

FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST EUCHARIST FACT SHEET:

Here is a quick overview of everything you need to know about your son or daughter receiving their sacraments this year.

OVERVIEW:

Parents will be asked to teach their children. Each child will receive their own book for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. The book is theirs to keep. Erin Nieves will be verifying that the work has been completed (see completion deadlines below). Two parent meetings have been scheduled to prepare parents to teach their children. Those dates are:

- ❖ **Parent Meeting #1 – October 10** for First Reconciliation (held during class time in the school library)
- ❖ **Parent Meeting #2 – January 30** for First Eucharist (held during class time in the school library)

These parent meetings will be to distribute books, provide instruction and to answer questions about our sacramental program.

ALL IMPORTANT DATES:

- ✓ **PARENT MEETING #1 – October 10, 2010**
- ✓ **Home Work for Reconciliation – Books due in class by Sunday, Nov. 21st.**
- ✓ **FIRST RECONCILIATION – Saturday, December 4th at 3:00 PM**
- ✓ **PARENT MEETING #2 – January 30, 2011.**
- ✓ **Home Work for Eucharist – Books due at retreat. Saturday, April 16th.**
- ✓ **FIRST EUCHARIST- All Masses on the weekend of April 30th and May 1st.**

DETAILS FOR CELEBRATION OF EACH SACRAMENT:

First Reconciliation:

Children will prepare to go to confession with lessons taught by parents at home. Books will be handed out at Parent Meeting #1 and families will have the months of October and November to complete their lessons. Students will receive the Sacrament of First Reconciliation on **Saturday, December 4th in the church**. This is a very simple ceremony which begins with prayer followed by each of the children going to private confession with Fr. Dave. We will follow this with a short reception to celebrate down in the Fireside Room. Reconciliation will begin promptly at 3:00 PM and all should be finished by 4:30 PM if not before. Dress should be church clothes but does NOT need to be fancy.

First Eucharist:

Celebration of First Eucharist is a special time for your children and for your family. We will hold First Communions at regular Saturday and Sunday Masses on the weekend of April 30th and May 1st. Families will be given an opportunity to choose a weekend liturgy from our weekend offering (Saturday, 5:30 PM and Sunday, 8:00, 9:30 and 11:15 AM). Mass selection will be requested and honored on a first come, first served basis. Having children receive their sacrament in the presence of our parish faith community allow the children to be recognized and supported by the parish and makes the celebration a special time for our parish community as well.

Normal dress for First Communion is a white dress with optional veil for the girls and shirt and dress slacks for boys. The following are two photos to use as an example:



OTHER INFORMATION – RETREAT, PHOTOGRAPHS and RECEPTION

All students are invited to participate in our **First Communion Retreat on Saturday, April 16th from 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM**. Children should plan to meet and dismiss from the school cafeteria. For more information watch for more information as the date approaches.

Photos will be taken at all Masses by a professional photographer on First Communion weekend. Each child will be photographed as they receive their sacrament. Purchasing photos is **OPTIONAL**. Envelopes will be given to families in advance of the ceremony for ordering pictures. Because this is during Mass we ask that families refrain from taking family pictures until Mass is over. There will be a reception after Masses. Time and details to be determined.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

Feel free to contact Erin Nieves in the parish office at (503)643-9528, ext. 126 or by email at Erin@h-t.org. **AND RELAX!** This is a sweet and special time for all of you. Be assured that this celebration will be a time that you will all remember and we are here to help and guide you each step of the way.