

# First Penance / First Communion

## Parent Meeting Summary

### Important Dates

Thursday, November 10, 2011 - Deadline for all Communion Date changes

Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011 - Child's Picture - quarter to cover child's face - write child's name on back of photo

Sunday, January 22, 2012 - Communion Payment due

Sunday, January 22, 2012 -2:00 pm to 4:00 pm - Sacramental Retreat - Potter Ray Boswell - in Community Hall

Early January - Children tested on their prayers during religious education classes - Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, and Act of Contrition

Friday, February 3, 2012, 6:30 pm- 1<sup>st</sup> Penance    OR

Saturday, February, 4, 2012, 11:00 am - 1<sup>st</sup> Penance

Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> through March 18<sup>th</sup> - Bulletin Project - 7 Sundays

Late February -measurements for Communion robes taken at religious education classes

Sunday March 25, 2012, 12:30 to 2:30 pm- Banner Workshop in Community Hall

March/April 2012 -Photographer -Date to be determined - when I receive more information I will forward it on to you.

## Communion Ceremony Dates

Saturday, April 21, 11:00 am - Communion Rehearsal in the church

Sunday April 22, 11:00 am - Communion Ceremony - children arrive by 10:30 am

Saturday, April 28, 11:00 am - Communion Rehearsal in the church

Sunday April 29, 11:00 am - Communion Ceremony - children arrive by 10:30 am

Saturday, May 5, 11:00 am - Communion Rehearsal in the church

Sunday May 6, 11:00 am - Communion Ceremony - children arrive by 10:30 am

Friday, May 11, 6:30 pm - Communion Rehearsal in the church

Saturday May 12, 5:30 pm - Communion Ceremony - children arrive by 5:00 pm

# Lead by Example

Make practicing your faith one of the priorities in your family's life.

## First Penance

### ❖ Teach your children:

- **Read book together with your children** – they will be asked questions from it.
- **Prayers:** Basic Prayers (Hail Mary, Our Father, Glory Be) and Act of Contrition
- **The Great Commandment** - explain the “**Great Commandment**”

**“You shall love the Lord your God, with all your heart,  
with all your soul and with all your mind...  
You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”**

- Matthew 22:37,39

### ➤ What is Reconciliation?

- **What is a sin?** To knowingly do something wrong
- **4 Essential Elements of Reconciliation:**
  - ◆ **Contrition** – heartfelt sorrow for sins and desire not to sin anymore
  - ◆ **Confession** – Declaration of guilt to God in front of the priest
  - ◆ **Absolution** – granted by God through the priest; pardoned; given freely and is unconditional
  - ◆ **Act of Penance** – a way to set things right

- **The 6 Steps of Penance** – review often so the children are comfortable with the process

### ❖ Child's Photograph – due **Thursday, December 15, 2011** - face size of quarter, write child's name on back of picture

Parents, please help your children memorize these steps and the Act of Contrition on the reverse side.

## Six Steps of 1<sup>st</sup> Penance

Before celebrating the Sacrament of Penance we sit quietly and think about our sins.

This is called an *examination of conscience*.

**Step 1:** We enter the Reconciliation Room and are greeted by the priest. He invites us to pray the sign of the cross with him. We say, **“Forgive me Father for I have sinned, this is my first confession.”**

**Step 2:** We tell the priest our sins and say, **“I am sorry for all my sins.”**

**Step 3:** The priest asks us to pray the **“Act of Contrition”** (see reverse side) to express our sorrow for our sins.

**Step 4:** The priest gives us a penance to perform. Penance is prayers to pray, an act of kindness or both.

**Step 5:** We receive absolution (forgiveness). The priest holds his hands over our heads and says a prayer of absolution to which we say, **“Amen.”** The priest dismisses us by saying, **“Go in peace.”**

**Step 6:** We return to the pew and pray the penance the priest has given us and ask God to help us to sin no more.

## **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, my God, have mercy.

## Bulletin Assignment

**Sundays, February 5<sup>th</sup> through March 18<sup>th</sup>**

The children are to pick up a bulletin (labeled with their name) after mass at church for seven consecutive weeks. Each week the location of the bulletin will be different. The location will be announced at the end of mass from the pulpit. In the bulletin will be a brief explanation of that part of the church the bulletin was found in. Parents are to read the explanation to their child on the way home from the church or when they get home. The explanation may be briefly discussed in the children's religious education class.


Purpose: Familiarize children with the church; children and parents learning together

# First Communion

## First Communion Prep

- ❖ Read the book together with your child
- ❖ The Eucharist – Eucharist means Thanksgiving. It originates with the Hebrew practice of giving thanks to God at a meal.
  - The Last Supper – the first “1<sup>st</sup> Communion” – given to the apostles by Jesus at a Passover meal and the apostles were asked by Jesus to continue the ritual and pass it onto others
  - Becoming the Body and Blood of Christ – As Catholics we believe that after the bread and wine are consecrated it is transformed into the real presence of Jesus Christ, not symbolic
  - Jesus is always within us, we are His church
- ❖ Encourage child to come up for Eucharist with you but have them keep their arms folded across their chest so that the Eucharistic Minister knows not to give them the host.

## Retreat – Sunday, January 22, 2012 – 2:00pm to 4:00pm

- ❖ Potter Ray Boswell – the entire family is welcome; babysitting will be available for younger siblings
  - Presentation – about 1 hr. followed by decorating of goblet – Shh...  ...  
Please try to keep the goblet a surprise for the children

## Banner Workshop – Sunday, March 25, 2012 - 12:30pm to 2:30pm

- ❖ entire family welcome; babysitting will be available for younger siblings
- ❖ will send out banner ideas beforehand so you can plan ahead
- ❖ Bring scissors, a couple of special items the children might want to include on their banner
- ❖ Banners turned in at the end of session
- ❖ Banners will be hung in the Narthex the week before your child's Communion Ceremony and on the family pew during the ceremony.

## Ceremony

### ❖ Robes


- measuring late February
- please no veils during ceremony - veils may be worn in the church after the ceremony for pictures

❖ Each family is assigned their own pew

❖ Let me know via email of any family members who wish to participate in the mass (i.e. altar servers, deacon, priest, lectors, etc.)

## Rosary Gift Shop

❖ Rosary Beads - a gift from the Rosarians to the children given at rehearsal

- Shh...  ... it's a surprise for the children

❖ Open - Sundays 8:30am to noon or by appointment

❖ New items in January 2012

## Photography

❖ Optional individual photography packages offered by professional photographer- **Date to be determined** - will forward more information when I receive it. A robe will be available for use if desired.

❖ **No personal photography at the Communion Ceremony\***

❖ **No \$15 professional photography charge included in Communion Fee.**

❖ DVD of ceremony (optional) - \$5

\* Due to disruptions during the religious ceremony Fr. Len does not want the families taking pictures. Since there were objections to using a professional photographer for the ceremony I am investigating other options. If no suitable solution can be found know that you are able to take as many pictures as you would like in the church **AFTER the ceremony ONLY**. After the ceremony the girls may also wear a veil in the church for photographs.