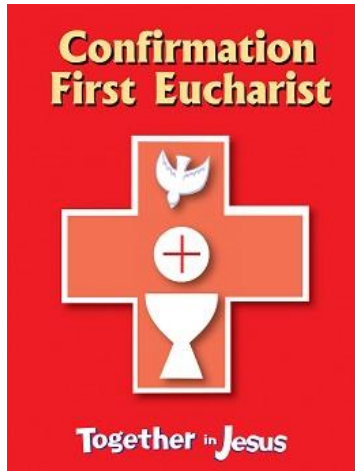


St. Mary's Basilica

CONFIRMATION AND FIRST EUCHARIST PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Our sacramental preparation program for Confirmation and First Eucharist, designed for third grade and above, is called *Together in Jesus*. The program consists of six integrated component that you and your child will need to complete before receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation and First Eucharist:



- Classroom Component
- Family Component
- Online Learning Component
- Prayer Component
- Service and Retreat Components

Together in Jesus Confirmation and First Eucharist program has been integrated into the Children's Ministry program on Sundays to alleviate the need for families to participate on a separate night at St. Mary's Basilica. **Because of this accommodation, you can only miss three Sunday classes and need to attend all Confirmation and First Eucharist classes and retreat.**

Classroom Component

Your child and you together will explore eight lessons throughout the year in their classroom:

1. I Belong to a Community.
2. I Prepare for Confirmation.
3. What Happens in Confirmation.
4. Our Community Remembers Jesus.
5. Jesus Gathers People Together.
6. Jesus' Special Supper.
7. Our Community Shares a Meal.
8. My First Eucharist Book.

To preview a sample lesson "I Belong to a Community" visit:

<http://cart.pflaum.com/preview/First-Eucharist-Preview/>

Family Component

These eight lessons will also be explored within your family setting too. We recognize that what goes on in your home is the most important part of the sacramental preparation. We also recognize that parents and caregivers are tremendously busy these days, so our goal is to assist you in making sacramental preparation an enjoyable part of your family activities.

Together in Jesus provides three sources of support and involvement for parents and caregivers. These resources are:

- **Questions Parents Ask About Confirmation and First Eucharist**
These special handouts answers questions parents and caregivers frequently ask and seeks to update them on the theology of Confirmation and First Eucharist.
- **Two Family Focus Posters**
Together in Jesus provides two special posters to display at home on your refrigerator or elsewhere and to be used as a focal point for family involvement in your child's Confirmation and First Eucharist preparation. **These posters features a parent / child activity for each of the programs eight lessons that you will complete with your child and bring to each class.**

Lesson 1: **Due October 1st**
Lesson 3: **Due December 3rd**
Lesson 5: **Due February 4th**
Lesson 7: **Due April 8th**

Lesson 2: **Due November 5th**
Lesson 4: **Due January 7th**
Lesson 6: **Due March 4th**
Lesson 8: **Due April 29th**

- **Prayer Celebrations**
Teaching Guide contains short prayer celebrations on the Confirmation and First Eucharist themes of each lesson in the *Together in Jesus* program. Parents can use these short prayer services at home during the weeks their children are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist.

Online Learning Component

Together in Jesus provides six interactive computer games. These six interactive games coordinate with six lessons in *Together in Jesus* Confirmation and First Eucharist program. The games, which children and parents can play together, reinforce the themes and concepts of each lesson. We ask your child to play each game until they can consistently score a perfect score. **You will fill out a completion form when you and your child have completed these online games.** The following Computer Games are:

- Defeat the Word-Snatcher (Lesson 1): **Due October 1st**
- Reminders of Jesus (Lesson 4): **Due January 7th**
- Mission: Code Breakers (Lesson 5): **Due February 4th**
- Supper with Friends (Lesson 6): **Due March 4th**
- Acting Like Jesus (Lesson 7): **Due April 8th**
- Time to Review (Lesson 8): **Due April 29th**

Visit the following link to play the interactive games: www.pflaum.com/eucharist

Prayer Component

Please work with your child to help them memorize the following prayers that correspond to the lessons in *Together in Jesus* Confirmation and First Eucharist program. In addition, your child should have already memorized the prayers from their First Reconciliation preparation.

Memorize by October 1st

The Seven Sacraments

1. Baptism
2. Confirmation
3. Eucharist (Communion)
4. Penance and Reconciliation (Confession)
5. Anointing of the Sick
6. Holy Matrimony (Marriage)
7. Holy Orders

Memorize by November 5th

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your faithful,
and kindle in them
the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit, O Lord,
and our hearts shall be created,
and you shall renew
the face of the earth.
Amen.

Memorize by December 3rd

Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

1. Wisdom
2. Understanding
3. Right Judgement (Counsel)
4. Courage (Fortitude)
5. Knowledge
6. Reverence (Piety)
7. Wonder and Awe (Fear of the Lord)

Memorize by January 7th

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the
Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living
and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.

Memorize by February 4th

Grace Before Meals

Bless us, O Lord, and these thy gifts,
which we are about to receive
from thy bounty,
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Memorize by March 4th

Hail, Holy Queen

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy,
Hail, our life, our sweetness, and our hope.
To you we cry, the children of Eve;
To you we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this land of exile.
Turn, then, most gracious advocate,
Your eyes of mercy toward us;
Lead us home at last
and show us the blessed fruit
of your womb, Jesus:
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.
Salve, Regina.
Amen.

Memorize by April 8th

Your child now knows all the individual prayers that together form the Rosary.

Choose one set of the Mysteries of the Rosary each week to pray with your child to help them learn how to pray the Rosary.

How to Pray the Rosary

1. Pray and make the Sign of the Cross and say the Apostles' Creed.
2. Pray the Lord's Prayer.
3. Pray three Hail Marys.
4. Pray the Glory Be to the Father.
5. Say the first mystery; then pray the Lord's Prayer.
6. Pray ten Hail Marys while meditating on the mystery.
7. Pray the Glory Be to the Father.
8. Say the second mystery; then pray the Lord's Prayer. Repeat steps 6 and 7 and continue with the third, fourth, and fifth mysteries in the same manner.
9. Pray the Hail, Holy Queen.
10. Pray and make the Sign of the Cross.

Mysteries of the Rosary

Joyful: The Annunciation of the Lord to Mary; The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth; The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ; The Presentation of Our Lord; and the Finding Jesus in the Temple at age 12.

Sorrowful: The Agony of Jesus in the Garden; The Scourging at the Pillar; Jesus is Crowned with Thorns; Jesus Carried the Cross; and The Crucifixion of the Lord.

Glorious: The Resurrection of Jesus Christ; The Ascension of Jesus to Heaven; The Descent of the Holy Spirit; The Assumption of Mary into Heaven; and Mary is Crowned as Queen of Heaven and Earth.

Luminous: The Baptism in the Jordan; The Wedding at Cana; The Proclamation of the Kingdom; The Transfiguration; and the Institution of the Eucharist.

Month of May

Spend the month of May reviewing the prayers your child has learned during First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Eucharist preparation.



Service Component

The Diocese of Phoenix requires that sacramental preparation includes a service component. **Your family and child are being asked to engage in 8 hours of parish and/or community service.** Practicing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy is a visible sign of lifelong faith. Opportunities for services will be made available throughout the year.

Retreat Component

A retreat for children and their parents preparing to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist is planned for a Saturday morning. This is to be a time to reflect upon the Church's teachings on the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist in language suited to the children's age level. A time of prayer and practice for the sacramental experience will also be included in this retreat. **Confirmation Sponsors are requested to attend the retreat.**

Date: Sunday, April 29th
Time: 10:30 AM to 12 PM
Location: Diocesan Pastoral Center

Select a Confirmation Name

A Confirmation candidate is strongly encouraged to be confirmed under his or her baptismal name, or in accordance to the past custom of the Church, select the name of a biblical, beatified, or canonized person as recognized by the Church. If candidates decide to select a name, they should be familiar with the life of the patron of their choice and the ways in which this person was a witness to Christ and demonstrated discipleship.

Select a Confirmation Sponsor

Every candidate should have a Confirmation sponsor. Candidates may have more than one sponsor, however only one should be designated as the liturgical sponsor who presents the candidate for Confirmation. It is desirable that baptismal godparents, as extensions of the spiritual family, continue this role at Confirmation. Sponsors should be actively involved in the child's life of faith before, during, and after Confirmation.

Qualifications of a sponsor

Sponsors must be at least sixteen years old. They may not be the natural or adoptive parents of the Confirmation candidate. They must be fully initiated into the Catholic Faith (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist). They must be leading a life in harmony with the Faith. They must be free of any canonical impediment (RC 5-6; Canon 874, 892-893; CCC 1311; RCIA 10.2).

Child's Readiness

The Diocese of Phoenix states, "Parents discern the readiness of their children to prepare for and celebrate the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist in consultation with their pastor or his delegate." The following is the criteria for readiness at St. Mary's Basilica:

- An awareness of God's unconditional love for them.
- Regular participation in Sunday Mass. **(Determined by participation in CLOW.)**
- Prayer as a part of the child's life and also experienced within their family.
- Must have previously been prepared for and received the Sacrament of Reconciliation (ordinarily occurs in Second Grade).
- Must be properly instructed. (Needs to complete *Together in Jesus* Confirmation and First Eucharist program, a curriculum found to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, which is required by the Diocese of Phoenix.)
- Consistent attendance at formation sessions.
- Must be capable of renewing their Baptismal promises.
- Participation in a Family Sacraments of Initiation Retreat.
- Willingness to participate in community service.

Together in Jesus Confirmation and First Eucharist program at St. Mary's Basilica has been designed to fulfill the requirements put forth in the *Diocese of Phoenix Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist Policy and Guidelines 2009*. By completing the above components of preparation your child will meet the above criteria for readiness to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist.

In addition, the Diocese of Phoenix requires that children in Confirmation and First Eucharist preparation also be involved in the parish's on-going catechetical formation program (Children's Ministry). We have integrated Confirmation and First Eucharist preparation into our Children's Ministry program on Sundays to alleviate the need for families to participate on a separate night at St. Mary's Basilica. **Because of this accommodation, you can only miss three Sunday classes and need to attend all Confirmation and First Eucharist classes and retreat.**



*As often as you did it for one
of my least brothers, you did
it for me.*