

Preparation for First Communion and First Reconciliation

Sacraments of Initiation

While preparation for the Sacraments of First Communion/First Reconciliation are primarily the parents' responsibility, Blessed Sacrament Parish offers programs to assist the parents in their role. Classroom teachers will also discuss the sacraments and help the child prepare to receive them, but the parents must take the primary role in teaching their child about these sacraments. Ultimately it is the parents' duty to be sure their child is ready to receive these sacraments and are in the best position to determine if their child understands and desires to celebrate these expressions of our faith. The sacrament of Reconciliation must be received before the child can make his/her First Communion.

Parents' responsibility

At least one parent and child are required to attend the meetings for both First Reconciliation and First Communion. These meetings will introduce the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist to your child. You will have the opportunity to purchase study guides (At-Home study program) for both of these sacraments that will enable you to teach your child about the sacraments and to prepare them for the reception of the sacraments. You may find the following web site helpful in preparing your child for these sacraments: www.growingupcatholic.com/Englishpages/Eucharist.html and www.growingupcatholic.com/Englishpages/Reconciliation.html.

Checklist for First Reconciliation and First Communion

Parents must:

1. Attend weekly Mass with your child.
2. Bring the child's baptismal certificate to the office by November 20. (Unless the child was baptized at BSC.)
3. Attend both preparation meetings with your child.
4. Attend the First Reconciliation service with your child.
5. Attend the Rehearsal meeting for First Communion with your child.
6. Sign up for the First Communion Mass time of your choice.
7. Help prepare your child for First Reconciliation and First Communion by doing the "At-Home" study programs.

Children must:

1. Attend Mass weekly.
2. Be baptized.
3. Be faithful in attending Religious Education classes or attending SES catholic school where taught daily.
4. Have completed the "At-Home" study programs.
5. Attend the meetings for both sacraments.
6. Attend the First Reconciliation service.
7. Attend the rehearsal meeting for First Communion.

Essential Conditions for the Reception of First Communion

It is necessary that a child:

- Believe that the Eucharist is TRULY the BODY and BLOOD of Jesus
- Have a DESIRE to receive Him