

# **St. Francis of Assisi ~ First Communion**

*Congratulations, you have a child receiving the Sacrament of First Communion!  
Please read the following important information and mark the dates on your calendar.*

## **First Reconciliation**

First Reconciliation is distinct from the celebration of First Eucharist and is celebrated before First Eucharist. Children should wear Sunday clothes and parents may wish to have a celebration or activity in honor of this special day. After their First Reconciliation, children should be encouraged to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly with their families, especially during the Liturgical seasons of Advent and Lent. *(See calendar for date)*

## **First Eucharist**

Our children celebrate First Reconciliation followed shortly by First Eucharist. Because of the unique character of these sacraments and the sacredness of the season, the Diocesan Norms encourage First Eucharist to be celebrated during the Easter Season. We have two celebrations of First Eucharist- Section I and II. *(See calendar for dates)*

## **Candidate Requirements**

***According to Sacramental Norms of the Diocese of Memphis and guidelines of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, the following are required of First Communicants:***

- **Grade Requirement** - Be at least in the second grade
- **Registration**
  - Complete the Sacrament Registration Form for First Reconciliation/First Eucharist
  - Certificate of Baptism – A copy of the child’s baptism certificate is required with registration (even if your child was baptized at St. Francis).
  - Parish Registration Required - If a family is not registered in St. Francis of Assisi Parish, but are registered members of another parish, you must provide a letter from your pastor stating that your child has permission to make First Reconciliation and First Communion with St. Francis Parish.
  - Administrative Fee - \$25.00 payable at Registration
- **Mass Attendance** – All children are expected to attend Sunday Mass on a weekly basis in order to connect religious education, sacramental preparation and prayer, to the Liturgy of the Mass. When out of town, check [www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) or call (410)676-6000 for churches and Mass times. Please make God part of your travel plans.
- **Religious Education Classes** – Child must be attending a Catholic school or be enrolled in Parish Religious Education classes for at least the year prior to the sacramental year.
- **Teaching Mass** – Student and one parent must attend the Teaching Mass for 1<sup>st</sup> Communicants, wherein the priest explains the signs, symbols and the different parts of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. *(See calendar for date)*

- **First Communion Retreat** – This retreat is a parish requirement no matter where your child is being prepared for 1<sup>st</sup> Communion. During retreat, the children will have the opportunity to practice the gestures and movements of Communion and actually taste the un-consecrated host and wine. Our retreat gives them the opportunity to form community with each other even though they may come from various schools and parishes. *(See calendar for date)*
- **Parent Sacrament Meetings** – The Diocese of Memphis requires parents to attend two sacrament meetings, one on Reconciliation and one on Eucharist. All meetings are held at St. Francis in Room 108 of the Parish Life Center and parents have a choice of meeting dates. *(See calendar for dates)* Child care is provided for all parent meetings.  
**EXEMPTIONS:** If you have attended sacrament meetings for an older child within the last two years, you are exempt – **BUT YOU MUST NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE IN WRITING** with your older child’s name and the date of the sacrament. Please submit this via email at [donna.hofer@sfachurch.cdom.org](mailto:donna.hofer@sfachurch.cdom.org) or mail to the Church Office.
- **Attire for First Communicants:**  
**Girls:**
  - Simple white dress must be at or near the knee or no longer than the ankle in length. Dresses that are sleeveless or have spaghetti straps must have a white jacket or sweater over the dress.
  - White Veil (not to hang below the waist) should be worn. Flowers must be white and miniature in size if incorporated with the veil.
  - White tights or white socks and appropriate white dress shoes.**Boys:**
  - Navy Blue Sport Coat
  - Tan/khaki pants
  - White shirt with dark tie or white Communion tie
  - Dark socks and appropriate dress shoes

***If you have any difficulties fulfilling any of these requirements please contact TERRY HARVEY, Director of Religious Education, as soon as possible, at the Church Office (756-1213) to discuss the situation.***

