

## 1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist and Reconciliation

The typical age to begin preparation for First Holy Communion is second grade or 7 years of age. Classes begin in September and usually meet twice monthly on Sunday mornings from 9:30-11:00am in the Social Hall.

Families must be members of St. Patrick Church and children must be baptized before receiving the Sacraments.

The first six lessons are devoted to teaching about Reconciliation as well as parts of the Mass, with a hands-on retreat in November and the Sacrament of Reconciliation being received in December.

The next six lessons are devoted to teaching about the Eucharist and parts of the Mass, with a hands-on retreat in April. First Communion will be received in May.

Refer to the class schedule for dates and times.

### **ST. PATRICK PARISH POLICY FOR THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

1. It is the policy of this parish that First Reconciliation precedes First Communion. Therefore, all children preparing for First Communion will also be prepared to celebrate Reconciliation.
2. Parents of both Regina and public school students must be involved in the preparation of their children for this sacrament. To help them in this responsibility, the parish will see that appropriate information is provided to parents each year. All parents are expected to participate in their child's preparation.
3. Because parents are the primary educators of their children, it is their role to determine when their child is ready to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. If parents feel their child is not ready by the time the communal Reconciliation service takes place, they should consult with the Sacrament teacher.
4. Parents desiring their child to receive First Reconciliation individually will be responsible for making the necessary arrangements with Father Rudy.
5. In December, a communal Penance Service will take place. Those desiring to celebrate Reconciliation with the group may do so at this time.
6. Regular class attendance is mandatory. More than three absences for the year may result in the postponement of a child's reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

### **ST. PATRICK PARISH POLICY FOR THE SACRAMENT OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST**

1. Any student wishing to prepare for First Communion with the second grade class must be enrolled in religion classes at Regina.
2. Children preparing for First Communion will generally receive in the second grade or at another time when the child demonstrates his/her readiness.
3. Parents of both Regina and public school students must be involved in the preparation of their children for this sacrament. To help them in this responsibility, the parish will see that appropriate information is provided to parents each year. All parents are expected to participate in their child's preparation.
4. Parents, along with their child's Sacrament teacher, will determine if the child is ready to receive the Eucharist for the first time.
5. At the end of the instruction period, one solemn group Communion will take place. This group experience will help to impress upon the children and their families the importance of the social aspect of the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist as well as being a witness to the parish at large.
6. Regular class attendance is mandatory. More than three unexcused absences for the year may result in the postponement of a child's reception of this sacrament.