

Sacrament Preparation Policy and Guidelines
Please read carefully

Sacrament Eligibility Requirements for 2018-2019 Academic Year

- Enrolled in 2nd grade or above
 - Completed one (1) year of faith formation during the 2017-2018 academic year. (Enrollment in a St. Michael Children Faith Formation program or in a Catholic School fulfills this requirement).
- and*
- Enrolled in St. Michael Children Faith Formation program or Catholic school during the 2018-2019 academic year.
- and*
- Baptized in the Catholic Faith.

It is a requirement that your child be enrolled in the Sacrament Preparation program in addition to attending St. Michael the Archangel Catholic School. Registration for sacrament preparation is on the parish website at www.stmichaelchurch.net.

*****Attendance at a Catholic School does not guarantee eligibility for reception of the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist.***

Parental Responsibilities in Sacramental Preparation

- Provide the month and year of baptism or a copy of your child's baptismal certificate if your child was baptized at St. Michael Catholic Church, on or before the FIRST parent meeting in October 2018.
- Provide a copy of the baptismal certificate if your child was **not** baptized at St. Michael Catholic Church, on or before the FIRST parent meeting in October 2018.
- Attend one (1) parent meeting for First Reconciliation in October 2018. It is preferable that both parents attend, however, only one parent is required to attend. Childcare will be provided.
- Attend two (2) parent meetings for First Eucharist in January/February 2019. It is preferable that both parents attend, however, only one parent is required to attend. Childcare will be provided.
- Teach your child the content in the student books according to the schedule of lessons distributed at the parent meetings.
- Attend one (1) First Reconciliation Retreat with your child in November/December and a First Eucharist retreat in late February/March. Each retreat is no longer than two (2) hours. It is preferred that both parents attend although only one parent is required to attend.
- Attend the First Eucharist Mass rehearsal in April/May. (If your child attends St. Michael Catholic School, this is not necessary, as rehearsal will take place during school hours).
- Read and comply with the mandatory dress code for First Penance & Reconciliation, and First Eucharist.

Celebration of the Sacrament of First Eucharist at St. Michael the Archangel

- First Eucharist takes place during regularly scheduled Masses on the weekends of: May 4 and May 5, May 18 and May 19.
- St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church provides a photographer and videographer for each First Eucharist Mass planned by the Children Faith Formation office.
- All photographs are taken by the parish photographer after the conclusion of Mass.
- The parish photographer takes one group photo, and one photo of each First Communicant with the Celebrant.
- Due to the rapid succession of Masses during the weekend, no other photos are taken in the church or with the Celebrant.
- Photos and First Eucharist certificates will be available for pick-up in the parish office mid-June.

Sacrament Dress Guidelines

First Penance and Reconciliation “Sunday Best”

Girls

- *A nice dress of appropriate length (no shorter than the top of the knee, no longer than the ankle) or nice slacks and blouse/sweater.
- *No jeans, shorts, or leggings.
- *Top of shoulders and back of shoulders must be covered. It is recommended that the girls wear a sweater to stay warm in the church.
- *No sleeveless dresses.
- *Dress shoes or sandals with a back. No backless shoes.
- *No flip flops, high heels, Toms, or any type of sneaker.

Boys

- *Dress slacks in traditional colors: Navy, black, gray, khaki, or white.
- *White or ivory dress shirt, tucked in.
- *Nice sweater or blazer
- *Tie (traditional, understated color; not bright, loud or neon).
- *Black or brown belt.
- *Socks
- *Black or brown ***LEATHER*** dress shoes.
- *No sneakers, Vans, Converse, or flip flops. No neon colored Sperry topsiders.
- *No shorts, sports jerseys, sports attire, or jeans.

First Eucharist Dress Guidelines

Girls

- *A white, ivory, or crème colored short sleeve dress of appropriate length (no shorter than the top of the knee, no longer than the ankle). No sleeveless dresses, dresses with spaghetti straps or halter tops are permitted.
- *Top of shoulders and back of shoulders must be covered. It is recommended that the girls wear a light white sweater to stay warm in the church.
- *Girls must wear a veil. ***Veils are not optional*** and must be pinned securely. If a child chooses to wear flowers in her hair, she must wear them ***with*** a veil. Flowers cannot be worn in lieu of a veil. A veil will be provided by the parish if a child arrives at the church without one.
- *White or crème colored dress shoes or sandals with a back. No backless shoes.
- *No flip flops, high heels, Toms, or any type of sneaker.
- *No gloves or purses
- *Rosaries, prayer books, and candles may be presented after the Mass if a family wants them blessed.

Boys

- *A suit, or coat and tie ensemble.
- *Dress slacks in traditional color: Navy, black, gray, khaki, or white.
- *White or ivory dress shirt. No other colors are permitted.
- *Tie (traditional, understated color; nothing bright, loud or neon).
- *Black or brown belt.
- *Socks
- *Black or brown ***LEATHER*** dress shoes.
- *No sneakers, Vans, Converse, or flip flops. No neon colored Sperry Topsiders.
- *Rosaries, prayer books, and candles may be presented after the Mass if a family wants them blessed.

Children enrolled at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic School are not required to attend *Sunday Faith Formation* classes since they receive faith formation at school. However, they are required to enroll and participate in the parish *Sacrament Preparation* program which requires submission of sacramental records, attendance at parent meetings, parent retreats and rehearsals, and completion of all reading and writing assignments. **Fulfilling all policies, guidelines and expectations, attendance at all meetings and retreats, and completion of the textbook & worksheets are required for a child to be considered eligible to receive the Sacraments at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church.** Failure to comply with all requirements and expectations will result in a child's ineligibility to receive the sacraments during the current academic year.

I understand my role in my child's sacrament preparation, and I agree that our family will fulfill all the requirements listed above. I understand that not fulfilling one or more of the requirements will result in delaying my child's celebration of First Reconciliation and/or First Eucharist.

Parent signature: _____ Date: _____