

Overview of First Reconciliation / First Eucharist Process



Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish Moorestown, New Jersey

At Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, First Reconciliation and First Eucharist are celebrated in the second grade, after completing grade 1 religious education classes. Sacraments are celebrated at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish on scheduled dates.

*Please contact the Office of Religious Education for questions and details regarding
First Reconciliation and First Eucharist
(856) 235-7136 reprogram@olgcnj.org*

Diocese of Trenton Guidelines: First Reconciliation and First Eucharist

Before entering the immediate preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharist, children should have a basic knowledge and understanding of the following:

(Grade 1 Curriculum)

- God, as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- God's personal love for each person
- The Sacrament of Baptism
- Prayer as a response to God's love
- Traditional Prayers: Our Father, Hail Mary, Sign of the Cross, and Act of Contrition

Immediate preparation for First Reconciliation will include the following concepts:

(Grade 2 Curriculum)

- The Two Great Commandments – Love God and others
- God is always ready to forgive us
- Helping children look at their choices – not only their actions, but the attitudes behind their actions
- Knowing how to receive the Sacrament
- Experience the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a prayerful experience

(Diocese of Trenton: Parish Religious Education Administration Manual: First Reconciliation: 406: Policy, A, B, C, November 2012)

Immediate preparation for First Eucharist will include the following concepts:

(Grade 2 Curriculum)

- To know who Jesus is and the main events of His life
- To realize that Jesus is present in the Eucharistic Bread and Wine
- To indicate a desire to receive the Eucharist
- Knowing how to receive the Sacrament
- Experience the Sacrament of Eucharist as a prayerful experience

(Diocese of Trenton: Parish Religious Education Administration Manual: First Eucharist: 407: Policy, A, B, C, November 2012)

First Reconciliation

Parent Participation

- Children are provided with First Reconciliation workbooks. Parents are encouraged to work with their child in reviewing and discussing the material.
- Parents are encouraged to discuss and share stories of Jesus with the child – especially those pertaining to forgiveness (*The Forgiving Father, The Lost Sheep, Zacchaeus*).
- Parents are asked to review the Examination of Conscience and Format for Reconciliation with their child.

Sacrament of First Reconciliation

First Reconciliation is celebrated in the Chapel at 7pm during the month of December.

*****Please note: No penitential service or confession shall be recorded, photographed, or videotaped.***
Diocese of Trenton: Celebration of the Sacraments: Policy: 404

Sacrament of Reconciliation Format

You say: ***Bless me Father, for I have sinned.
Father, I.....***

Priest says: For your penance.....
(for example: say one Our Father or help your parents today)

You say: **Act of Contrition**

***O my God, I am sorry for my sins.
In choosing to sin, and failing to do good,
I have sinned against you and your church.
I firmly intend, with the help of your Son,
To make up for my sins, and to love as I should.***

Priest says: I absolve you of your sins, in the name of the Father
and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. God bless you.

You say: ***Thank you Father and God bless you.***



First Eucharist

Parent Participation

- Children are provided with First Eucharist workbooks. Parents are encouraged to work with their child in reviewing and discussing the material.
- Parents are encouraged to discuss and share stories of Jesus with their child – especially those pertaining to Eucharist (*Wedding Feast of Cana, Loaves and Fishes, Last Supper*).
- The child should be participating in weekly Mass for a better understanding of liturgy, preparation for Eucharist, and community involvement.
- Parents are asked to review the format for receiving the host with their child (found in this handbook) and the responses.

Please note:

Immediate preparation for Eucharist includes children being given unconsecrated hosts during class time and at special practices. Parents are asked to notify the Religious Education Office of any known gluten or related allergies.

Sacrament of First Eucharist

First Eucharist is celebrated in Church on assigned Saturdays in the Spring.

Sacrament of Eucharist Format

When it is time to receive communion, I step in to the aisle with my hands folded in prayer. I form a line called a “communion procession”. I am reverent as I approach the altar.

When I reach the priest / minister, they will hold up the consecrated host and say “The Body of Christ”. I bow my head and respond “Amen”.

I make a table with my hands. The priest / minister places the host in my hands. With my bottom hand, I take the host and immediately place in my mouth.

I return to my pew with my hands folded in prayer. I kneel and talk to Jesus for a few minutes. I sit when the Tabernacle is closed.



General Details:

Baptismal Certificate:

(Collected at registration.) A copy must be presented and verified before First Reconciliation and First Eucharist may be celebrated.

First Communion Sacramental Register Form / Grade 2 Expenses Fee:

Submitted to RE Office through *Parish Giving*. The fee covers sacramental-related expenses.

Visiting Clergy:

Any family who has a priest or deacon who they would like to concelebrate the First Eucharist liturgy is asked to notify the Parish Office as soon as possible.

Disability Seating:

Any family requiring disability seating are asked to contact the R.E. Office as soon as possible. Disability seating is assigned to accommodate guests with special needs, allow for distribution of the Eucharist, and to ensure fire codes regarding unblocked aisles are met.

Seating:

A family pew will be reserved for each child. We estimate 9 family members will fit comfortably, along with the child. Any guest who cannot be accommodated in the family pew will be invited to the general seating pews or the simulcast in the chapel. Due to fire codes, no one is permitted to stand in the aisles.

Attire:

First Reconciliation: Church casual.

First Eucharist: Boys wear suit jackets dress shirts, and tie, in the color of their choice. Girls usually wear white dresses. If gloves are worn, please have children remove at arrival.

Pictures:

Reconciliation: **No penitential service or confession shall be recorded, photographed, or videotaped.** *Diocese of Trenton: Celebration of the Sacraments: Policy: 404*

First Communion: Flash photography is not permitted. Parents are asked to convey this policy to guests.