

Celebration of First Reconciliation and First Communion 2017

At Saint Kilian Parish First Communions occur at weekend Masses during the Easter Season. At the Parent Meeting on December 14 at 7:00 pm in Saint Kilian Church we will present information about the reception of the sacraments and answer any questions you might have (***note this is a time change from what was previously announced**). In the event you are not able to attend this meeting, we have tried to include all necessary information for First Communion and First Reconciliation in this letter. If you have questions not answered here, please feel free to contact us!

Registering for First Communion will be done online. This will be the only means of choosing your date for First Communion. Online registration should only take a few minutes and can be done from any PC or mobile device. You can access the form starting today directly at this link - <http://saintkilian.formstack.com/forms/2017fc>. Please read carefully the instructions, descriptions and options below.

You will be required to supply the following information on the registration form:

1. First and Last Name of the First Communicant
2. Faith Formation provided by: Saint Kilian Parish CCD, Saint Kilian Parish School, other Catholic School
3. Name of person completing the registration form
4. Email address (this is the address we will use to notify you which Communion date/Mass you have been given).
5. Phone Number
6. Preferences for First Communion (**you need to give two different options**).
7. First Reconciliation Date/Time – select one option

First Communion

You will need to select TWO OPTIONS for First Communion. The online form requires two different choices and will not submit unless they are selected. You will be notified within three days of the date and Mass time for your child's First Communion. This date is based on the time stamp of your submission and the availability of your preference. The online registration DOES NOT CONFIRM the date or time of your child's First Communion. A maximum of 20 children will receive First Communion at each Mass. If both of your mass preferences are full, you will be contacted to choose from the remaining open mass dates and times. All Masses are now celebrated in our new Church located at 7076 Franklin Road, Cranberry Township, PA 16066.

First Communion Options

Saturday - April 22, 2017 at either 4:00 pm or 5:30 pm Mass

Sunday - April 23, 2017 at either 8:00 am, 10:00 am or 12:00 pm Mass

Saturday - April 29, 2017 at either 4:00 pm or 5:30 pm Mass

Sunday - April 30, 2017 at either 8:00 am, 10:00 am or 12:00 pm Mass

Saturday - May 6, 2017 at either 4:00 pm or 5:30 pm Mass

Sunday - May 7, 2017 at either 8:00 am, 10:00 am or 12:00 pm Mass

Saturday - May 13, 2017 at either 4:00 pm or 5:30 pm Mass *(no Sunday Masses this weekend)*

First Reconciliation (Held in the church)

Options: Wednesday, March 8, 2017 at 6:30 pm
 Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at 6:30 pm

Practice for First Reconciliation and First Communion

In past years we have gathered all the children in large groups to review and practice for their First Reconciliation and First Communion Day. However, as we did last year, the preparation will take place in smaller groups **during normal class times**. This enables more individual interaction with the children. Parents do not need to attend this practice.

First Reconciliation Preparation

Saint Kilian School – week of February 13th

Saint Kilian Onsite CCD – week of February 12th

If your child attends the Family Centered Program for CCD or a Catholic School, other than Saint Kilian, you may attend one of the sessions scheduled for CCD students. The times for those sessions are:

Sunday, February 12, 2017 either 8:30 am to 9:15 am or 10:30 am to 11:15 am

Monday, February 13, 2017 – 5:00 pm to 5:45 pm

Tuesday, February 14, 2017 – 5:00 pm to 5:45 pm

These sessions will be held in the Chapel of the Parish Center (next to the gym).

First Communion Preparation

Saint Kilian School – week of March 27th

Saint Kilian Onsite CCD - week of March 26th

If your child attends the Family Centered Program for CCD or a Catholic School, other than Saint Kilian, you may attend one of the sessions scheduled for CCD students. The times for those sessions will be:

Sunday, March 26, 2017 either 8:30 am to 9:15 am or 10:30 am to 11:15 am

Monday, March 27, 2017 – 5:00 pm to 5:45 pm

Tuesday, March 28, 2017 – 5:00 pm to 5:45 pm

These sessions will be held in the Chapel of the Parish Center (next to the gym).

Day of First Reconciliation

Arrival

Please arrive at least 15 minutes before your scheduled time for reconciliation. Check in with Susan Bachner at the entrance of the Church so we know that your child has attended and received this sacrament.

Dress

Please dress appropriately for this special sacrament.

Seating

Please sit in the front sections of the church with your child.

Prayer Service

The sacrament of Reconciliation will occur within a prayer service. Following a short homily, the children will be moved to one of the locations in the church where confessions will be heard. While they are receiving this sacrament we ask you to maintain a prayerful atmosphere by joining in the singing and listening to the scripture readings. Once all the children have received reconciliation, the service concludes with a prayer and blessing. Due to the number of first confessions, parents and other family members are asked to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the normal parish times and not at this celebration.

As part of the prayer service, the children will recite the Act of Contrition. While this normally takes place in the confessional, we have found it beneficial to say this prayer together for their First Reconciliation. They do not need to memorize the Act of Contrition.

Practicing at Home

While the children will receive instruction and practice receiving this sacrament as part of their religious education, we ask that you also practice with them so they feel comfortable on that day. A copy of the Steps of Reconciliation, a sample examination of conscience, and the Act of Contrition are found at the end of this letter for your use.

Day of First Communion

Dress

Boys may wear a sports coat, suit or a nice shirt and tie with a vest. Girls usually wear white dresses with veils or other headpieces. It is not mandatory that girls wear white dresses.

Arrival Time

Please arrive no later than 20 minutes before the start of Mass. Please check in with Susan Bachner in the vestibule of the church. She will sign you in and direct you to the front of the church where your child will be seated in one of the front pews.

Seating

First Communicants will be seated together in first pews of the church. Family members are free to sit anywhere except those pews. There is no reserved seating for family members.

First Communicants Participation at Mass

Approximately five minutes before Mass begins, First Communicants will be taken into the sanctuary for a brief review. They will then be led to the back of the church and lined up so they can join in the Entrance Procession.

Before the Eucharistic Prayer, children will be directed to join the celebrant around the altar. They will remain there until Communion time. At that time, the children will be led single file to the priest to receive their First Communion. The priest will

be at the center of the sanctuary, so there will be wonderful opportunity for you to photograph this special moment. After the children receive the Body of Christ, they will have the option of receiving the Blood of Christ. You should discuss this option before the day of communion and, if they wish to receive the Precious Blood, allow them to taste wine at home. The children return to their seats following communion. They do not process out, so we ask you to join them at the conclusion of Mass.

Religious Articles

If your child has received any religious articles for this special occasion you may request any of the priests or deacons to bless them. A reminder, that on the day of First Communion, the children should not carry any prayer books, purses, rosaries, etc. with them. Also, for the girls, if they are wearing gloves and receiving Holy Communion in the hand, the gloves need to be removed during mass.

Pictures

Picture taking is permitted during Mass. Please be discrete to make this a prayerful celebration.

Illness

If your child is ill on the date you requested, please contact Susan Bachner at 724.625.1665 (Ext. 2111) to make other arrangements.

STEPS OF RECONCILIATION

- + Examination of Conscience
- + The priest welcomes me.
While making the Sign of the Cross
I say, “**Bless me Father, for I have sinned. This is my first confession.**”
I then tell my sins to the priest.
(Confession)
- + The priest talks with me, and asks me to say a prayer or do something special.
(My Penance)

**** (Act of Contrition - SEE NOTE BELOW)**

- + The priest forgives me “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **I make the Sign of the Cross.**
(Absolution)
- + The priest says, “Go in peace”.
I say: “**Thank you, Father**”.
I leave the reconciliation room.
- + I say a prayer thanking God for His love and forgiveness. (If my penance is to pray, I do it at this time.)

The Act of Contrition is normally prayed at this time, however, for First Reconciliation, it will be prayed as a group during the Prayer Service.

ACT OF CONTRITION

My God,
I am sorry for my sins with all my
heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing
to do good, I have sinned against you whom I
should love above all things.

I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance,
to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads
me to sin.

Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for
us. In His name, My God, have mercy.

Amen.

Examination of Conscience

- ❖ Do I think about God every day?
- ❖ Do I say my prayers?
- ❖ Do I pay attention and participate at Mass?
- ❖ Do I use the gifts God has given me?

- ❖ Am I kind to others?
- ❖ Do I do what Jesus wants me to do?
- ❖ Am I helpful to my family?
- ❖ Do I show respect to my teachers and classmates?
- ❖ Do I treat my brothers and sisters as I want to be treated?

- ❖ Do I share with others?
- ❖ Do I remember to say thank you?
- ❖ Am I sometimes greedy?
- ❖ Do I appreciate the good things I have in my life?
- ❖ Do I think of ways to help those who have no food?

- ❖ Do I take things that don't belong to me?
- ❖ Do I say I'm sorry when I have been wrong?
- ❖ Do I forgive others as I would like them to forgive me?
- ❖ Do I help solve problems between my friends or
do I cause more trouble?

- ❖ Do I play fairly in sports and games?
- ❖ Do I cheat in school?
- ❖ Do I tell the truth?
- ❖ Do I set a good example by my kindness?
- ❖ Do I let other kids tempt me to do things I know I should not do?