

St. MARK'S PARISH PROGRAM SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION CALENDAR

for 2010-11 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 13, Wednesday First Reconciliation Parent Meeting (7-8:30pm 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 13/14 - First Sacrament Pledge and Act of Contrition Recital @ all Masses (2nd graders)

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

November 20, 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 19, 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 14/15**. 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

March 5/6- 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 30, 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 14 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!

May 4, Wed: 5:00pm Mass attendees	May 5, Thurs: 8:30am Mass attendees
May 10, Tues: 11:00am Mass attendees	May 11, Wed: 6:00pm Mass attendees

May 14 - 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 EFF student individual portraits in Resurrection Room)

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 14/15 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.

