

First Reconciliation & First Communion

at St. Michael's Parish 2011-2012

This year at St. Michael's Parish we are making some changes in Sacrament Preparation: In addition to an initial parent meeting and a retreat for both First Reconciliation and First Communion, ***we will also be having 3 classes for children and parents/guardians.*** Children & parents/guardians will also be expected to complete the workbook.

Please note: Your child must celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) **before** celebrating First Communion.

Baptism Certificates: If your child was not baptized at St. Michael's Parish, please bring a copy of your child's Baptism certificate with you to the Parent/Guardian meeting.

Cost: There will be a cost of \$25 for books and materials for both First Reconciliation and First Communion classes.

It is most important that the children & one parent/guardian attend every one of the classes!

FIRST RECONCILIATION (Confession/Penance) classes will take place at St. Michael's Church Hall on:

- Wednesday, October 19, 2011 - PARENTS/GUARDIANS ONLY - 7:00pm – 8:00pm
- Wednesday, October 26, 2011 - Parents & Children - 7:00pm – 8:00pm
- Wednesday, November 9, 2011 - Parents & Children - 7:00pm – 8:00pm
- Wednesday, November 16, 2011 - Parents & Children - 7:00pm – 8:00pm
- Saturday, November 26, 2011 – Retreat: 10:00am -12:00noon
(Group celebration times to be announced later)

FIRST COMMUNION classes will take place at St. Michael's Church Hall on:

- Wednesday, February 15, 2012 PARENTS/GUARDIANS ONLY - 7:00pm – 8:00pm
- Wednesday, February 29, 2012 - Parents & Children - 7:00pm – 8:00pm
- Wednesday, March 7, 2012 - Parents & Children - 7:00pm – 8:00pm
- Wednesday, March 14, 2012 - Parents & Children - 7:00pm – 8:00pm
- Saturday, March 24, 2012 – Retreat: 10:00am -12:00noon

Confirmation Classes

at St. Michael's Parish 2012

Baptism Certificates: If your child was not baptized at St. Michael's Parish, please bring a copy of your child's Baptism certificate with you to the first class.

Cost: There will be a cost of \$50 for books and materials.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES will take place at St. Michael's Church Hall from 6:30 pm – 8:30pm on:

- Wednesday, January 11, 2012– Parents & Children – Registration & First Class
- Wednesday, February 1, 2012 – Parents & Children
- Wednesday, March 21, 2012 – Parents & Children
- Wednesday, April 11, 2012 – Parents & Children
- Wednesday, May 2, 2012 (tentative) – Parents & Children
- Wednesday, May 23, 2012 – Parents, Children, & Sponsors – *Rehearsal*
- Wednesday, May 30, 2012 – Parents and Children – *Presentation of Certificates & Pot-Luck*

Confirmation to be celebrated on Pentecost Sunday, May 27, 2012 @ 1:30 pm

➤ **For more Information:** please contact Linda at the Parish office at 780- 986-3253

WHO IS READY?

Is my child, grandchild, or godchild ready to receive First Communion? This is an excellent question. Parents and those who take their place ought to ask themselves, "Is this child ready to receive communion for the first time?" While Church law does not state a specific age, it does use the term *age of reason*. When is the age of reason? This is most frequently when the child is seven years old. This would mean the child is (usually) in grade two.

There are two minimum requirements for a child to receive First Communion:

- 1) The child must be able to distinguish the Body of Christ from ordinary food and
- 2) the child must be able to receive communion with reverence.

In order for the minimum requirements to be fulfilled, the child must be adequately prepared so that according to their capacity they understand what the mystery of Christ means.

As the pastor of St. Michael Parish, I also have the responsibility to make sure children are prepared and have an understanding of mystery of Christ. In order to fulfill my responsibilities and to assist the parents and those who take their place, we have a multi-level approach to sacramental preparation at St. Michael. In addition to the preparation parents will do at home with their children, we will offer classes which both the parents and the children are to attend. The reason the parents will come to the parish sessions with the children is so that the parents and those who take their place will learn more about the Catholic faith and will become more comfortable in helping to prepare their children for First Communion (and other sacraments).

These questions are asked of the First Communion candidates in their interview before receiving First Communion:

- What do the bread and wine become at Mass?
- What are you 'really' receiving when you receive the Bread and Wine at Mass?
- Who is Jesus?
- How do you hold your hands to receive the Body of Christ?
- How do you hold your hands to receive the Blood of Christ (chalice)?
- When Father says, "The Body of Christ, what do you say?"
- When the minister says, "The Blood of Christ, what do you say?"
- What does 'Amen' mean?
- After you receive Communion, what do you do?
- What are some other names for the Body and Blood of Christ?

Each of us who have already received Communion ought to think about our answers to these same questions. Would we be ready?

Pentecost Sunday
June 12, 2011
Fr. Leo F. Hofmann
Pastor