



St. Anthony Catholic Church
Religious Education Program

2018-2019

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Sacrament of Eucharist
Parent Handbook

“Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.” (Matthew 19:14)

Reverend Richard Smith
Pastor
Reverend John Sponder
Parochial Vicar

Deacon Tony Schlott
Religious Education Program Director

St. Anthony Parish
☞ Religious Education Program ☞

MINISTRY BY OUR CLERGY

Our Deacons will be available to work with students on special occasions and will make classroom visits throughout the year.

Deacon Rich Rosko ☞ Deacon Don Berkey
Deacon Bill Boucek ☞ Deacon Joe Johnson
Deacon Tony Schlott

✠ REP Contact Information

Director: Deacon Tony Schlott Tony@stanthonyfrankfort.com
815-469-6072 ext 149

REP Staff Support: Kathleen Depre REP@stanthonyfrankfort.com
815-469-6072 ext 142

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM REGULAR OFFICE HOURS
Sun (on lesson weeks): 7:00am - 12:00 Noon
Mon - Thurs 8:30am - 4:30pm; Fri 9:00 - Noon
Tues & Wed (on lesson weeks): 1:00pm - 6:30pm

The Religious Education Office for Grades 1-8 is located in the Padua Center, which is behind the main Church building at 7659 West Sauk Trail, Frankfort, Illinois 60423.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Since your child was an infant you have been teaching him or her how to make good choices and to recognize the difference between good and bad actions. This important task of teaching your child to make good choices also took place when you explained how to share, how to speak respectfully to others, and how to play fairly. You, yourself, modeled these behaviors too; perhaps you said you were sorry when you had been unkind. These actions teach your child to do the same. How the Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated may have changed somewhat since the time when you first received it as a child. But some things remain constant. The primary lessons about forgiveness and acceptance continue to come from family experiences. Your child has probably experienced this many times when she or he has had to express sorrow for an unloving or selfish act at home. When you have forgiven your child during such times, you set an example of love and forgiveness. Through your actions, your child has learned to trust and say "I'm sorry." It is through these normal forgiving moments that your child grows in his or her trust in God.

The best way to communicate to your child the importance of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is to frequent the sacrament as a family. Maybe you can attend the Parish Advent Penance Service or on Saturday afternoon come to the regular Confession time and go to Confession together. Even children who have not yet celebrated their First Reconciliation will benefit from this because they will see how important the sacrament is to their older siblings and their parents. If your children do not see you going to Confession on a regular basis then they will grow to believe that the sacrament is not very important.

Father Smith, and all of us here at St. Anthony, are here to help you and your child learn together and experience the merciful love of our God. We are dedicated to ensuring that your child's first experience will be positive, prayerful and reverent.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation Textbook

The curriculum for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be the *Faith and Life* Series Book Two: **Jesus Our Life**. The purpose of the curriculum is to give the children sacramental preparation and to help the students appreciate God's love for them shown in this Sacrament. Students will study the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation to receive it for the first time. Students will learn about sin, God's mercy, confession of sins, reconciliation, the steps to a good confession, and the matter, form, effects, and minister of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is studied in Chapters 17, 18, 19, 20, and 30. Each of the 5 sessions contains:

- † A prayer and Scripture story that provides a framework for understanding the aspect of Reconciliation being explained
- † Catechesis on a part of the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- † A special page to show the children a summary of the session objectives and ideas
- † Activities and questions in every lesson to engage the child's imagination, memory and reasoning
- † Homework encouraging and assisting in parental involvement

First Reconciliation: Scope and Sequence

The Scope and Sequence below shows each story and objective to be covered in class.

Chapter Topic	Scripture	Proclamation	Aims
17 Asking Forgiveness CCC: 1451-53	The Forgiving Father Psalm 103:8	God's mercy is greater than any sin. God is always calling us back to Himself.	Students learn to ask for forgiveness when they have turned from God. God will always forgive us when we are truly sorry.
18 Jesus Forgives CCC: 1440-41, 1456, 1449	Jesus Forgives (Luke 5:24)	When we are truly sorry for our sins Jesus forgives us.	Students will learn that Jesus is always ready to forgive them of their sins and they can receive God's forgiveness, mercy, and grace in the Sacrament of Penance.
19 The Sacrament of Penance CCC: 1451, 1454, 1456, 1459-60, 1468-69	Receive the Holy Spirit (John 20: 22-23)	In the Sacrament of Penance the Priest acts in the person of Christ. We should prepare to talk to Jesus and listen to Him.	Students will learn that Jesus meets them with love in the Sacrament of Penance. They can draw close to Jesus by making a good confession.
20 Making up for Our Offenses CCC: 1459-60	The Story of Zacchaeus (Luke 19:8)	Jesus forgives us and heals us in the Sacrament of Penance. Because of His mercy and healing we will not want to sin again and we will want to make up for our offenses.	Students will learn that there are many ways that they can makeup for their sins. That all penances should be done in love united to Jesus and that God's grace can help them grow in virtue.
30 The Coming of the Holy Spirit CCC: 685	The Descent of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:2-3)	The Church is Christ's Body. Just as a body is made up of many parts, so the Church consists of many members: the Pope, bishops, priests, deacons, religious, and the laity.	Students will have a basic understanding of the initial growth of the Church and that the Holy Spirit is their friend, teacher, and comforter who will lead them to do God's will.

CCC=Catechism of the Catholic Church



First Reconciliation Night

Examination of Conscience

An “examination of conscience” is when you spend some time in prayer searching your heart and calling to mind the sins you have committed since your last confession. Here are some things to think about:

- † Did I miss Mass on PURPOSE on a Sunday or Holy Day? (Do not confuse this with your parents not taking you to Mass. You are only required to ask them to take you.)
- † Was I late to mass through MY own fault?
- † Did I laugh, talk, or play in church?
- † Was I disobedient to anyone looking after me?
- † Did I talk back to anyone taking care of me?
- † When I had a chance to do something nice, did I choose not to do it?
- † Did I fight with someone?
- † Did I use angry words?
- † Did I cheat on school work or tests?
- † Did I try to “get even” with someone?
- † Did I use bad words?
- † Did I steal something?
- † Did I tell any lies?
- † Did I call anyone bad names?
- † Was I mean to other people (even brothers and sisters)?
- † Did I tease someone unkindly?

The Act of Contrition

There are many different forms of the Act of Contrition. The parish has established the version that we ask those who are in preparation for the sacrament to learn. The version we have chosen is shown below. We understand that some of your children may already know another version and any prayer that communicates to the priest that you are sorry for your sin and you resolve to avoid that sin in the future will work just as well. But, we ask that you still teach this version to your child. This version was chosen because it seems to be the one that most families know. In addition, because of its rhythmic nature, it is easier to learn by heart. Please try your best to make sure that your child learns the Act of Contrition before the day of First Reconciliation.

The Act of Contrition Prayer

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You, and
I detest all of my sins because of Your just punishments,
but most of all because they offend You, my God,
who are all good and deserving of all my love.
I firmly resolve, with the help of Your grace
to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen.

The Rite of Reconciliation

Child:

1. In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
2. Bless me, Father, for I have sinned.
3. This is my First Confession. **OR:** It has been _____ weeks since my last confession .
4. These are my sins: (name your sins).
5. For these and all the sins of my whole life, I am truly sorry.

Priest:

- A. Gives words of advice or suggestions.
- B. Gives child penance (often this will be prayers to be said in the Church after Confession).
- C. Priest asks child to say an Act of Contrition.

Child:

An Act of Contrition

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You,
and I detest all of my sins because of Your just punishments,
but most of all because they offend You, my God,
who are all good and deserving of all my love.
I firmly resolve, with the help of Your grace
to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin.

Priest:

Gives absolution (the prayer which removes ones sins).

Child:

Thank you, Father.

Why Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation?
Why not go Directly to God? -Ten Good Reasons

1. Of course, go to God in prayer. We should do so each day. The Sacrament of Reconciliation calls for personal reflection and private prayer, too.
2. There is Scriptural support for the Church possessing the ministry of forgiveness, including:
 - Matthew 16:19
 - 2 Corinthians 5:18-20
3. Writings and practices from the first generations of Christianity show a clear understanding of the Church as having the key role in conveying penance and reconciling the sinner with the community of faith.
4. Reconciliation to *whom?* To self, God *and* the community. Sin is not just about me and God. The priest represents the community (that has been fractured by one's sin) in his role as confessor.
5. Being alone in the examination of our sinfulness, we may be apt to rationalize sin away...as well as to sometimes judge ourselves too harshly.
6. The penance given in the Sacrament of Reconciliation serves as a reminder that sorrow and forgiveness needs to connect with actions that orient us to a new way of living.
7. The Sacrament of Reconciliation offers a decisive moment of forgiveness in the sacramental process.
8. Experiencing understanding and forgiveness through the priest is often powerfully healing and freeing. The priest may offer insights which can result in a more hopeful perspective going forward.
9. In the case of serious (mortal) sin, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is necessary to restore us to spiritual well-being (state of grace).
10. The Sacrament of Reconciliation conveys a grace that strengthens us for living our baptismal identity more faithfully.

Tom Quinlan
Director, Religious Education Office
Diocese of Joliet

The Sacrament Of Eucharist

When a toddler moves from the high chair to the family table, it is a celebration! This new seat signifies a change from baby or toddler to that of a “big boy or big girl.” The move brings new privileges and allows the child to become an active participant at the family table. First Communion parallels this family move and is just as significant in the journey of faith of your child. The Saint Anthony Parish family welcomes the awesome opportunity to share this powerful sacrament of God’s great love with your child and family.

The components of the sacramental programs are the beginning to and living out the Christian life. By attending such programs, the child and family are saying they want to be Catholic -- with a living and active faith. We here at St. Anthony Parish want your child to prepare with the class work but also want to include living the faith in daily life and by joining with the parish family for Sunday liturgies. *The celebration of First Communion is not just about one day, but rather a way of life.*

The Sacrament of Eucharist Textbook

The students will use the *Faith and Life* Series Book Two from Ignatius Press to prepare them for their First Communion. Students will study the Sacrament of the Eucharist in preparation to receive it for the first time. They will learn about the Passover, Last Supper, the institution of the Eucharist, transubstantiation, the priesthood, sacrifice, the order and parts of the Mass, personal union with Christ in Holy Communion, Eucharistic devotion, and the matter, form, effects, and minister of the Sacrament of the Eucharist. The children are prepared to celebrate the Sacrament of Eucharist for the first time and always with reverence, understanding, hope and joy; catechesis of the Eucharist presented is consistent with Vatican II theology; and the liturgy of the Mass is the central expression of our Catholic faith in which Christ is really present to us. There are six sessions with each containing:

- † Preparation
- † Celebration
- † Proclamation
- † Application
- † Celebration
- † Weekly Homework



First Eucharist: Scope and Sequence

The Scope and Sequence below shows each story and objective to be covered in class.

Chapter Topic	Scripture	Proclamation	Aims	
22	The Last Supper CCC: 1333, 1340, 1339-41, 1356, 1365	Jesus celebrated the Passover at the Last Supper (John 6:51)	Jesus loves and cares for His flock. Jesus is present in the Eucharist.	The Children will learn the story of the Passover; that Jesus wanted to stay with all those who love Him.
25	The Holy Mass CCC: 1357, 1360, 1362, 1366-67	Do this in remembrance of Me (Luke 22:19-20)	We go to Mass to praise and worship God and thank Him.	We celebrate Mass in obedience to Commandments and follow Jesus' instruction "Do this in Memory of Me".
27	Jesus Comes to Us CCC: 1375-76	He who eats this bread will live forever (John 6:58)	There are 2 main parts to Mass: the Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist.	The students will learn that the Consecration is the part of the Mass when the bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus.
28	Jesus, My Lord and My God CCC: 1385, 1387	Jesus comes to us in Holy Communion (John 17:26)	The bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus during the Consecration.	The students learn to receive Holy Communion worthily.
30	The Coming of the Holy Spirit CCC: 685	The Holy Spirit descended at Pentecost (Acts 2:2-3)	Jesus ascended to the Father and sent the Holy Spirit to teach us truth and to help us do the Father's will.	The students will learn how Mary and the Apostles prepared for the coming of the Holy Spirit.
33	Jesus is Always Present CCC: 1379-80	Praises to God forever and ever (Revelation 7:12)	We are called to keep our eyes on Christ so that we can be in heaven with Him.	The students will review that Jesus promised to be with the Church always.

CCC=Catechism of the Catholic Church



The Parts of the Liturgy of the Mass

- † Our celebration begins. The Priest and Deacon go to the altar. We stand and sing a welcome song.
- † We make the Sign of the Cross. The priest welcomes us with these words: “The Lord be with you.” We answer, “and with your Spirit.”
- † We remember our sins. Before we begin the liturgy, we ask God to forgive us.
- † We listen to God’s word in two readings from the Bible. At the end of each reading we say, “Thanks be to God.”
- † The Deacon proclaims the Gospel story. We stand and listen to the (gospel) good news of Jesus. We say, “Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.”
- † The priest or deacon explains the readings to us in a special talk called the homily. We listen carefully.
- † We stand and pray the Prayers of the Faithful. We ask God to help the Church, our country, and all of God’s people.
- † We bring the gifts of bread and wine to the altar for the celebration of the Eucharist with Jesus. We remember that Jesus always loves us.
- † The Priest offers our gifts of bread and wine to God.
- † We thank and praise God for all of our blessings. We especially thank God for the gift of Jesus.
- † The Priest prays as Jesus did at the Last Supper. Our gifts of bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.
- † The priest holds up the Body and Blood of Jesus. He says a prayer to praise God. We answer “Amen.”
- † We say the Lord’s Prayer. This is the prayer that Jesus taught us to say.
- † We offer one another a Sign of Peace. This is a sign that reminds us to live as Jesus teaches us to live.
- † When we share Jesus’ Body and Blood in the Eucharist, we promise to act like Jesus.
- † We receive God’s blessing through the Body and Blood of Jesus in communion. We answer, “Amen” which means “I believe.” Together we sing a communion song that gives thanks and praise for the gift of Jesus in the Eucharist.
- † We are sent out to love and serve all people.
- † After receiving Jesus in communion, we are called to be Christ to others.



The First Communion Liturgy

The Sacrament of the Eucharist will be taking place during a regular weekend Mass, not at a special Mass for First Communicants. The day of First Holy Communion is very special. The children will process in together in two lines, one for boys and one for girls and will sit together in the front rows. At the time of reception of the Eucharist, the children will form a line approaching the altar to receive Our Lord for the first time from the priest. A professional photographer(s) will be taking photos discretely as each child receives communion for the first time which you have the option of purchasing. **No personal photography during Mass.** Once all the first communicants have received the sacrament, then the congregation will proceed to receive communion.

This is the beginning of a lifelong celebration of the sacrament. Each time we receive the Eucharist, we receive Christ himself, and we understand this even more deeply as we grow in knowledge of the faith.

Preparing to Receive First Communion

Because reception of the Eucharist, especially for the first time, is integral to your child's full incorporation into the ecclesial community, the Pastor, through the Director of Religious Education, has a responsibility in determining every child's readiness to receive First Communion. Parents also have the right and duty to be involved in preparing their children for First Communion.

Service Hours

As we complete the preparation of the children to come to the table of the Lord, it is important for us to help them understand that being the Body of Christ in the world means to serve one another. We want the children to understand what it means to be bread for the hungry and the poor.

As part of the continued effort to live the Gospel, our First Communicants will perform 3 hours of service in the form of a service project or acts of service for others. The little boy in John's Gospel had only a few loaves of bread and a couple of dried fish but the story tells us that when he shared all he had; thousands of people were fed. Maybe your child doesn't have bread and fish, but they do have special gifts that God has given them. They can share these gifts to help others. As part of the preparation to receive the Eucharist, we ask that they choose something special to do to help or serve someone else. They may choose to do something by themselves or with their family.

It is our hope that through this service project, the children will begin to understand that getting involved in the ministry of helping others is the best way for them to learn about how they are to serve others and follow the example that Jesus gave us.

Pictures

No pictures are to be taken during the Mass as to maintain the reverence of the Mass. Parents are asked to convey this message to visiting family members. Before Mass, a group photo of the children will be taken with the pastor in the hall, which will be available for purchase immediately following. Families are welcome to take pictures of the group photo, and photos may be taken with your family and the pastor, around the church grounds, in the prayer garden - whatever you wish. **However, we must insist that families do not stand on the steps or on the sanctuary near the altar as that is designated as sacred.** A Parish sponsored professional photographer(s) will be taking photos of each child receiving the Sacrament and these will be available for immediate purchase after the ceremony in the hall. The photographer will be available for portraits before the ceremony. Appointments are required in advance. More information will be provided as the date draws near. No personal professional photographers or videographers are allowed.

Sacrament Materials Fee

A non-refundable Sacrament material fee of \$50 is required to cover additional costs associated with the Sacrament Program which will be added to your family's bill at the time of registration.

First Communion Practice

The children will practice receiving the Eucharist with unconsecrated hosts both in class and during the practice night. All students and at least one parent will need to attend a First Communion Practice. The evening will run about 60 minutes. The children will practice lining up, processing in, lining up to receive communion, and recessing. Where the child sits at practice may not be where they will be sitting for Mass.



First Reconciliation & First Communion Requirements

You are accountable for completing these requirements:

General Requirements of all Students

- Fulfill weekly Sunday Mass obligation with your family
- Candidate must wear appropriate attire for the sacraments
- Candidates must be properly instructed, by completing Catechesis with the Religious Education Program, attending at least 20 of the 24 sessions
- Completion of Service Hours - three parish, community or family hours of service are required
- Candidate must take a Sacrament test in class to be sure they understand the basics of the sacraments
- Candidate must successfully complete a Saint Report (included in their REP folder)



2018-2019 Sacraments Calendars of Events

October, 2018

- **Wednesday, October 10, 2018: Parent Sacrament Meeting**
 - 10:00-11:00am OR 6:00-7:00pm in the Memenas Hall

January, 2019

- **Week of Sunday, January 6, 2019 :**
 - Sacraments Study Guide passed out

February, 2019

- **Week of Sunday, February 10, 2019 :**
 - Saint Report and Service Hours Due
- **Week of Sunday, February 24, 2019 :**
 - In Class Sacrament Test will be given
- **April 3, 2019 First Reconciliation Night:**
 - 7:00--8:00pm for all First Communion students

May, 2019

- **May 2, 2019: First Communion Practice With Scapular Investiture**
 - 4:30pm OR 6:30pm

**Saturday, May 4: First Holy Communion
5:00 pm Mass
Sessions 1, 2**

**Sunday, May 5: First Holy Communion
9:00 am Mass
Session 3 & Tuesday**

**Sunday, May 5: First Holy Communion
Noon Mass
Wednesday & Non REP**

St. Anthony Catholic Church

Religious Education Program

7659 W. Sauk Trail – Frankfort, IL 60423

Phone: (815) 469-6072 Email: REP@stanthonyfrankfort.com

FAQ

First Communion – Frequently Asked Questions

FIRST COMMUNION – Can my child receive communion on the hand or on the tongue? Will my child receive the Precious Blood from the cup at First Communion?

The Church permits the faithful to receive communion on the tongue or on the hand. Both are valid and acceptable. There will not be an opportunity for the communicants to receive the Precious Blood on this day.

ATTIRE – What should my child wear for First Communion?

The dress code for the children will be proper church clothes. The girls wear a white dress, veil (optional), stockings and dress shoes. Gloves may not be worn during the Mass liturgy. The boys wear a shirt, tie, dress pants, and dress shoes. They may also wear a suit coat if they wish. The shirt and tie may be any color. Rosaries, prayer books, etc. may not be carried during the mass.

SEATING – What are the seating arrangements for First Communion?

*The communicants will process in with their classmates in two lines, one for boys and for girls. The children will sit in the front rows on either side with their classmates only. This may not be the same spot they sat in during practice. Families can sit anywhere else in the church. **Do Not reserve pews. There is no reserved seating.** When it is time to receive First Holy Communion, the communicants only will process up to receive from the priest. After all first communicants have received, the parents, family members and the rest of the congregation will receive the Eucharist.*

PHOTOGRAPHY - Will there be a professional photographer taking photos?

A Parish sponsored professional photographer(s) will take photos of each child receiving First Holy Communion and these will be made available for purchase. There is no obligation to purchase.

No personal photography during the Mass.

A group photo of all the first communicants will be taken in the hall immediately before they process into the Church for the First Communion Ceremony. Please be considerate of others and arrive on time.

*We are again having Professional Portrait Seating on the day of First Communion available BY APPOINTMENT ONLY and ONLY JUST PRIOR, NOT AFTER each ceremony in the hall. If interested, you must call **Tom Killoran Photography at 708-361-0025** to set the appointment in advance.*

