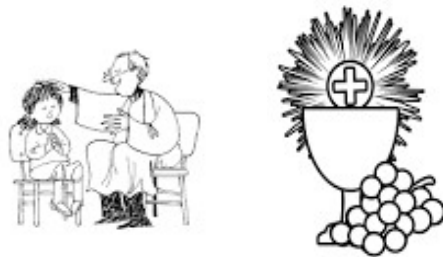


Our Lady of Lourdes

***300 Central Avenue
Mountainside, NJ 07092***

First Reconciliation and First Holy Eucharist Handbook 2022-2023



Rev. Jeivi M. Hercules, Administrator
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Mrs. Cynthia DiPietro, Assistant Director, Faith Formation

Important Phone Numbers and Email Addresses

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A special note for parents: *These two Sacraments your child will be receiving this year are very special. Please emphasize this at home. The best thing you can do is participate in the Sacraments yourself and be an example for your children. We will spend the first half of the year focusing on the Sacrament of First Reconciliation and after the children have made the Sacrament, we will then focus on First Holy Eucharist. Please remember that the children need to know that these Sacraments are extremely important. We ask that you do your part to work with your children at home and meet our mandatory requirements. Not following these policies and mandatory requirements may delay your child from receiving the Sacraments.*

FIRST RECONCILIATION/FIRST EUCHARIST 2022-2023

Tues. Sept. 27, 2022, 7:00PM Parent Meeting **in person**

Sun. Oct. 9, 2022, 9:30AM Rite of Enrollment **Mass**/First Reconciliation

Fri. Oct. 21, 2022, 7:00PM Potter Family Retreat

Sat. Dec. 10, 2022, 9:30AM-12:30PM First Reconciliation Family Retreat
(Sacrament Books Due)

Sat. Jan. 7, 2023, 11:00AM First Reconciliation Family Prayer
Service followed by individual confessions

Sat. Jan. 21, 2023, 11:00AM First Rec Family Prayer Service followed by individual confessions
(snow make-up)

Sun. Feb. 5, 2023, 9:30AM Rite of Enrollment **Mass**/First Eucharist

Sun. Feb. 12, 2023, 9:30AM Rite of Enrollment Mass/First Eucharist
(snow make-up)

Sat. March 11, 2023, 9:30AM-12:30PM First Eucharist Family Retreat
(Sacrament Books Due)

Sat. March 18, 2023, 9:30AM-12:30PM First Eucharist Family Retreat
(snow make-up) (Sacrament Books Due)

Sat. April 29, 2023, 12:30PM Confessions/Sacrament Preparation
Family Faith and Catholic school children

Each child will be assigned one of these dates:

May 6, 2023, 10:30AM First Holy Eucharist Mass
(Rehearsal Mon. 5/1 @ 7:15PM)

May 13, 2023, 10:30AM First Holy Eucharist Mass
(Rehearsal Mon. 5/8 @ 7:15PM)

Policies and Mandatory Requirements

*Parents are required to attend the parent meeting on **Tuesday, September 27** at 7PM.

****All children enrolled in our First Reconciliation and First Eucharist program must attend Mass weekly.*** The best way to teach our children about our faith and the Sacraments is to bring them to Mass weekly.

*All children enrolled in our First Reconciliation and First Eucharist program must attend the mandatory retreats, Masses, rehearsals, etc., in addition to regular classroom attendance. **There are no makeup dates for missed events.** If there is a family emergency or sudden illness, call the Faith Formation Office ASAP.

*Sacramental preparation will be a combination of work done at home and at our Sacramental events. Books will be distributed for both Reconciliation and Eucharist and must be completed at home and returned by the due dates. It is important to work on these books together to ensure that your child is prepared for our Sacramental events. The books will be graded by the director and a quiz will be given to students on the material. There will be a \$20 fee for lost books.

*The prayer guide on the last page of this handbook must be studied at home.

*All children enrolled in our faith formation program must attend the required number of faith formation classes and may not exceed the allowed number of absences as stated in our Faith Formation Family Handbook.

*All children are required to go to confession in the weeks leading up to First Holy Eucharist. Those in our Traditional Classroom Model will have the opportunity for confession while in class. Those in our Family Faith Formation program and Catholic School students will be required to attend confession on Saturday, April 29 at 12:30PM. This meeting will also include extra Communion instruction that the weekly students will receive in class.

*There is a required \$100 Sacramental Fee per child due at registration.

Frequently Asked Questions About Reconciliation

Q: How will I know if my child is ready to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

A: Be sure your child understands the difference between accidental and deliberate wrongs. Also, your child should understand the need to say, "I'm sorry," when he/she hurts another person. Finally, be sure your child can forgive others who apologize to him/her.

Q: What concepts does my child need to understand to receive the Sacrament?

A: *God is always willing to forgive those who are truly sorry and asks them to forgive others in return.

*The priest and church have a special role in bringing us God's forgiveness.

*People need to say, "I'm sorry," for what they have done wrong and try to make up for what they have done wrong.

Q: Do we call it confession, penance, or reconciliation?

A: All 3 terms are acceptable, but the best term to describe the process is Reconciliation. It stresses the purpose of the Sacrament which is reconciling with God, with the Church, with others, and with oneself.

Q: How will the children receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

A: At Our Lady of Lourdes, we teach the children to speak to the priest face to face.

Frequently Asked Questions About First Holy Eucharist

Q: How will I know when my child is ready to receive First Eucharist?

A: Parents, catechists, and the pastor/administrator share the responsibility of determining a child's readiness. A child's desire to receive First Eucharist is important. To receive First Eucharist, the Church requires that a child be able to distinguish that the Body and Blood of Christ are different from the regular bread and drink we serve at the dinner table. They must affirm our faith that the Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Christ and is present within us.

Q: Does the child need to fast?

A: Yes, Church law requires Catholics to fast from food or beverage for one hour before Mass.

Q: Will my child receive the Eucharist in the mouth or in the hand?

A: We will teach both and the children may receive however they are comfortable.

Q: Is my child required to drink from the cup?

A: At this time, due to COVID, the cup is not being offered to the congregation.

If the Cardinal implements new policies, we will address them before the First Communion Masses.

Q: Will we be able to take photos at the First Holy Eucharist Mass?

A: No, photos and videotaping will not be allowed during the Mass. A professional photographer will be taking photos at the Mass. The photographer will be available before and after Mass for portraits. Also, after Mass, you may take photos inside the Church.

Dress Code

The Sacrament of First Reconciliation

The Sacrament will be part of a prayer service so we ask the children to dress nicely.

Boys: Please wear a nice shirt and slacks.

Girls: Please wear a dress, skirt and blouse, or shirt and slacks.

The Sacrament of First Holy Eucharist

Boys: Navy blue suit, white tie, and dark colored dress shoes. A white flower on left lapel is allowed.

Girls: White dress, white shoes, head piece and/or veil.

*no gloves, Rosaries, Bibles, flower bouquets, purses, or religious articles may be carried.

Our Lady of Lourdes
Faith Formation Program

Prayers, Grade 2

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.



Amen.

The Great Commandments

“You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Matthew 22

Ten Commandments

1. Love and Honor God.
2. Honor God's name.
3. Keep Sunday Holy.
4. Honor your father & mother.
5. Do not kill.
6. Keep your body Holy.
7. Do not steal.
8. Do not lie.
9. Be pure in mind and heart.
10. Be happy with what you have.

The Two Parts of the Mass

The Liturgy of the Word

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

