

ST. Joseph community  
Welcomes you to celebrate  
First Reconciliation  
and eucharist  
2009-2010

*Faith is caught, not taught.*

**FAMILY COMMITMENT TO:**

**Participating in Sunday**

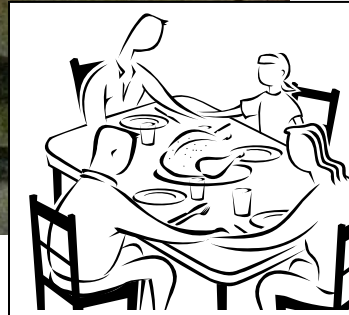
*Sharing stories*

*Family Meals*

Praying together

**Outreach:**  
**Food Bank,**  
**Angel Tree, Operation**

*Forgiveness*



## **Welcome to this next step in your child's faith journey!**

As families, we gather to celebrate important events at special meals, with favorite foods and shared stories. And as families we practice forgiveness and reconciliation, asking pardon when we hurt a loved one and forgiving others when they hurt us.

As Catholics, our community gathers to celebrate the most special of meals in the Eucharist. And in the sacrament of Reconciliation we celebrate the forgiveness that reunites us with God, the church and the community.

The sacraments are signs of Jesus' presence in the world. When you presented your children for the first sacrament of Baptism, you made a promise to raise them in the faith. Your family meals and rituals, your practice of forgiving and asking forgiveness, are your children's first experiences of sacramental life. Their preparation for celebrating the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist has already started, with you as their first and most important teachers. Through your family involvement in the parish (your presence at the weekly Eucharist, Faith Formation classes, participation in parish activities, etc.) your child is connecting with the church family and beginning to accept your faith as his or her own.

### **About the Sacrament of Reconciliation**

First Reconciliation (also called Confession and Penance) is celebrated at St. Joseph Community in a communal rite with individual confession and absolution. Parents and guardians help determine their child's readiness to celebrate this precious sacrament. You are their model; their readiness and understanding are impacted by your practice. If they know you appreciate and celebrate this sacrament, they will be better prepared for their celebration. After that it is your responsibility to continue to bring your children with you to the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly.

### **About the Sacrament of Eucharist**

A child who receives the Sacrament of Eucharist for the first time is continuing his or her initiation into the sacramental life of the whole church, a process that began at baptism. We celebrate First Eucharist as a family/parish community during parish liturgies, to enable the faith community to share in this important step on your child's faith journey.

## SCHEDULE

*Please mark these dates in your calendar and keep handy for future reference.*

**Prior to October 31 - Family Conversation with Staff.** Life can be very impersonal, but our church community should not be. To help us get to know each other better, you and your child are invited to meet with a member of the parish staff for an informal conversation (20 or 30 minutes) during the next few months. To make an appointment call the staff member with whom you would like to meet: 995-9421 for Father Fred, 995-9409 for Anne Marie, or 522-4456 for Sister Phil.

### **Thursday October 15**

- **Parent Meeting 7:00 – 8:30 PM** in the Learning Center for parents or guardians of all children preparing for the sacraments this year, for a look at what this process means for you as parents. (**Adults only, please.**)

### **Sunday October 18**

- **Sacrament Preparation Family Mass at 9:00.** During the Mass, you and your child formally commit to participation in this journey, and are welcomed by the community into the sacramental preparation program.

### ~~**Saturday October 24**~~ *Cancelled*

- ~~• **Potluck dinner at 6:00 PM in Notre Dame Hall** for families who wish to enjoy good food and fellowship with others who will celebrate the sacraments this year.~~

### **Sunday February 7**

- **Sacrament Preparation Family Mass at 9:00.** Children will be blessed by the community in preparation for the upcoming Sacrament of Reconciliation.

### **Monday February 8**

- **Parent Meeting 7:00 – 8:30 PM** in the Learning Center for all parents and guardians to explore the meaning of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. (**Adults only, please.**)

**Saturday February 20 - First Reconciliation.** Children and parents together attend one of two services, either at 10:00 AM or at noon. (Time to be assigned later.)

### **Saturday April 24**

- **Family Session 3:45 – 4:45 PM** in the Learning Center. For all children who will receive First Eucharist this year and their parents or guardians.
- **Sacrament Preparation Family Mass at 5:00 PM.** Children will be blessed by the community in preparation for next month's celebration of First Eucharist.

**May 1 & 2 and May 8 - First Eucharist.** You will be provided with an opportunity later to indicate your first and second preference from the following Mass times. (Rehearsal will take place one evening the preceding week; time to be announced.)

- Saturday May 1 at 5:00 PM
- Sunday May 2 at 9:00 AM
- Sunday May 2 at noon
- Saturday May 8 at 5:00 PM (tentative)

## **TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE SACRAMENT PREPARATION PROGRAM:**

- Ω Family has registered as parishioners of St. Joseph Community.
- Ω Child is baptized as a Catholic Christian. Copy of baptismal certificate must accompany the registration form or be on file. (If your child was baptized in another Christian tradition or has not yet been baptized, contact Anne Marie at 995-9409 for more information.)
- Ω Child is currently registered in St. Joseph Elementary School or St. Joseph Children's Faith Formation program.
- Ω Child has attended at least one year of Catholic Faith Formation or a Catholic school the year preceding sacramental preparation.
- Ω Child is in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade or above.
- Ω Parents or guardians are willing to be actively involved in their child's preparation and attend all Family Masses, Parent Meetings and Family Session.

## **OUR PARISH PROGRAM INCLUDES:**

- Ω Child's attendance at Faith Formation classes or Catholic school.
- Ω Participation in Sunday Mass (or Saturday Vigil) every week.
- Ω Three Family Masses (October, February and April).
- Ω Family conversation with a member of staff.
- Ω Parent's attendance at two Parent Meetings.
- Ω Parent and child's attendance at one Family Session.
- Ω Home study time to be completed by child with parent help and guidance.

## **IDEAS TO HELP YOUR CHILD PREPARE AT HOME:**

- Ω Celebrate a special family dinner night once a week.
- Ω Pray together before meals.
- Ω Decide a way your family can be of service to others.
- Ω Make time to pray with your child at bedtime.
- Ω Read stories about Jesus together.
- Ω Work together on the "*Take Home*" or "*Together As Family*" page provided by the teacher or catechist.
- Ω Invite your child's godparents to take part in this time of preparation.

For information call Anne Marie Fourné, Director of Faith Formation, at 995-9409.

**May this time of preparation  
be a special time –  
a sacred time –  
for your child and for you.**