

**Incarnation Parish
First Holy Communion
2013**

1st Communion Sacramental Preparation

Celebrating a sacrament for the first time is an important step in the life of your child as a Catholic Christian. As part of the formal preparation for First Reconciliation, we are preparing a retreat for the children and parents. As in past years, a 1st Communion Retreat is also being planned for you and your child preparing for the sacraments.

On **December 2** we will involve the parent and child in various activities around the theme of Reconciliation.

Time: 12:45 -3:15
Place: Parish Center
Who: 1st Communicant and a parent

On **March 10**, we will involve the parent and child in various activities around 1st Eucharist.

Time: 12:45 -3:15
Place: Parish center
Who: 1st Communicant and a parent
This is a required retreat for 1st Communion.

- **Regular Mass attendance as a family.**
- When sacramental preparation is completed, and the child is ready to receive **Reconciliation for the first time**, you as parents have the following choices.
 - Celebration of your child's 1st Reconciliation at the Parish Communal Penance
 - Advent:* TBA
 - Lent:* TBA
 - Saturday morning 9am in church
- **Discussion** between parents and children at home about their religion class and religious issues/moral values and concerns heard in the news.
- **Regular Prayer Time:** Morning and bedtime prayer where children can pray with a parent or other family member using formal or spontaneous prayers, including those assigned for 2nd grade.

Note: By the end of the 1st grade, children should know by heart:

- The Sign of the Cross

- Our Father
- Hail Mary
- Glory Be
- Grace before Meals

By the end of the 2nd grade, the children should also know the:

- Act of Sorrow
- They should also become familiar with the order of the celebration for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Mass.

Clothing for 1st Communion

- In the past girls usually have worn their Sunday best, some families do choose the traditional white 1st Communion dress, but this is not required. For the hair a pretty bow, wreath or veil is sometimes worn.
- Boys usually wear dress slacks & dress shoes with a dress shirt and tie, some wear a jacket but it is not required.

Questions: **Paula Weckesser CRE**
433-3377 ext. 211

Paula.weckesser@incarnation.catholic.org

+How do you request your child's date and mass time for 1st Communion

- We will only be emailing all the parents on **Monday, January 28, 2013** – watch for an email from Cathy.winkofsky@incarnation.catholic.org
- You will reply to Cathy's email --- with your 1st, 2nd or 3rd choice for date and mass time. In the event that your first choice is not available and you have NOT provided a 2nd or 3rd choice, I will assume either day and any time is fine.
- We will confirm a date and mass time with you by email, within 2 weeks
- **We will not accept any requests before the email is sent**
- I will send you an email in the beginning of January --- if you do not receive the email from me, please call me to inform me of your correct email address or if your email address changes throughout the year please inform the parish religious education office
- If you have been receiving emails from me concerning 1st Reconciliation and 1st Communion then your email is correct in our database.

+First Communion Dates

First Communions are during the regular Sunday liturgies in church.

Check with family about dates now or at holiday family gatherings Choose a date & time for your child's 1st Communion (1st, 2nd & 3rd choice)

Dates and times for 1st Communion 2013

April 20, 5:30 Mass April 21, 9am, 10:30 & noon

April 27, 5:30 Mass April 28, 9am, 10:30 & noon

7:30 mass is also available on April 21 or April 28.

If your child will be receiving their 1st Communion at another parish please inform us.

Weekend and mass times are filled by 1st returned --1st selection

+1st Communion Practice dates (required for child and parent)

5:45 PM on the Tuesday before your child's 1st Communion date

- Practice for the weekend of 1st Communions April 20/21 is Tuesday, **April 16 at 5:45 in church**
- Practice for the weekend of April 27/28 is Tuesday, **April 23 at 5:45 in church**
- Make sure you and your child are available for practice.
- Practice is normally 1 hour; please try to find arrangements for younger siblings.