Saint Joseph Marello Parish



First Penance

First Holy Communion

 Information

**Sacramental Guidelines**

1. **Baptismal Certificates:** If your child received the Sacrament of Baptism at Mt. Carmel or St. Rocco’s we have your child’s records. If your child was baptized in another church, please make a copy or get a copy of the Baptismal Certificates by September 30th. This very important document is critical for the parish and Diocese of Scranton records.

2. **CCD Attendance** - Diocese requires children to have two year of preparation in either a catholic school or parish religious education program with good attendance in order to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion. It is very important for your child to attend religious education classes weekly.

*Catholic School Students***:** Catholic school students will participate daily in their Religious Education classes at their school. Catholic school students are required to attend scheduled parish programs of formation, e.g., retreats, masses and practices.

3. **Parent Meetings** - Parents are required to attend two parent meetings as per Diocese guidelines.

4. **Retreat** - Children are required to participate in a First Holy Communion retreat.

5. **Prayers** - Children are required to know the following prayers: The Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Angel of God, Prayer before Meals, and The Act of Contrition.

Parents, you are the primary teachers of your child's faith, please practice all prayers and the following information at home to help your child prepare and be ready for their First Penance and First Holy Communion.

**Prayers**

**1. The Sign of the Cross**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**2. Our Father**

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

**3. Hail Mary**

Hail, Mary, full of grace,  the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,  now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

**4. Glory Be**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

**5. Angel of God**

Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God’s love commits me here. Ever this day be at my side,  to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

**6. Prayer Before Meals**

Bless us, O Lord, and these thy gifts which we are about to receive from your goodness. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**7. Act of Contrition**

O my God,  I am heartily sorry for having offended you. And I detest all my sins because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell. 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 confess my sins,  to do penance,  and to amend my life.  Amen.

**Examination of Conscience for Children Using the Lord’s Prayer**

When I want to share in the sacrament of Reconciliation (confession), I first remember how much God loves me. I remember what kind of person Jesus calls me to be. I ask myself:

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.**

How often do I think about God?

How often do I

say my prayers?

Do I pay attention and participate at Mass?

**Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

Am I kind to others?

Do I do what Jesus wants me to do?

Do I share with others?

Am I helpful to my family and neighbors?

Do I show respect to my teachers and classmates?

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

Do I remember to say thank you?

Am I sometimes greedy?

Do I appreciate the good things I have in my life?

Do I think of ways to help those who have no food, clothes, shelter or money?

Do I take things that don't belong to me?

**Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

Do I say I’m sorry when I have been wrong?

Do I forgive and forget when someone does something bad to me?

Do I help solve problems between my friends or do I cause more trouble?

Do I say bad things about people who have hurt me?

**Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

Do I play fairly in sports and games?

Do I cheat in school?

Do I tell the truth?

Do I let other kids tempt me to do things I know I shouldn't do?

Do I tempt others?

Do I use my time wisely while on my computer/ipad?

Taken from Seven Frequently Asked Questions About Children and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, written for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee by Kathleen D. Beuscher, 2010

**Form of Confession**

You Begin:

**In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**.

**Bless me father for I have sinned.**

**This is my First Confession.**

**These are my sins.**

Tell your sins and then say:

**For these and for all of my sins, I am sorry.**

Father will forgive your sins in the name of Jesus.

This is called ABSOLUTION.

Father will tell you to say an Act of Contrition.

You say:

**O My God,**

**I am heartily sorry for having offended you.**

**And I detest all my sins**

**Because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell.**

**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 confess by sins,**

**To do penance,**

**And to amend my life. Amen.**

Father says:

I absolve you from your sins in the name of the father, and of the son, and of the Holy Spirit.

You say:

**Thank you, Father**.

**Church Etiquette**

1. You must attend Mass on Saturday or Sunday. (Third Commandment)

2. Do not chew gum or eat candy in church.

3. Bless yourself when you enter the church.

4. Genuflect properly before getting into the pew. Genuflect means to get down on your right knee and bless yourself. This is a sign of respect to God.

5. During Mass or any church service, kneel with your back straight. Do not lean back on the seat or hang over the seat in front of you.

6. During the Mass, pay attention and respond aloud to the priest or the lectors.

7. Do not talk or fool around during Mass or any other time you are in church.

8. When receiving communion, walk respectfully to the altar with your hands folded in prayer.

9. Receive appropriately in your mouth or in your hands. Say "Amen" when the priest says, "Body of Christ."

10. When you return to your pew, kneel upright and quietly until the Blessed Sacrament is returned to the Tabernacle.

* THE COMMUNION HOST IS TO BE SWALLOWED IMMEDIATLEY
* THE COMMUNION HOST IS NEVER TO BE TAKEN OUT OF THE MOUTH
* THE COMMUNION HOST IS NEVER TO BE SAVED TO GIVE TO SOMEONE ELSE
* THE COMMUNION HOST IS NEVER TO BE TAKEN OUTSIDE THE CHURCH

ANY OF THESE ACTIONS ARE A VERY SERIOUS DISRESPECT FOR GOD AND HIS DIVINE PRESENCE IN THE BLESSED SACRAMENT. TO DO ANY OF THESE IS A SERIOS SIN AGAINST JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST.

**Important Dates**

**First Penance**

* First Penance will be held on **Sunday February 12, 2017**. It will be held immediately after the 10:30 AM Mass. All students must attend Mass.
* Students are asked to be dressed in dressy casual clothes (no jeans or sneakers)
* Students should know the Act of Contrition for when they give their first confession.

**Class Retreat**

* The First Holy Communion retreat will be **Wednesday April 26, 2017** at Saint Gabriel's Monastery in Clarks Summit from 9 to 1:30.
* The bus will leave the church promptly at 8:15 and return around 2-2:15.
* Parents will need to send an excuse to their child's school teacher.
* Any parent wishing to chaperone can sign up at the second parent meeting. Cost for the chaperone will be $15.00 and can be paid at the meeting.

**First Holy Communion**

* Practices for First Holy Communion will be Monday May 1st and Tuesday May 2nd from 4:30 to 6. All Children must attend the practices.
* First Holy Communion will be held on **Saturday May 6, 2017** at 11:00 A.M.
* The children should be at the church on Saturday by 10:30. The group picture will be taken promptly at 10:30.

**Attire for First Holy Communion**

* Boys are to wear navy blue suits with a white shirt, white tie and dark dress shoes.
* Girls are to wear white communion dresses, white veils, tights or socks and white dress shoes. Please no gloves or purses at the church for the mass.

**Parent Meeting**

The next mandatory parent meeting will be held on January 30, 2016 at 4:45 in the church hall. Please make an effort to attend or send a representative.

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