



Reconciliation/Eucharist Class of 2012



Parents of our Reconciliation/Eucharist Class of 2012...WELCOME!!!! This is an exciting time in your child's faith development and your family as well. This year we journey together in faith as we help prepare the children of our parish for their celebration of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

Although we tend to focus on the needs of the children, it is important to realize that this time of preparation presents all of us--parents, parish staff, and all members of the St Giles community --with the wonderful opportunities to deepen our faith and our understanding of the sacraments.

Through the sacraments we remember and celebrate the central dimensions of the Christian life, and grow in our awareness of God's loving presence in our lives. Sacraments are events that involve the entire community in ways that make clear for us our common relationship with Christ. **Sacraments hold such deep meaning for us because they are rooted in and flow from our everyday experiences of belonging, sharing, loving, and forgiving.**

Beginning this summer make an effort to raise your own awareness of God's presence in your everyday life, so you will be ready and able to assist your child as they prepare for their First Reconciliation and Eucharist.

Gathering Together: First Celebrations of Reconciliation & Eucharist, Loyola Press



What to Expect This Coming Year

Whether this is your first child to prepare for First Reconciliation/Eucharist here at St Giles Parish or our fifth child the year ahead is full of events/activities and the best way to keep up with the what, where, and when is to check our this webpage monthly. At the beginning of each month a parent update is posted reminding you of upcoming events for you and your child.

The program has been designed with you as the PRIMARY CATECHIST (teacher) of your child, with the parish school and parish religious education programs supporting your efforts at home. Parents are provided with information and support materials to help their child prepare for the sacraments by looking for God's presence in their everyday life. How you and your family interact with each other is one of the key components to your child's faith formation. You reflect God's image of love to them, which is why you are your child's primary teach of the faith.

WHERE TO LOCATE INFORMATION & UPDATES

Sacrament information is posted on our parish website: www.stgilesparish.org/SACRAMENTS

Teacher's in our parish school post the Sacrament Preparation information onto their teacher pages

Parents will also receive a voice message, generated through the service Calling Post, alerting them that a new update has been posted to the parish webpage.

Families who contact the Religious Education Office at reled@stgilesparish.org with their family email address will also receive electronic notifications each month.

Families who prefer to receive *hardcopies* of these monthly updates should contact the Religious Education office at 708-383-4185.

Finally our parish bulletin, **THE ARROW**, will have reminders of important events listed under the [Sacrament Preparation for Parish Children](#) header.



THE SACRAMENT PREPARATION FOR FIRST RECONCILIATION/EUCHARIST calendar for 2011-2012 may be found on the parish website: www.stgilesparish.org/SACRAMENTS