

Is My Child ready to celebrate the Sacraments?

Parent Reflection Page



Celebration of First Eucharist

First Eucharist is a significant milestone in the initiation process of a child and in a child's relationship with God. It is an important event not only for the child, but also for the family and the parish. We believe that preparation for First Eucharist is a parental responsibility and we assist the families by providing family meetings and workshops for the children.

Is my child ready to prepare for First Eucharist?

As with all developmental issues, not every child is ready for this sacrament at the same time. Generally, we advise parents by asking:

- Do you bring your child/children to Mass with you each week?
- Does he/she participate in the prayer responses and hymns as appropriate to his/her age?
- Does your child attend the Children's Liturgy of the Word?
- Does your child attend Faith Formation at St. Mark or a Catholic school?
- Is your child interested in learning more about Jesus?
- Will your family support your child in learning about his/her faith so that he/she will be able to continue to practice the faith into which he/she has been initiated?

At St. Mark the Evangelist, children of registered families, who have been baptized in the Catholic faith, who are in 2nd grade, and who have completed one year of Faith Formation are invited to participate in the preparation process. Registrations are accepted from September through December, with workshops beginning in January.

Dates for parent meetings, student workshops, Mini-Retreat, and the celebration of the Sacrament will be announced at the time of registration for this program. Each family will have an interview with a staff member prior to the celebration of First Eucharist.

Interviews are by appointment only and must be scheduled through the Children's Ministry Coordinator.

Celebration of First Reconciliation

We encourage children to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the fourth grade or before. At this age children usually demonstrate the ability to distinguish between mistakes and conscious wrong choices.

Is my child ready to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

Parents are encouraged to reflect on these questions in determining the readiness of their child. It is important to remember, as with all developmental issues, not everyone is ready at the same time.

- Does your family regularly participate in weekly Mass and other parish worship services? Does your child pray alone? Do you pray together?
- Does your child experience accountability and loving forgiveness as a part of family life?
- Does he/she have a sense of responsibility appropriate to his/her age?
- Is your child able to listen to and understand Scripture and prayers?
- Will your family support your child in learning about his/her faith so that your family can regularly celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation?



At St. Mark the Evangelist, children of registered families, who have been baptized in the Catholic faith, who are in 4th grade or before, and who are participating in Faith Formation, are invited to participate in the preparation process. Registration begins in May, with workshops beginning in late August or September.

Dates for parent/student meetings and the celebration of the Sacrament will be announced at the time of registration for this program. Each family will have an interview with a staff member prior to the celebration of First Reconciliation. **Interviews are by appointment only and must be scheduled through the Children's Ministry Coordinator.**