

RESURRECTION PARISH FORMATION MINISTRY

FIRST COMMUNION/FIRST PENANCE PARENT/GUARDIAN MEETING

Thursday February 4, 2010

Monday, March 1, 2010

KEY EVENTS AND DATES:

- Feb 4, Thursday: Parent/Guardian Meetings at 7:00 PM, Parish Center
- Mar 1, Monday: Parent/Guardian Meetings at 7:00 PM, Parish Center—Alternate date
- Mar 8, Monday: Baptismal certificates due for those children not baptized at Resurrection
- Mar 14, Sunday March 5:00 PM Mass, First Penance (Parish Lenten Service)
- Mar 20, Saturday: First Communion Retreat, 8:30 – Noon (Parent/Guardian and child)
- Apr 1: Service Hours Due
- Apr 22, Thursday First Communion Rehearsal, at 6:30, Church
- Apr 24, Saturday: Assemble for First Communion, 4:15PM, Church
- Apr 24, Saturday: First Communion, at the 5:00 PM Mass, Church

WHERE TO FIND UPDATED INFORMATION: Circumstances cause event dates and times to change. To reach all parish families who are involved, here is where to find the latest information:

- We will send major announcements directly by mail to your registered address
- We will post info in the “Formation Corner” of the Parish Bulletin
- We will post info in the “Formation” sections in the parish website <http://www.respar.net>
- If not sure, please do call the Rectory, 744-0833

BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES: Candidates not baptized at Resurrection are required to obtain a completed original copy of their baptismal certificate from the Church of their baptism. This will have the parish seal embossed on it, indicate sacraments received, and been issued within the last six months. **Please turn into the Rectory by March 8.** This must be on file prior to your Child’s First Penance on March 14. (This is not the baptismal certificate received at your child’s baptism.)

FIRST PENANCE—SUNDAY MARCH 14 AFTER THE REGULAR 5:00 PM MASS: This will be part of the Parish Lenten Penance service. There will be a number of priests present, so it is an opportunity to join your child in celebrating this sacrament as part of your spiritual preparation for Easter.

FIRST COMMUNION RETREAT—SATURDAY MARCH 20 FROM 8:30 AM TO 12:00 NOON: Children receiving their First Communion on April 24 and at least one parent/guardian must attend. No siblings please—this is a special time to spend with your First Communion candidate. There will be a light continental breakfast, but no lunch. Thanks to an anonymous contributor, there is no fee for the retreat. Dress is casual; play clothes are ok but should be appropriate for going into the church. *Children not receiving First Communion on April 24 are, with a parent/guardian, welcome to attend as well.*

FIRST COMMUNION REHEARSAL—THURSDAY APRIL 22 AT 6:30 PM: This is only for children receiving First Communion on Saturday April 24, and is mandatory for them and their parents.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO: Photography and Video are restricted during the Liturgy (from the opening song until the closing song). Professional videos and still pictures of First Communion will be available for purchase at rehearsal and on the day of First Communion. Please pass on to your guests.

SERVICE HOURS: Resurrection Parish asks that each child will set aside time to experience serving others as Jesus does. Candidates are to serve others for at least five (5) hours before First Communion. Service

Hours forms were distributed. Contact me if you need more. These forms are due to your child's teacher by April 1, 2010.

PARENTAL COMMITMENT TO GROWTH OF CHILDREN'S FAITH: *You have more influence than any other person does in forming your child into a disciple of Christ.* That is a big responsibility. It makes this an opportune time to nurture your faith and your family's faith, so I urge you to seize this faith enrichment moment. Here are some ways to make that happen:

- Actively participate in Mass each Sunday and Holy Day; discuss the readings as a family.
- Pray both individually and as a family:
 - Pray as a family, e.g., grace before meals, rosary, etc.
 - Prayerfully Read scripture.
 - Use a daily prayer guide such as "The Word Among Us" or "Magnificat".
 - Be sure your children see you pray.
- Set an example by what you say and do.
- Set an example by what you *do not* say and *do not* do.
- Attend an Adult Formation Session/Bible Study; participate in church social/spiritual activities.
- Want to be a Eucharistic Minister or Lector? This is an excellent time to pursue that call.
- Faith questions? Actively seek the opportunity to discuss your faith questions with someone known to be knowledgeable in the Catholic faith.
- Attend all First Communion Parent/Guardian meetings.

SUGGESTED READINGS:

- *Bible-Eucharist: Mk 6:32-44, 14:22-25; Jn 6, Mt. 26:26-28, Lk 22: 19-20, 24:13-35, 1 Cor 11:23-26*
- *Bible-Reconciliation: 1 Jn 1:8, Jn 20:21-23, Mt 9:2-8, 16:13-19, Lk 15*
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church, Paragraphs 1322-1419 (Eucharist), 1422-1498 (Reconciliation)*
- *A Guide for Parents, First Penance Preparation*
- *A Guide for Parents, First Communion Preparation*
- *Sources: These last two are enclosed; the Bible and the Catechism are available on line at: <http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/> and <http://www.usccb.org/catechism/text/> respectively. Both books are widely available through any bookstore or online bookstore.*

DRESS FOR FIRST COMMUNION:

Boys: Dark blue dress pants, long-sleeve white dress shirt worn over a plain white under-shirt, white tie, and dress shoes; white tuxedos are optional.

Girls: White dresses, white veils, white tights, white socks & shoes, no gloves

No: Sneakers, athletic shoes, sandals, jeans, no gloves; the under-shirts worn under boy's long-sleeve dress shirts must be plain and white. If you're not sure, please ask.

FOR ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT ME:

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