

## *Family First Reconciliation/First Communion Calendar 2011-12*

### October

8/9 Reconciliation Jump Start Workshop for Families (Parents and child)

#### **Chapter 1 We are Called**

**Liturgical Focus: Signing with the Cross**

**Faith Focus: God loves us and gave us life.**

**Scripture story: Paul telling people about the love God has for us.**

#### **Faith Words and Concepts:**

The first humans turned away from God and disobeyed him. We call this first sin **original sin**.

A **sacrament** is an outward sign that comes from Jesus and gives us grace.

**Grace** is a sharing in God's own life.

**Baptism** is the sacrament that makes us children of God and members of the Body of Christ, the Church.

**Baptism** takes away original sin and makes us temples of the Holy Spirit.

**Practice the Act of Contrition.**

Do by 18, 19 **Chapter 2 We are Welcomed**

**Faith Focus: Jesus welcomes us even if we are sinners. He can heal us and forgive us. He offers us a second chance.**

**Liturgical Focus: Reception of the penitent**

**Scripture Story: Zacchaeus**

#### **Faith Words and Concepts:**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation and Penance** is the sacrament in which God forgives our sins.

When God created us, he gave us **free will**. Free will is the ability to choose between right and wrong.

**Sin** is freely choosing to say or do something that we know is wrong.

**Your child should know the difference between an accident, mistake or sin.**

An **accident** is something that happens without your control. You cannot choose to have an accident.

A **mistake** involves an incorrect choice. Mistakes are choices you make without right information.

**Sin** is a choice that you know is wrong but you make it anyway.

**Mortal sin** is a serious failure in our love and respect for God, God's creation, and ourselves. For a sin to be mortal, it must be serious wrong, we must know it is seriously wrong and we must freely choose to do it anyway.

**Venial sin** is less serious than mortal sin but it does weaken our friendship with God.

**Practice the Act of Contrition.**

### November

Do by 1, 2 **Chapter 3 We Reflect**

**Faith Focus: Commandments help us know the difference between right and wrong.**

**Liturgical Focus: Listening to God's Word, Examination of Conscience**

**Scripture Story: Jesus and the Great Commandment**

#### **Faith Words and Concepts:**

The **Great Commandment** tells us that we are to love and respect God, ourselves and all people.

The **Ten Commandments** are laws God gave us to help us live holy lives.

The **first three commandments** help us to love and respect God..

The **last seven commandments** help us to show our love for others.

**Conscience** is a gift from God to help us know right from wrong.

During an **Examination of Conscience** we ask ourselves if we have been good followers of Jesus and have obeyed the commandments.

**Practice the Act of Contrition.**

12, 13 **Go to Mass with your child. Stop in the Narthex and pick up your child's book With Jesus Always Missal and Reconciliation Guide**

**Do by Chapter 4 We are Sorry**  
**Nov. 15, 16 Faith Focus: We confess our sins to show God we are sorry**  
**Liturgical Focus: Confession and Penance**  
**Scripture Story: A woman who showed Jesus she was sorry**  
**Faith Words and Concepts:**

**Confession** is admitting we have done something wrong.

**Contrition** is being sorry for our sins.

**Penance** is a prayer or action the priest asks us to say or do in the sacrament of Reconciliation; it shows we are sorry and want to heal or repair the harm caused by our sins.

**The Act of Contrition** is a prayer of sorrow. We tell God we are sorry and want to do better.

**Practice the Act of Contrition. Role play going to confession.**

## December

**Do by 6, 7 Chapter 5 We are Forgiven**  
**Faith Focus: God forgives our sins through the words and actions of the priest**  
**Liturgical Focus: Absolution**  
**Scripture Story: The Forgiving Father**  
**Faith Words and Concepts:**

**Reconciliation** means 'bringing together again, or reuniting'.

**Absolution** means 'pardon from sins'. It is the words and blessing of the priest prayed in the sacrament of Reconciliation that offers us forgiveness.

**11 Children's Mass at 9:15**

## January

**Do by 10, 11 Chapter 6 We Go Forth**  
**Faith Focus: God forgives our sins through the words and actions of the priest**  
**Liturgical Focus: Praise God for his mercy and go forth**  
**Scripture Story: Jesus sends forth the disciple**  
**Faith Words and Concepts:**

Just as Jesus sent his apostles out to make the world a better place so too he sends us. The Holy Spirit gives us the strength and courage to be signs of God's forgiveness and mercy to others..

***Your child's book and Reconciliation Worksheet must be completed by January 21/22 when you and your child attend the First Eucharist Jumpstart Meeting. We ask that you bring the completed book and worksheet to the meeting. This will reassure us that indeed you and your child have reviewed all the essential faith facts surrounding the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation and are ready to continue preparation for First Communion!***

## Dates to Note:

Parent/Child First Reconciliation "Sneak Peek" Workshop

March 22 4-5 PM and 6:30-7:30 in Church

First Reconciliation

March 24 11:00 AM in Church/Friendship Hall

First Communion Family Retreat

April 22 12:15-3:00 PM in FH/Church

First Communion

April 28 1:30 – 3:00 PM in FH/Church

## Part 2 Sacrament Preparation for First Communion Calendar 2012

Jan. 21, 22 First Communion Jumpstart Meeting for Parent and Child

### February

Do by 7, 8

#### **Chapter 1 We Belong**

**Liturgical Focus: Renewal of Baptismal Vows**

**Faith Focus: Sacraments of Initiation**

**Scripture story: The Vine and the Branches**

**Faith Words and Concepts:**

A **sacrament** is an outward sign that comes from Jesus. Sacraments give us grace, a share in God's life.

The **Sacraments of Initiation** are Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

The **Eucharist** is a sacred meal of thanksgiving where Jesus shares his own Body and Blood with us in Holy Communion.

#### **Chapter 2 We Gather**

**Liturgical Focus: Introductory Rites and Gloria**

**Faith Focus: We gather as a united community**

**Scripture story: The early Christians**

**Faith Words and Concepts:**

**Processions** at Mass remind us that we are walking with God and that God is walking with us.

We **pray** in many ways at Mass. When we pray we talk and listen to God.

Sunday is such an important day for Christians that the Church requires us to participate in

**Sunday Mass** every week.

The **Introductory Rites** gather us as a community of faith.

25, 26 Go to Mass to receive a special Missal for Children

Children's Mass 9:15

(Lenten Family Activity 10:15-11:15 in Friendship Hall)

Do by 28, 29 Chapter 3 We are Forgiven

**Liturgical Focus: Penitential Rite**

**Faith Focus: Eucharist is a sacrament of unity and forgiveness**

**Scripture story: The Call of Matthew**

**Faith Words and Concepts:**

We pray together for God's forgiveness during the **Penitential Rite**.

#### **Chapter 4 We Listen**

**Liturgical Focus: Liturgy of the Word**

**Faith Focus: God is present in Scripture**

**Scripture story: The Sower**

**Faith Words and Concepts:**

The **Bible** is God's Word written in human words.

We listen to the word of God during the **Liturgy of the Word**.

We respond to God's word by professing our belief in the **Creed** and praying for the needs of the Church and all people around the world at the **Prayers of the Faithful**.

## March

### Do by 13, 14 Chapter 5 We Prepare

**Liturgical Focus: Preparation of the Gifts**

**Faith Focus: The Mass is a sacrifice**

**Scripture story: The Washing of the Feet**

**Faith Words and Concepts:**

The **altar** is the table of the Lord.

To **sacrifice** means to give up something out of love for someone else. When the Church gathers for Mass, we remember the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.

A sign of our sacrifice is offering gifts of money in the **collection**. These offerings help the parish do its work to take care of those in need.

Members of the assembly bring the gifts of **bread and wine** to the altar. With the power of the Holy Spirit these gifts will become the **Body and Blood of Jesus**.

The second important part of the Mass is the **Liturgy of the Eucharist**.

**Eucharist** means thanksgiving.

### Chapter 6 We Remember and Give Thanks

**Liturgical Focus: Eucharistic Prayer, Consecration, Memorial Acclamation, Great Amen**

**Faith Focus: We remember the many ways God has saved us**

**Scripture story: The Last Supper**

**Faith Words and Concepts:**

The **Eucharistic Prayer** is a prayer of thanksgiving, remembering, and consecration.

Only an ordained **priest** can lead the celebration of the Eucharist.

At the **consecration** the priest says the words Jesus did at the Last Supper. Through the power of the Holy Spirit the words and actions of the priest, the gifts of bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ.

22 **First Reconciliation Sneak Peek for Parent and Child in Church 4-5 PM or 6:30-7:30 PM**

24 **First Reconciliation 11:00 AM in Church**

### Do by 27, 28 Chapter 7 We Share a Meal

**Liturgical Focus: Communion Rite**

**Faith Focus: We receive the Body and Blood of Jesus**

**Scripture story: The Bread of Life**

**Faith Words and Concepts:**

The **paten** is a flat plate that holds the hosts.

The **ciborium** holds the consecrated communion hosts.

The **chalice** holds the wine that becomes the Blood of Christ.

Practice receiving communion.

### Chapter 8 We Go Forth

**Liturgical Focus: Dismissal**

**Faith Focus: The Holy Spirit helps us do Jesus' work**

**Scripture story: Pentecost**

**Faith Words and Concepts:**

At Mass we are sent forth to love and serve others.

April 22 **First Communion Family Retreat in Friendship Hall-Bring completed book and vessel/vestment worksheet! Children meet at 12:15 PM in Friendship Hall and parents at 2:45 PM in church**

28 **First Communion 1:30 PM**