

# St. Joseph Basilica Preparation for First Reconciliation and Eucharist 2018-2019

**Regular participation  
in Sunday Liturgy**

*Practicing  
forgiveness*



**Class time and home  
study**

**PRAYING TOGETHER**

*Sharing stories*

**Caring for others:**  
*Food Bank,  
Angel Giving Project,  
ERS Rice Bowl...*

*Family  
Meals*



## **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 or attendance at Catholic school, 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 Basilica 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 parish community during special Saturday liturgies, to enable the children to experience our wider faith community in this important step on their faith journey.

## SCHEDULE

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

### **Saturday October 27, 2018**

- **Sacrament Preparation Family Mass at 5:00 PM.** 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, followed by...
- **Potluck Dinner** in Notre Dame Hall for the entire family. Utensils, plates and water provided. Bring your favorite dish and/or non-alcoholic beverage to share.

### **Sunday February 10, 2019**

- **Sacrament Preparation Family Mass at 9:30 AM.** The parish community will pray for the children in preparation for the upcoming Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- **Family Meeting 10:45-11:45 AM** in Notre Dame Hall for all children who will receive sacraments this year and their parents or guardians, to explore the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

### **Monday February 11, 2019**

- **First Reconciliation.** Children and parents attend together at 6:30 PM. (Seated by 6:15)

### **Sunday March 10**

- **Sacrament Preparation Family Mass at 9:30 AM.** The parish community will pray for the children in preparation for the upcoming celebration of First Eucharist.
- **Family Session 10:45 – 11:45** in Notre Dame Hall. For all children who will receive First Eucharist this year and their parents or guardians.

### **Wednesday May 1 or 8, at 6:00 PM**

- Rehearsal in Basilica for First Eucharist the following Saturday.

### **Saturday May 4 or 11, at 11:00 AM**

- **First Eucharist.** You will be provided with an opportunity later to indicate your preference which we hope to be able to accommodate.



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

- Ω Family has registered as parishioners of St. Joseph Basilica.
- Ω Child is baptized as a Catholic. **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.)
- 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 and Family Sessions.

## **PARISH PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:**

- Ω Regular attendance at Faith Formation classes or Catholic school (and if 4<sup>th</sup> grade or older, also Sacrament Preparation classes).
- Ω Weekly participation in Sunday Mass or Saturday Vigil (at any Catholic church).
- Ω Three Family Masses at St. Joseph
- Ω Parent or guardian's and child's attendance at two Family Sessions.
- 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 materials provided by the teacher or catechist.
- Ω Register for FORMED ([www.sjbalameda.formed.org](http://www.sjbalameda.formed.org)) and view videos such as *Brother Francis: Bread of Life* (for younger children) or *Presence: For Children and Forgiveness: For Children* with your child
- Ω Invite your child's godparents to take part in this time of preparation.

## **HELP YOUR CHILD GET MORE FROM MASS:**

- Ω Join the planning team for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist liturgies.
- Ω Volunteer with [Children's Liturgy of the Word](#).
- Ω Participate in the monthly [Family Mass](#).

For information contact Director of Faith Formation Anne Marie Fourré at 510-995-9409 or [afourre@sjbalameda.org](mailto:afourre@sjbalameda.org).

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