

*Confirmation and First Eucharist
2012*



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St. Bernadette Roman Catholic Church
Scottsdale, Arizona 85254

November 17th, 2011

Parents,

As your child has grown in faith, through your example, he/she has responded with the desire to have a fuller relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. In taking these next steps towards the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist, he/she will be completing the Sacraments of Christian Initiation. These are not to be entered into lightly or without the intent of continuing on this journey of faith.

In order for you to discern your child's readiness for the Sacraments the following may help:

Does your child:

- Express his/her love for God?
- Express a desire to go to Mass and participate in Mass?
- Show an awareness of the True Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist?
- Can he/she distinguish between the Three Persons of the Holy Trinity?
- Express a desire to receive Communion?
- Speak freely about God?
- Participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation on a regular basis?
- Try to walk as a child of the Light?
- Pray? How do they pray? Do they take the initiative to pray or do they only pray when instructed?
- Have you witnessed your child showing compassion and respect for others?

These should help you to further prepare your child for this special time in their lives when they will be fully initiated into the Catholic Church. Then with the grace of the Sacraments continue their faith filled walk following the Good Shepherd.

The guidelines and expectations are clearly written in The Diocese of Phoenix Sacrament of Confirmation and First Eucharist Policy and Guidelines 2009.

A copy has been included; please take the time to read it thoroughly. The family is the first and foremost educators for their children; therefore parental involvement in the sacramental preparation process is essential.

The attached pages are designed to help you understand the importance of this preparation process and to answer your questions in regard to your child's prior preparation and age appropriateness. Attendance in all weekly classes as well as the retreat is essential to this experience.

In Christ,
Melissa Graziano
Director of Children's Catechesis

Confirmation and First Holy Eucharist Checklist

Documentation due no later than- March 1st, 2012

- ✠ \$75.00 Registration fee paid for R.E. class
 - ✠ \$45.00 Sacramental Material fee
 - ✠ \$25.00 Retreat fee
 - ✠ Copy of Baptismal Certificate
 - ✠ Saint Form
 - ✠ Sponsor Letter
 - ✠ Sponsor Pledge-signed
 - ✠ Parent Pledge- signed
- ✠ Sacramental Preparation Form

Parents' Preparation of the Child

- ✠ Attend Mass every Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation
Holy Days- Christmas, Dec. 25; Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, Jan. 1;
Ascension of the Lord(40 days after Easter or 7th Sunday of Easter);
Assumption of Mary, Aug. 15; All Saints Day, Nov. 1; Solemnity of the
Immaculate Conception, Dec. 8
- ✠ Pray with your child (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Nicene Creed....)
 - ✠ Ensure child's regular attendance in RE sessions
- ✠ Attend evening sessions and retreat with child. (child's sponsor may attend as well)
- ✠ Help child in selecting a sponsor who is a confirmed, practicing Catholic in good standing.
 - ✠ Complete a family service project
- ✠ Child selects a saint's name and complete the saint project
 - ✠ Completes and returns all paperwork by March 1st, 2012

Parent Pledge for Sacramental Preparation

We the parents/guardians of _____ pledge to our child, just as we did at his/her Baptism, to continue to help them walk as a "child of the Light" by doing the following:

- Worship God with full, active, conscious participation every Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation.
- Participate in the Sacramental life of our parish as witnesses to our faith.
- Help our child(ren) learn the basic prayers of our faith and incorporate them into our family prayer time.
- Support our child's weekly attendance in the Religious Education classes, the Sacramental Preparation sessions and retreat.

We promise, with God's help, to continue sharing the gift of faith with our family and our parish community. We understand that faith formation does not end with the receiving of this gift and that we must continue our faith formation as a family.

Parent signature: _____

Parent signature: _____

Return by March 1st, 2012

Sponsor Pledge for Sacramental Preparation

I, _____ pledge that I am at least 16 years of age; I am a fully active Roman Catholic participating in Sunday mass and holy days of obligation; I have received all of my Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist); I lead a life in harmony with the Catholic Faith and am in good standing with the Catholic Church; thus if married, I have been married by a Catholic priest, and If divorced and remarried, I have received a formal annulment.

Therefore, I will do my best to see to it that the Confirmation candidate acts as a true witness to Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations connected with the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Printed Name: _____

Signature _____ Date: _____

Return March 1st, 2012

Process of Preparation for Confirmation and First Holy Eucharist

First Evening Session- March 1st, 2012

Evening Session- March 15th, 2012

Third Evening Session- March 29th, 2012

Fourth Evening Session- April 19th, 2012

All sessions begin at 7:00pm

*****The above dates are tentative and subject to change*****

Retreat and Sacrament Dates

April 21st, 2012 at 8:30 am-3:00 pm

Will receive sacraments on April 25th, 2012 at 7:00 pm

April 28th, 2012 at 8:30 am-3:00 pm

Will receive sacraments on May 2nd, 2012 at 7:00 pm

First Eucharist Banner

We are asking each family to make a banner with your child to celebrate their First Holy Communion. This banner identifies the family pew in the church. The child's name must be on the banner. Please make this a family activity with your child to prepare for their special day. The decorated banner **must** be returned **before** their weekend retreat.

The banner should include the following:

Child's first and last name

Date of the celebration of the Sacraments

Symbols representing the Holy Eucharist (grapes, wheat, bread, chalice...)

Symbols representing the Holy Spirit (dove, flame...)

Things you might choose to decorate your banner with:

Ribbon

Felt scraps

Fabric paint

Embroidery

Material scraps

The felt will be provided and handed out at the first session for you to decorate

The White Garment

Since the early Church, a white garment has been used as an outward sign of the inward life-giving transformation brought about through the grace of the sacraments. It represents being washed clean by the waters of Baptism, by the forgiveness received in Confession, and by coming to fulfillment in the Eucharist.

For this reason, each child will be clothed in a white garment after receiving absolution from the priest. It is a simple tunic which will go over their heads and over their regular clothes.

Like the white garment of Baptism, this garment will be a valued keepsake. Each child will embellish their white garment with a cross for First Eucharist.

Parent's relationship with God.

My relationship with God: what does my child see?

- † Do we attend Mass every Sunday and actively participate in it?
- † Is my heart set on God, so that I really love Him, above all things and am faithful to His Commandments?
- † Are there false gods that I worship by giving them greater attention and deeper trust than to God? (Money, material possessions, work, superstitions, sports)
- † Have I used God's name in vain: lightly or carelessly?
- † Have I shown respect for the Blessed Virgin Mary, the angels and the saints?
- † Do I pray with my children?
- † Do I give praise to God for the gifts we receive as a family?

My relationship with my neighbor: what does my child see?

- † Have I a genuine love for my neighbor?
- † Do I speak badly of others behind their backs?
- † Do I gossip in front of my child?
- † Do I forgive others when I am wronged?
- † Do I ask forgiveness from my child if I am wrong?
- † Have I controlled any vices, especially in front of my child?
- † Have I indulged in reading, conversations, shows, and entertainment that offend God and human decency?
- † Do I share my fortunes with the less fortunate?

Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation and First Holy Eucharist

The Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Eucharist will be celebrated together on two different dates:

Wednesday, April 25th at 7:00pm

Wednesday, May 2nd at 7:00pm

Appropriate attire is your traditional white dress for the girls and slacks and a white collared shirt for the boys. Ties (red is a color representing the Holy Spirit) and jacket are optional. Unacceptable clothing includes:

- Shorts
- Athletic shoes or "flip-flops"
- T-shirts
- Strapless dresses or dresses with spaghetti straps (shoulders must be covered)
- Dresses above knee length
- No low-cut blouses or dresses

These clothing guidelines are for both candidate and sponsor

REMINDER: OUR POLICY IS THAT NO PHOTOS ARE ALLOWED DURING THE RECEIVING OF THESE SACRAMENTS.

We ask you for your reverence during this celebration. We thank you in advance for respecting this moment for all the children. I know that you will let your families know our policy regarding photos. There will be a time for photo taking before and after the celebration. We will also have a professional photographer taking individual photos as well as a group photo of the event.

More detailed information on the Celebration of Confirmation and First Holy Eucharist will follow as we get closer to the date.

If you have any questions please call Melissa Graziano at 480-905-0221 ext. 204, or email at mgraziano@saintbernadette.com

