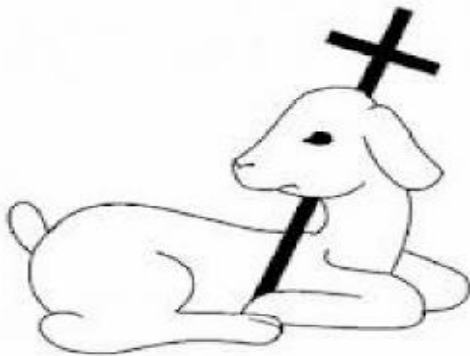


St. Mary, Mother of the Church and  
First Reconciliation and  
First Communion  
Information & Guide Booklet 2017-18



**First Reconciliation & First Communion  
Parent and Student Schedule  
2017-18**

**Reconciliation Parent Meeting**

Mon., Nov 13<sup>th</sup> - 7:15 PM in church. (Parents ONLY)

**Sacrament of First Reconciliation**

**Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>**

You will be assigned either the 11 AM service or the 1 PM Service

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**Parent and Child Communion Mini Retreat**

**Sat. March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 OR Sat. March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

Location: Church & gym from 8:45 AM – 12 PM.

**First Communion Practices:** The week prior to 1<sup>st</sup>

Communion assignment- Dates to be announced.

All students and at least one parent must attend these sessions in the Church along with their child.

**First Holy Communion 2017** – assignment will be made when applications are received.

**Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>**: 5:30 PM Mass

**Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>**: 9:45 AM or 12:45 PM Mass

**Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>**: 9:45 AM or 12:45 PM Mass

**Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup>**: 9:45 AM or 12:45 PM Mass

Children arrive 30 minutes early to the Religious Ed Center for preparation and procession.

**Crowning of Mary: May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018** at the 9:45 AM Mass.

All 1<sup>st</sup> Communicants are invited to wear their special Communion outfits and lead this celebration.

## Parents' Responsibilities and Commitments

1. Parents are required to attend all scheduled meetings in preparation for the Sacraments.
2. Parents are encouraged to make sure that their child/children learn the necessary prayers and formats needed to receive the Sacraments. Even though they are also learning in Religious Education and School, these prayers need to be reinforced at home.
3. Parents are encouraged to attend Mass with their child/children. By attending Mass regularly your child will become familiar with the context of the liturgy, the purpose of the Eucharist and this will make their learning easier when they attend class. This is the central prayer of our faith and quite honestly the most important part of your child's faith life.
4. Parents will see that their child/children attend Religious Education or St. Mary's School regularly and complete all assignments, so that they do not fall behind on the preparation and knowledge of the sacraments.

Our Religious Education Office  
845-896-6430

[Email: stmaryre@optonline.net](mailto:stmaryre@optonline.net)

Check the web

<http://www.saintmaryschurch-fishkill.org>

## **Preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation**

It is the policy of the Roman Catholic Church and the Archdiocese of New York that the Sacrament of Reconciliation be received before the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

To help prepare for the sacrament of Reconciliation there are a few guidelines listed below that will make it easier for your child/children.

1. Help your child form a conscience. It is the voice that whispers, "Choose love, Choose Life, Do Good, Shun Evil."
2. Practice their prayers with them. Bed time is a perfect time. The prayer that they are learning to memory is the Act of Contrition.
3. Why do we tell a priest our sins? This is a question that most children ask. The reason is that the Priest is a representative of Jesus here on earth. We are Catholics. When we sin we hurt the body of Christ. We should be in a state of Grace before receiving communion. When we reconcile and receive absolution we become healed and receive grace. Priests take a vow to keep all confessions a secret. This is called the Seal of Confession.
4. Review the examination of conscience on the following page This will help the children know the 10 commandments and how different sins can fit under each commandment. These are considered mortal sins if not obeyed.

## Examination of Conscience for Children

### **i. I am the Lord your God. You shall not have strange gods before me.**

Do I give time every day to God in prayer?

Do I put my trust in superstitions, good luck charms, rather than God alone? Have I rejected any Church teaching or denied that I was a Catholic?

### **ii. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.**

Have I used the words "God" or "Jesus" in anger or irreverently? Have I used foul or ugly language? Have I wished evil on another?

### **iii. Remember to keep holy the Lord's day.**

Have I missed Mass on Sunday or any holy day of obligation? Do I go willingly or give Mom and Dad a hard time? Do I arrive at church late or leave before the final blessing?

Do I make Sunday a day of prayer or rest?

### **iv. Honor your father and your mother.**

Do I respect and obey my parents?

Have I dishonored or mistreated them by word or deed?

Am I willing to help around the house or must I be nagged a hundred times? Do I try to get along with my brothers and sisters? Am I a tattletale or bully? Do I give a good example, especially to younger siblings?

Do I respect others in authority: priests, police, baby-sitters, teachers?

### **v. You shall not kill.**

Do I beat up others or hurt their bodies?

Do I say cruel things, or make fun of others to hurt their feelings?

Do I say mean things about others behind their backs?

Have I stopped speaking to anyone? Do I encourage others to do bad things?

Do I try to love all people, born and unborn?

### **vi. You shall not commit adultery.**

Do I treat my body and other people's bodies with purity and respect?

Do I look at television shows, movies, or pictures that are bad? Am I modest in my speech and the clothes I wear?

### **vii. You shall not steal.**

Have I taken things that were not mine from a store or another person?

Have I destroyed or misused another person's property for fun? Do I return things that I borrow? In good condition?

### **viii. You shall not commit false witness against your neighbor.**

Am I honest in my school work?

Do I tell lies to make myself look good?

Do I tell lies to protect myself from punishment?

Do I tell lies that make another person look bad or get them in trouble?

### **ix. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.**

Do I allow my parents to spend time with one another, or do I get jealous and want them to pay attention only to me?

Are there kids I will not play with or be mean to because they look different?

### **x. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.**

Am I jealous or envious of the things or abilities that others have? Am I thankful to God and my parents for what they have given me?

## The Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation Guide

Go into the Reconciliation room or space that is set aside for the Sacrament.

Make the Sign of the Cross.

Say: "Bless me Father for I have sinned, this is my First Confession."

Talk to the priest about the sins you have made.

The priest will give you a penance.

You will now say an Act of Contrition:

"My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.  
In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good,  
I have sinned against you whom I should love above  
all things.

I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin  
no more and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.

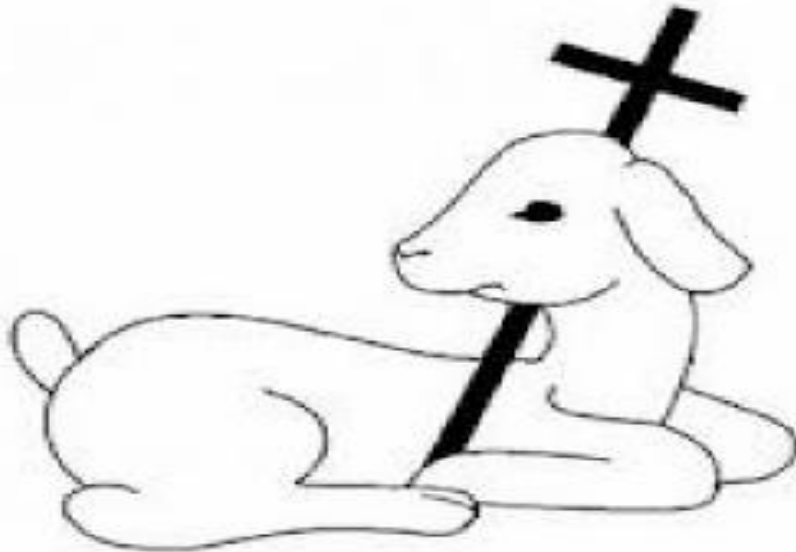
Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us.  
In His name, my God have mercy."

Amen.

You will say, "thank you Father," and make the Sign of the Cross and leave the Reconciliation Room to kneel in the Church and say your penance prayers that Father gave you to say.

## **First Reconciliation Events of the Day and Attire**

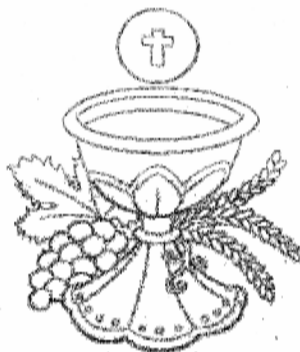
1. Students should dress neatly as they would to attend Mass for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. No jeans or sneakers or sports uniforms.
2. We encourage you to celebrate with them- a special brunch or lunch out or some other way to make the day special.
3. **The sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated together on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at either the 11 AM or the 1 PM Celebration. (Times will be assigned)**



## The Sacrament of First Holy Communion

To help prepare your child/children for this sacrament here are some guidelines that will help make learning about and receiving this sacrament a positive experience.

1. When you go to Mass show your child how to genuflect to the Tabernacle before entering a pew.
2. Show your child how to kneel in the pew and say prayers before Mass starts.
3. Show your child how to follow along in the Missalettes. Turn to the songs to be sung. (children's Missalettes are available as are Magnifikid subscriptions that would greatly enhance your child's experience of the Mass)
4. If you are going to receive communion, allow your child to walk up with you and watch you as you receive. **They should cross their arms on their chest to signal that they are not yet receiving.**
5. Remember you should fast one hour before receiving Communion.
6. Have them kneel with you. Encourage them to say a prayer to Jesus. They can speak to the Lord about anything when praying.
7. Remind them to stay kneeling until the Blessed Sacrament is put back into the Tabernacle.





## Parents' letter to their Child

Please write a letter to your child in celebration of their First Holy Communion. In this letter, please write about the following:

- His/Her preparation for First Holy Eucharist
  - Your hopes and wishes for his/her future
  - A personal blessing for your child
1. Place the letter in a sealed envelope.
  2. Write your child's full name, teacher's name, and class day on the envelope.
  3. **Return this letter to us at the Mini Retreat**

This letter will be given to your child on the day of First Holy Communion.



## **First Holy Communion Attire**

### **Girls:**

Should wear white dress, dress shoes, tights or fancy socks,  
optional headpiece: flowers / veil

No gloves or flower bouquets or corsages during the Mass

### **Boys:**

Should wear a suit or sports jacket, can be any color  
(white, blue, black, brown or Grey),  
dress shoes (no sneakers), dress shirt and tie  
(white is the traditional communion tie.)

The day of First Holy Communion arrive 30 to 40 minutes early  
for preparation. Children will come to the Religious Ed Center.

## **Application and Reconciliation / Communion Fee:**

A complete application and verification of Baptism must be on  
file prior to  
receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Due at the time of application, there is a \$65.00 per child  
Sacrament Fee **AND** a photo of your child's Baptism no larger  
than 3x5 for their Reconciliation / Communion Banner.  
Checks may be made payable to St. Mary's RE Program.

\*\*This fee covers special materials used in the classroom (both  
in Religious Ed and SMS) for the preparation of the Sacraments  
in addition to the Retreat and Banner Materials and a  
complimentary photo of your child receiving for the 1<sup>st</sup> time.

## **First Communion Mini Retreat**

It is a requirement that all students who will be receiving the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist attend this retreat. Students must be accompanied by one parent or guardian. (both are welcome to attend if able)

**The retreat will be held on:**

- **Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 from 8:45 AM to 12 PM.**
- OR
- **Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018 from 8:45 AM to 12 PM.**  
(You will be assigned to one or the other)

This program is a fun learning experience for the family.

1. A letter written by you for your child (for their First Communion day) is due at the retreat.
2. At this time, there is no provision for siblings at the retreat- please make this a special Parent and Child event for only the 1<sup>st</sup> Communicant.

