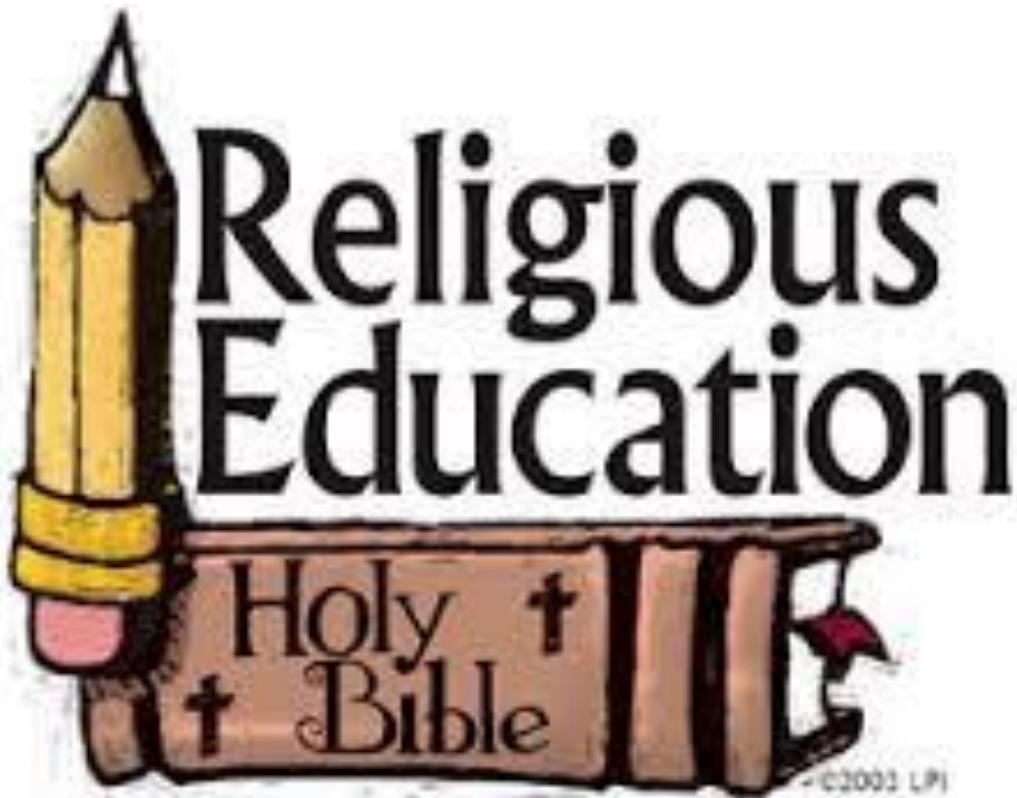
### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Bible

**YOUCAT** - YOUCAT is short for “Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church”. Developed with the help of young Catholics, YOUCAT is an accessible, contemporary expression of the Catholic faith.

It explains:

- What Catholics believe and why (doctrine)
- How Catholics celebrate the mysteries of the faith (sacraments)
- How Catholics are to live (moral life)
- How they should pray (prayer and spirituality)

The YOUCAT is used in our 8<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation program.



## Prayers

Our Catholic tradition is rich with many forms of prayer. Children are able to understand from their preschool years that prayer is talking and listening to God. Our ministry as parents and catechists is to lead our children to a deeper relationship with God, and prayer is essential to this goal. The chart below lists the prayers that we learn at each grade level in our program; we ask for your help in passing them on to your children.



Please see the appendix at the end of this book for the words to each prayer.

<b>Prayers</b>	<b>4K</b>	<b>K</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>3rd</b>	<b>4th</b>	<b>5th</b>	<b>6th</b>	<b>7th</b>	<b>8th</b>
Sign of the Cross	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Grace before meals	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Grace after meals	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Guardian Angel prayer	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Glory Be	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Our Father		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hail Mary		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Act of Contrition				X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Fatima Prayer					X	X	X	X	X	X
Angelus					X	X	X	X	X	X
Morning Offering					X	X	X	X	X	X
Prayer of St. Francis						X	X	X	X	X
Hail Holy Queen						X	X	X	X	X
Apostles Creed						X	X	X	X	X
Nicene Creed							X	X	X	X
Memorare							X	X	X	X
Eternal Rest							X	X	X	X
Books of the New Testament							X	X	X	X
Books of the Old Testament								X	X	X
Divine Praises									X	X
Prayer to St. Michael									X	X
Prayer to the Holy Spirit										X

# Sacrament General Information

- **Preparation for sacraments is a two-year process.** This means in order to receive First Communion and First Reconciliation in 2nd grade, the child must be enrolled in Catholic School or PRE in 1st grade. In order to receive Confirmation in 8th grade, the child must be enrolled in Catholic School or PRE in 7th grade.
- **All Catholic children between 1st grade and 8th grade should be receiving Religious Education every year – either in a Catholic School or in our PRE program.** Additionally, children who are homeschooled **must** be registered through the PRE program.
- **Confirmation Preparation** - The first year of Confirmation Preparation begins in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Seventh grade parents should be aware that students will perform 14 hours of service during the year. (Please see Confirmation Guidelines in this handbook for more information.)
- **Parent Sacrament Meetings** – It is required by the Diocese of Memphis that the parents of children who will be receiving First Reconciliation, First Communion, and/or Confirmation attend a total of two parent sacrament meetings.
  - **For First Reconciliation/First Communion**, parents must attend one meeting for Reconciliation and one meeting for Eucharist, for a total of two meetings. (See First Communion calendar in this booklet.)
  - **For Confirmation**, parents must attend the Confirmation Program Overview and one Confirmation Theology Session, for a total of two meetings. (See Confirmation in this booklet.)

**Should any child miss a significant number of religion classes and/or parents fail to attend the Parent Sacrament Meetings, it could result in delaying the sacrament for the child.**



# **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](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.

## **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:**

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

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

### **November:**

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

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

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

### **February:**

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

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

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

### **April:**

7<sup>th</sup> (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

18<sup>th</sup> (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)*

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

21<sup>st</sup> (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)*

21<sup>st</sup> (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.*

# St. Francis of Assisi Parish Confirmation



*Congratulations, you have a child receiving the sacrament of Confirmation this year!  
Please read the following important information and note the dates on the attached calendar.*

## Candidate Requirements

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

- **Grade Requirement** - Be in eighth grade or 14 years of age (or above) and express a desire for Confirmation.
- **Registration**
  - Complete the Registration Form requesting Confirmation
  - Certificate of Baptism - A copy of the child's baptism certificate is required if your child was baptized at a parish 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 be confirmed with St. Francis, you must provide a letter from your pastor stating that your child has permission to do so.
    - If you would like your child to receive Confirmation 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 - \$50 payable at Registration
- **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 eighth grade may receive Confirmation only if he or she was enrolled in a Catholic school or Parish Religious Education class during their seventh grade year. Please provide evidence of this enrollment if the child was not enrolled here at St. Francis last year.
- **Mass Attendance** – All children and young adults 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. **NOTE: Competitive sports leagues require many of our students to be out of town on the weekend. Parents should make sure that students never miss Sunday Mass due to a ball game. (Coaches should be informed of this issue well in advance.)** It is the responsibility of parents to check [www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) or call (410)676-6000 for churches and Mass times when traveling. Please make Mass attendance part of your travel plans.
- **Confirmation Retreat** – Attendance at a Confirmation retreat is required by the Diocese of Memphis. Our retreat is held on a Saturday at St. Francis Church.

***\*Important Note: This Retreat is mandatory. The student must be present for the entire retreat.***

- **Eucharistic Adoration** –We encourage all students preparing for Confirmation to take advantage of opportunities to worship our Lord through Eucharistic Adoration. *NOTE: First Friday Adoration is held every month at St. Francis of Assisi Church in the Chapel following 8:15 a.m. Mass, with Benediction at 5:00pm.*
- **Letter to the Bishop** - Confirmandi must write a letter to Bishop Martin Holley requesting Confirmation. This letter is to be the work of the Confirmandi, always in their own words, about their spiritual relationship with God. The due date will be set by their religion teacher.
- **Parent Sacrament Meetings** - The Diocese of Memphis requires parents to attend two meetings on Confirmation:
  - Confirmation Program Overview - Student and at least one parent are required to attend the Confirmation Program Overview, held in September.
  - Theology of Confirmation Session - Parents have a choice of attending one of two sessions in order to fulfill this requirement.
  - Child care is provided for all parent meetings.
- **Confirmandi Commitment Mass** – Confirmandi along with their parents and/or sponsors are required to attend. As a group, students will be asked to make a public declaration of their commitment to being confirmed in the Catholic Church.
- **Reconciliation** – Confirmandi are encouraged to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly, preferably with their families, especially during the liturgical seasons of Advent and Lent.
- **Sponsors and Confirmation Names** - Information on choosing Sponsors and Confirmation names will be given by their religion teacher, including the due dates.
- **Service Hours** - Students are required to perform 20 hours of service. Information will be provided by their religion teacher regarding how to keep track of the hours and dates.
- **Attire for Confirmandi at Confirmation:**

**Girls:**

- Simple white dress must be at or near the knee or no longer than at the ankle in length. Low necklines are not appropriate. Dresses that are halter, sleeveless or have spaghetti straps **must have a white jacket or sweater worn over them.**
- Appropriate white dress shoes (open-toe is fine)

**Boys:**

- Dark Suit or Dark Sport Coat
- Tan/khaki pants with belt
- White shirt and Tie
- Dark socks and appropriate dress shoes



## **APPENDIX**

### **Sign of the Cross**

In the name of the Father,  
and the Son  
and the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

### **Grace Before Meals**

Bless us, O Lord, and these Thy gifts,  
which we are about to receive from Thy bounty,  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Grace After Meals**

We give Thee thanks almighty God  
For these and all Thy benefits  
That we have received  
From Thy bounty  
Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

### **Guardian Angel Prayer**

Angel of God, my Guardian dear,  
to whom God's love commits me here,  
ever this day be at my side,  
to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

### **Glory Be**

Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

### **Our Father**

Our Father,  
Who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name;  
Thy kingdom come;  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

### **Hail Mary**

Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou amongst women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

### **Act of Contrition**

My God,  
I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.  
In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good,  
I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things.  
I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more,  
and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.  
Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us.  
In his name, Lord, have mercy

### **Fatima Prayer**

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls to heaven, especially those in most need of thy mercy.

### **The Angelus**

V- The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.  
R- And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.  
(Hail Mary....)  
V- Behold the handmaid of the Lord.  
R- Be it done unto me according to thy word.  
(Hail Mary....)  
V- And the Word was made Flesh.  
R- And dwelt among us.  
(Hail Mary....)  
V- Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.  
R- That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.  
LET US PRAY:

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts;  
that, we to whom the Incarnation of Christ, Thy Son,  
was made known by the message of an Angel,  
may by His Passion and Cross,  
be brought to the glory of His Resurrection  
through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Morning Offering**

Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary,  
I offer you my prayers, works, joys, and suffering of this day  
in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world.  
I offer them for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart:  
the salvation of souls, reparation for sins, the reunion of all Christians;  
I offer them for the intentions of our Bishops and of all Apostles of Prayer  
and in particular for those recommended by our Holy Father this month. Amen

### **Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi**

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
and where there is sadness, joy.  
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen

### **Hail Holy Queen**

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of mercy,  
our life, our sweetness and our hope.  
To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve:  
to thee do we send up our sighs,  
mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.  
Turn then, most gracious Advocate,  
thine eyes of mercy toward us,  
and after this our exile,  
show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary! Amen.

### **The Apostle's Creed**

I believe in God,  
the Father Almighty,  
Creator of Heaven and earth;  
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into Hell.  
The third day He arose again from the dead;  
He ascended into Heaven,  
sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty;  
from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **The Nicene Creed**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## **Memorare**

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,  
that never was it known  
that any one who fled to thy protection,  
implored thy help  
or sought thy intercession,  
was left unaided.  
Inspired by this confidence,  
We fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins my Mother;  
to thee do we come, before thee we stand, sinful and sorrowful;  
O Mother of the Word Incarnate,  
despise not our petitions,  
but in thy mercy hear and answer them. Amen.

## **Eternal Rest**

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

## **Divine Praises**

Blessed be God.

Blessed be His Holy Name.

Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true man.

Blessed be the name of Jesus.

Blessed be His Most Sacred Heart.

Blessed be Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.

Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the paraclete.

Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.

Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.

Blessed be her glorious Assumption.

Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.

Blessed be Saint Joseph, her most chaste spouse.

Blessed be God in His angels and in His Saints.

## **Saint Michael Prayer**

Saint Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle.

Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil.

May God rebuke him, we humbly pray;

and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host,

by the power of God

cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits

who prowl throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

## **Holy Spirit Prayer**

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

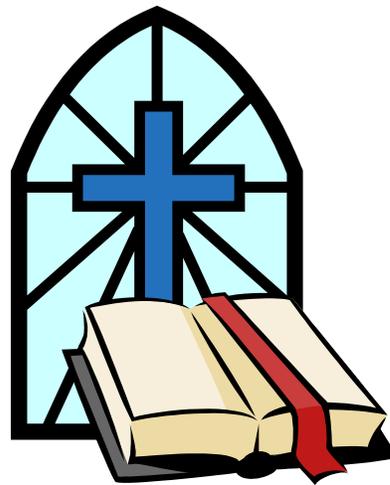


## OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS

1. Genesis
2. Exodus
3. Leviticus
4. Numbers
5. Deuteronomy
6. Joshua
7. Judges
8. Ruth
9. 1 Samuel
10. 2 Samuel
11. 1 Kings
12. 2 Kings
13. 1 Chronicles
14. 2 Chronicles
15. Ezra
16. Nehemiah
17. Tobit
18. Judith
19. Esther
20. 1 Maccabees
21. 2 Maccabees
22. Job
23. Psalms
24. The Proverbs
25. Ecclesiastes
26. The Song of Songs
27. Wisdom
28. Ecclesiasticus / Sirach
29. Isaiah
30. Jeremiah
31. Lamentations
32. Baruch
33. Ezekiel
34. Daniel
35. Hosea
36. Joel
37. Amos
38. Obadiah
39. Jonah
40. Micah
41. Nahum
42. Habakkuk
43. Zephaniah
44. Haggai
45. Zechariah
46. Malachi

## NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS

1. Matthew
2. Mark
3. Luke
4. John
5. Acts of Apostles
6. Romans
7. 1 Corinthians
8. 2 Corinthians
9. Galatians
10. Ephesians
11. Philippians
12. Colossians
13. 1 Thessalonians
14. 2 Thessalonians
15. 1 Timothy
16. 2 Timothy
17. Titus
18. Philemon
19. Hebrews
20. James
21. 1 Peter
22. 2 Peter
23. 1 John
24. 2 John
25. 3 John
26. Jude
27. Revelation





## **St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church MASS SCHEDULE**

### **Weekends:**

**Vigil Mass: 5:00 Saturday**

**7:15 AM Sunday**

**8:45 AM Sunday**

**10:30 AM Sunday**

**12:15 PM Sunday**

**5:30 PM Sunday (during school year)**

**7:15 PM Sunday (In Spanish)**

### **Weekdays:**

**8:15am and 12:00noon**