

Saint James Sacramental Program Reconciliation and Eucharist

About the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance) - The Sacrament of Reconciliation is an important part of our lives as Catholics living together as a community. It is the sacrament of forgiveness and peace. Through reconciliation we are filled with the strength and grace to become the people we are called to be, the People of God. Preparing children for the Sacrament of Reconciliation is an important element in their spiritual formation. As your child's primary teacher, parents have the responsibility of helping your child form a good conscience, and distinguish between right and wrong; good and evil. It is through your efforts that your child establishes a system of values and a code of morality. It is through your lives that he/she comes to understand forgiveness. It is by witnessing your faith in Christ that your child comes to know Jesus.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation –a free-standing program (occurring outside the weekly student classes) whereby Saint James Church assist parents in educating their children about the Sacrament. Pre-requisite: child has participated in a parish youth faith formation **for at least one year** (remote catechesis) prior to entrance into the Sacramental Program for immediate catechesis, as well as students enrolled in a Catholic school recognized by the Archdiocese, or an approved home-schooling program. Parents are asked to attend a parent meeting and the child is to attend all Reconciliation Sessions plus one retreat. A Family Reconciliation Service is scheduled in December followed by a celebratory reception.

About Eucharist (First Holy Communion) - It probably seems like only yesterday that you presented your child for Baptism. At that time those gathered – especially the godparents speaking for all the faithful – spoke their willingness to journey with you as you bring your child up in faith. Today, as you journey with your child to First Communion, the community of faith is at your side. As parents you have a unique role in the religious formation of your child. The Church views this role of parents as both a privilege and a responsibility. This privilege and responsibility both extend to sacrament preparation. It is within your family that your child has first come to faith. It is within your family that your child will continue to live out faith and witness the daily example of Catholic believers.

During this blessed time of sacrament preparation, enjoy the time you and your child spend together. Keep your child in your prayers as you, together with the entire Christian community, welcome your child to a lifetime of being nourished at the table of the Lord's Supper.

The Sacrament of the Eucharist –a free-standing program (occurring outside of the weekly student classes) offered to children who participate in the parish youth faith formation **for at least one year** (remote catechesis) prior to entrance into the program for immediate catechesis, as well as students enrolled in a Catholic school recognized by the Archdiocese, or an approved home-schooling program. Parents are asked to attend a parent meeting and the child is to attend all Eucharist Sessions plus one retreat. First Eucharist is received within the parish community on either Saturday or Sunday with a celebratory reception in the Parish Hall. To assist the family in determining their child's readiness, an interview with the Coordinator will occur prior to reception of the Sacrament beginning 2 months before the Sacrament. Families will need to call the coordinator to schedule their child's interview.