

MONTH BY MONTH

First Reconciliation and First Eucharist

IMPLEMENTATION STEPS FOR THE PARISH-BASED SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAM

The program is entitled *Celebrate and Remember Reconciliation* and *Celebrate and Remember Eucharist*. The program is published by St. Mary's Press.

APRIL

- First Eucharist Session 3
- Visit the existing Grade 1 class of the parish school. Find out how many Catholic children are in the class. Large parishes add 10 to this number; small parishes add 5. Let Fr. Bill Moloney know how many children's books you will need.
- Issue the letter to parents of Grade 1 children introducing them to the Grade 2 year of sacramental preparation and inviting parents of children who have not been baptized to contact the pastor as soon as possible.
- Call forth parish-based catechists. Ensure a balance on the parish-based catechetical team with good representation from licensed teachers who are either currently teaching in a school or who have retired from teaching. You will likely need one catechist for every ten children. This calculation gives you an idea of how many catechists you will need to encourage and support.
- Let Fr. Bill Moloney know how many Catechist's Manual you will need - one for each catechist and one for the pastor.

MAY

- First Eucharist Retreat and Celebration of First Eucharist
- Schedule the sacramental preparation sessions for the 16-17 school year as follows:

September

Introductory Session

Distribute books, review expectations, blessing of parents and children

October

First Reconciliation Session 1

November

First Reconciliation Session 2

December

First Reconciliation Session 3

January

First Reconciliation Session 4

Retreat* for First Reconciliation possibly including celebration of the sacrament

(*May be part of Session 4)

February

First Eucharist Session 1

March

First Eucharist Session 2

April

First Eucharist Session 3

May

First Eucharist Retreat

- Meet with the Principal and Grade 2 teachers to discuss the dates you propose for the 16-17 sacramental preparation schedule. Make sure there are no conflicts and where a schedule bump arises, work this out together. Provide dates for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist to the school administration and staff so that they can plan to attend.
- Let the Principal know that there will be monthly sacramental preparation information to be shared with the parents through the school in their newsletter and/or on their website.

JUNE

- Issue the letter to parents of Grade 1 students who will be in Grade 2 next year and ask that it be included in the June report card.
- Advise parents that there is a \$25 fee for each of the sacraments totaling \$50 over the year. Advance notice about the fee assists parents with their financial planning.
- There will be at least two training sessions for parish-based catechists with multiple opportunities to attend each session.

- Invite mentor parents who have been through sacramental preparation to return or join the program next year to support other parents in their roles as the first educators in the faith.

SEPTEMBER

- Confirm times/dates/locations and provide the Principal with the monthly sacramental preparation information to be shared with the parents through the school in their newsletter and/or on the school website.

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First Eucharist Retreat

- Schedule the Rite of Enrollment for a Sunday in September or October before the first sacramental preparation session for First Reconciliation.
- Host a Parent Information Night at the Parish
- Issue the letter to parents of Grade 2 children introducing them to the sacramental preparation program and reminding parents of children who have not been baptized to contact the pastor as soon as possible.
- Plan to take attendance at each session and let the pastors know who attended your parish session from their parish. (Advice: Release the schedule of sessions one or two months at a time so that you can monitor attendance and communicate with other parishes where necessary.)

OCTOBER

- First Reconciliation Session 1

NOVEMBER

- First Reconciliation Session 2

DECEMBER

- First Reconciliation Session 3

JANUARY

- First Reconciliation Session 4
- First Reconciliation Retreat
- Celebration of First Reconciliation
- Schedule the Rite of Enrollment for a Sunday in January before the first sacramental preparation session for First Eucharist

FEBRUARY

- First Eucharist Session 1

MARCH

- First Eucharist Session 2

APRIL

- First Eucharist Session 3
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