

St. MARK'S PARISH PROGRAM SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION CALENDAR

for 2011-12 school year program

Parish Office (8:30-4pm) 375-6651 x 118, Wendy, wsleisher@stmarksboise.org

Greetings to all 2nd and 3rd graders who are involved in their second year of preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist and to their Parents!!

This will be an exciting year as you prepare for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. We can be very thankful to God for these sacraments to His Church by which He gives us His Grace, helping us to better know, love, and serve Him. It is a joy to see the children being drawn more fully into the life of the Church. And it is my privilege to be working with the EFF Parish Program Teachers, St. Mark's School Teachers, and parents in overseeing the preparations for these special events. Please contact me with questions, concerns, or comments. Wendy Sleisher 375-6651 x 118 (office) or 375-2917 (home).

This schedule is not to be confused with the schedule for RCIA children in 3rd grade and up. The RCIA Family Program meets for special sacramental preparation lessons and liturgical rites on certain Sundays after the 11:00 Mass. It is also important to know that our 2nd grade program content and focus is on Sacramental preparation. We have no other 2nd grade program which does not prepare the children for Sacramental reception. **All children should be baptized and I need a baptismal certificate on file with the baptismal Church's address included.**



October 12, Wednesday First Reconciliation Parent Meeting (6:30-8pm in Church)

Required for at least *one* of the parents of 2nd graders in EFF or St. Mark's School

Babysitting available in child care room - please RSVP for babysitting service to Wendy

November 12/13 - First Sacrament Pledge and Act of Contrition Recital @ all Masses (2nd graders)

tentative date

The pledge will be given out to the children at the parent Meeting. The pledge needs to be signed by both parent and child and ideally returned during Mass when the children will be called forward to give their pledge to the priests. This pledge represents your and your child's promise to attend Mass faithfully and prepare well for the first sacraments of Reconciliation & Holy Communion. This pledge is mandatory at the request of our pastor Fr. Steve. Your child will receive a scroll from the priest in exchange for the pledge sheet which itemizes some things for the children to learn about in their preparation process. See Wendy for ????

The children will be called after the homily to come forward to the altar steps to bring forward their pledges and recite the "Act of Contrition" by heart as a group during Mass.

Chapters 13,14, 18-20, 22, and 23 in your child's Religious Education Text (RCL Publishers' Faith First) focus on preparation for Reconciliation. Chapters 8, 12, 15-17, and 26 focus on the Mass and First Holy Communion. It is very important to make sure that these chapters are completed. If your child misses any class, please complete the work with your child and return to the teacher's attention for credit. The chapter may be picked up on the next class day following your child's absence. Please turn in completed work as soon as possible for credit, ideally at the next class. Many Thanks, Wendy

**November 16, Wed.- Only volunteer readers practice for first reconciliation
6:30-7pm** in Church with Wendy (readers will get their parts ahead of time.)

November 19, Saturday - First Reconciliation - for 2nd graders and their families;
10am-11:15 or 12:30-1:45pm. We will need to balance the two groups. Notice will go out in
advance for sign ups and confirmations given 2 weeks before service. Family members
strongly encouraged to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation as well. Bring your child's
personalized Reconciliation Candle and Family Reconciliation Activity Symbol to the service.

January 18, Wednesday, First Communion Parent Meeting in Church 6:30-8pm
At least one parent of first communicant 2nd graders will need to attend to receive materials and
first opportunity to **sign up** for First Communion Masses (5:00pm, 8:30am, 11:00am, & 6pm) during
the weekend of **May 5/6**. Previous to this meeting we will get your input on preferred times to
help facilitate this process. Babysitting available in child care room - RSVP for service to Wendy

April 21/22- At all Masses- 1st Communion 2nd gr "Our Father" Recital
The children are called forward to recite the "Our Father" as a group during Mass and join the priest
around the altar. They will receive a laminated prayer with explanation as a souvenir of this event.

April 28, Saturday, 3:00-5pm First Communion Retreat, Optional Event
Join us before the 5pm Mass! We will be in the Parish Hall and EFF classrooms, with 2nd graders and
families. We will have a church tour, make personal first communion banners, bake bread, have a video,
reflection, discussion, and prayer. (21"x24" Banners include 1 ½ " sleeve for dowel. Finished fabric and
materials (including letters for name) provided. Please feel free to bring your own materials as well.
Banners need to be finished and turned in to Wendy by May 5 so we can hang them up in the Parish Hall.

First Holy Communion Mass practice for 2nd graders in Church.

All children will take an active role, and volunteer as a lector, gift bearer, or collection basket
bearer. Arrangements will be made well in advance so children can practice their readings, etc. so that
they may perform their roles at the practice.

Come to ONLY ONE practice 6:30-8pm At least one parent should come!

April 24, Tues: 5:00pm Mass attendees

April 25, Wed: 8:30am Mass attendees

May 1, Tues: 11:00am Mass attendees

May 2, Wed: 6:00pm Mass attendees

May 5 - Gr. 2-First Holy Communion Individual, Large group & Class Photos

All children dressed in Holy Communion clothes

(9-10:30am individual portraits-first come, first-served in Resurrection Room, **recommending
St. Mark's School children only for this time**; 10:30 group photos in Church for St. Mark's
School 2nd graders; 11:00 group photos in Church for Sunday EFF and Wed. EFF; 11:30-12:30pm
for individual portraits in Resurrection Room, recommending EFF students at this time)
**Photo Opportunity for parents & cameras in Church from 9-12:30pm. This is your chance
for close-ups!** You may take your Holy Communicant into Church and take pictures at the
microphone, next to the first communion banner, at the altar, with collection basket, or gifts of
"bread" and "wine."

Please let friends and relatives know that cameras will be allowed only from one's pew with no
flash photography during First Communion Mass.

May 5/6 First Communion at 5pm, 8:30am, 11am, 6pm Masses

Receptions to follow after each Mass

Your child's holy communion banners will be on display in
the Parish Hall! Banners will be returned after the weekend.

