

SACRAMENTAL CALENDAR – 2018-2019

RECONCILIATION AND FIRST COMMUNION



Jesus said, “*Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.*”

Matthew 19:14

Children generally receive First Reconciliation and First

Communion at St. Francis Xavier in Second Grade. Parents are expected to participate in their child's preparation for these sacraments by attending an initial parent-only formation meeting, two parent-child sacrament workshops and the liturgical celebrations of Reconciliation and Eucharist, as well as by working with their child to complete assignments in a Reconciliation textbook and a First Communion textbook. Children learn the value of the sacraments long before they begin preparing to receive them. Be sure your children attend Mass weekly and you take them to Reconciliation regularly, once they have received First Reconciliation.

2018-19 dates to remember:

Parent-Only Meeting - 9/12 6:30 Mass; meeting (7-8:30 pm)

Reconciliation Pent/Child Retreat - 10/20 (9-11:30 am)

First Reconciliation – 11/03 or 11/10 (2 pm) *(sign-up required)*

First Communion Parent/Child Retreat 3/09 or 3/16 (9-11:30 am) *(sign-up required)*

First Communion Rehearsal – 4/25 (6:30-7:30 pm)

First Communion – 4/27 (4:30 pm) or 4/28 (8:30 or 10 am)

2018-19 donation for Reconciliation and Communion: \$75

The diocese requires that children have two consecutive years of religious instruction before receiving the sacraments. Students coming into Religious Education later than the usual time will be required to participate in the FCFF program for two years. During their second year, they will begin preparing for the sacraments. Once prepared, older students will have a choice of receiving First Communion with the younger children or at another weekend Mass. These arrangements must be made in advance with the Pastor. The goal of our Confirmation program is to help the students make a personal commitment to Christ and take on the role of a young adult in

the church, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

8th graders who have completed 7th grade, in addition to attending the Family Centered Faith Formation sessions with their parents, will attend Confirmation classes once a month to prepare them to receive Confirmation in the fall of 2019. The classes will be on Sunday evenings and will consist of a talk or activity centered on living the Catholic Faith. Most sessions will conclude with a Mass in which the students will have an active role of participation. Parents and family members are invited and encouraged to attend the Mass.

The students will also participate in a scheduled retreat. To help them learn more about themselves, the sacrament of Confirmation, and the Church, they will be asked to complete some additional assignments.



CONFIRMATION

Baptism, the Eucharist, and the sacrament of Confirmation together constitute the sacraments of Christian initiation ... By the sacrament of Confirmation, the baptized are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit.

from the Catechism of the Catholic Church #1285

2018-19 dates to remember:

2018 Confirmation Events

Aug. 26 Retreat (5-8:30 pm)

Nov. 5 (Confirmation Rehearsal – 7:15 pm at Holy Family in Shorewood)

Nov. 10 (Confirmation – 10:30 am at Holy Family in Shorewood)

2018-19 Confirmation Sessions for current 8th graders who completed their 7th grade year (6:30 pm):

Sept. 23, Oct. 21, Nov. 18, Dec. 9, Jan 13, Feb. 10, Mar. 10, Apr. 7, May 19, June 23, July 28

Confirmation Donation for 2018-19 Candidates: \$65 plus transportation fees to group service projects, when applicable.