



## Sacrament of Reconciliation Program

**Application for Preparation & Reception of First Reconciliation/First Eucharist** – Process begins with parent’s discernment of child’s readiness and submission of Application – applications will be submitted in Spring of 1<sup>st</sup> level

**Parent Meeting** – Attendance at a parent meeting which includes formation regarding the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the distribution of information relevant to the process and celebration of the sacrament.

**Family Interview** - interviews with either: Pastor, Parochial Vicar, Pastoral Associate, School Principal, Teacher, or a Deacon – this is to discern child’s readiness of the Sacrament.

**Preparation Sessions** – There will be (1) 1 hr preparation classes for all Faith Formation students. Catholic School students will prepare during class in school.

**Sacrament Masses** – There will be (2) scheduled Masses for all families to attend during Reconciliation preparation.

**Reconciliation Service Selection** – In order to alleviate a stressful wait for each child at their First Reconciliation, one service will be held on a Saturday and one held on a weeknight. (St. Michael Church, in Gibbstown). Parents may select a date and time on a first come, first serve basis.

**Workshop** – Children attend a workshop which includes: learning of the hymn that will be sung at the First Reconciliation service, practicing going to confession, a craft and a First Reconciliation video.

**First Reconciliation Service** – Everything possible is done to ensure the children a positive experience. A child appropriate Gospel reading, homily and examination of conscience. The parents may choose which priest will hear their child’s confession and each child is introduced to the priest by their parent(s). A copy of the Act of Contrition is available for each child to read from during their confession. A simple “I am sorry” is also deemed sufficient.

Face-to-Face confessions are encouraged but a confessional is available.

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## Sacrament of First Eucharist Program

**Parent Meeting** – Attendance at a parent meeting which includes formation regarding the Sacrament of First Eucharist and the distribution of information relevant to the process and celebration of the sacrament.

**Preparation Sessions** – There will be (2) 1 hr preparation classes for all Faith Formation students. Catholic School students will prepare during class in school.

**Sacrament Masses** – There will be (3) scheduled Masses for all families to attend during First Eucharist preparation.

**First Eucharist Mass Selection** – First Eucharist is celebrated within the Sunday liturgy in St. Michael Church in Gibbstown. Parents may select a date and time on a first come, first serve basis. Rehearsals are held for each Mass during the week before that Mass. – Mass Selection will occur in October of the level 2 class year

**Workshop**–Children attend a workshop which includes: learning of the memorial acclamation that will be sung during Mass, a practice station to learn the form for receiving the Body and Precious Blood, a craft and a First Eucharist video.

**Rehearsals** – A specific rehearsal is held for each Mass. Your child should already be familiar with the Order of the Mass from attending throughout the year. Each child is given a special “task” to perform during the Mass such as dressing the altar, bringing the gifts to the altar, and flowers for Mary. The rehearsal will include these tasks in addition to the other elements of the Mass in which the children participate in a special way. There will be a practice of receiving the Eucharist and final information about the day of the celebration will be distributed.

**First Eucharist Mass** - Each family is assigned a pew and may have as many family members as they choose in that pew while still allowing room for the First Eucharist child to be seated on the aisle, comfortably. All First Eucharist Masses will be celebrated at St. Michael Church, in Gibbstown.

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