

First Communion Team

The First Communion Team has the responsibility of assisting parents in preparing the children to live the faith of the Christian Community by living lives which profess the Lord's presence and salvation in the world.

The Parents	of all our communicants
The Most Rev. John M. Smith	Bishop of Trenton
Very Rev. Damian McElroy, V.F.	Pastor
Rev. James O'Neill	Parochial Vicar
Deacon Joseph Paul Deacon James Grogan Deacon Edward Heffernan Deacon David Papuga Deacon Thomas D. Begley, III	Deacons
Dr. Linda M. Dix, D.Min.	Director of Religious Education
Mr. Stephen J. Lucasi Mrs. Paula Quann	Director of Sacred Music Assistant Director
Mr. Jerome T. McGowan	Principal, Our Lady of Good Counsel School
Ms. Laura J. Kowalick	Office Manager
Mrs. A. Jean Kutteroff	Registrar

Teachers

Our Lady of Good Counsel School

Cynthia Robinson

Kelly Mulholland

Religious Education Program

Sally Bagley	Nicola Hampton	Thom Robenhymer
Annemarie Brownmiller	Maya Kay	Linda Russo
Kathy Feid	Helen Kaye	Cathryn Walsh
Dawn Furze	Marie Kern	Mary Grace Walsh
David Grabowski	Christine Kienzle	Kitty White
Linda Tausz-Hannon	Arlene O'Donnell	Natalie Wilcox
Kristen Holmbeck	Kathleen O'Sullivan	

First Holy Communion Program

Preparation for First Penance and First Holy Communion is a two-year process. The program involves parent/guardian participation.

I. First Penance:

- Parent Meeting / Family Mass and Breakfast
- Retreat
- First Penance

II. First Holy Communion:

- Parent Meeting / Family Mass and Breakfast
- Parent Participation
- First Communion Practice
- First Holy Communion
- First Holy Communion Details
- First Holy Communion Form

*Please contact the Office of Religious Education
for questions and details regarding First Penance and First Holy Communion.*

Dr. Linda M. Dix, D.Min., Director of Religious Education
Our Lady of Good Counsel
122 West Main Street, Moorestown, NJ 08057
Phone: (856) 235-7136; FAX: (856) 235-2354
e-mail: reprogram@olgcnj.org

*Please visit our parish website for
First Penance and First Holy Communion information:
www.olgcnj.org*

First Penance

1. Parent Meeting / Family Mass and Breakfast

This meeting will cover the details of First Penance as well as provide the opportunity to update and renew the adult's theology and faith regarding the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Date	Time	Place
Saturday, September 12, 2009	9:00 A.M.	Main Church and School Cafeteria

2. Retreat

JMT Productions will be presenting *“Jesus, Our Good Shepherd”* as a First Penance preparation retreat for our second graders. Through the use of puppets, clowning, story telling, music, drama, and crafts, children will learn about the love of God, forgiveness of sins, and how to live a good Christian life. This retreat will be an enjoyable and important part of your child's sacramental preparation program.

Pre-registration and permission slips are required for children to participate.

The program length is approximately 2 hours.

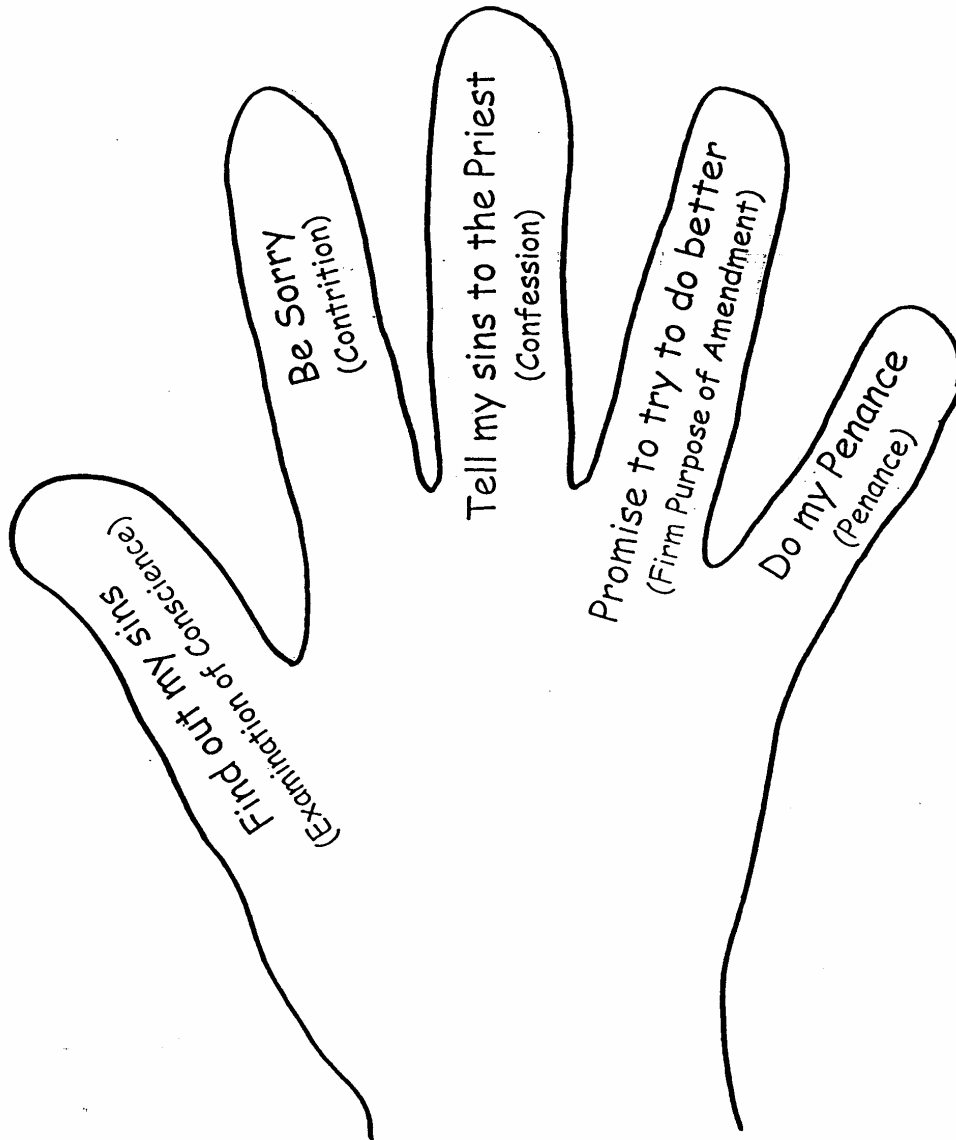
Date	Time	Place
Saturday, October 17, 2009	10:00 A.M.	Multipurpose Room

3. First Penance

First Penance is celebrated in the Fall of the second grade year. Children attend with their families.

Date	Time	Place
Saturday November 7, 2009	10:30 A.M. Mrs. Robinson's class and Religious Education Classes: (A-K)	Main Church
<i>Alternate Date:</i> Tuesday, December 15 7:00PM	1:00 P.M. Ms. Mulholland's class and Religious Education Classes: (L-Z)	

This hand helps me to remember
what I need to do to receive
the sacrament of Reconciliation.



A good way to begin:
"Bless me, Father, for I have sinned."
(Make the sign of the cross)

Sacrament of Reconciliation Form

You say: *Bless me Father, for I have sinned.*

Father, I.....

(begin on a positive note, by expressing something good about ourselves.)

For these and all of the sins of my past life, I am sorry.

Priest says: For your penance.....

(for example: say one Our Father or help your parents today)

You say: **Act of Contrition**

O my God, I am sorry for my sins.

In choosing to sin,

And failing to do good,

I have sinned against you

And your church.

I firmly intend,

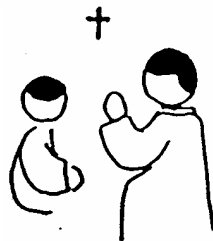
With the help of your Son,

To make up for my sins

And to love as I should.

Priest says: I absolve you of your sins, in the name of the Father
and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. God bless you.

You say: *Thank you Father and God bless you.*



First Holy Communion

1. Parent Meeting / Family Mass and Breakfast

This meeting addresses the specifics of First Communion and will provide the opportunity to update and renew the adult's theology and faith regarding the Sacrament of Eucharist.

Date	Time	Place
Saturday, January 9, 2010	9:00 A.M.	Main Church and School Cafeteria

2. Parent Participation

As primary catechists, parents have an active roll in their child's preparation for First Communion. This includes both assessing their child's readiness for the sacrament, and proclaiming a Pledge of Commitment.

- **Assessment of Child's Readiness:**

Parents are encouraged to review the following questions with their child. The child gets a sense of all that has been learned about Jesus and First Communion, while the parent is able to ascertain how well simple truths of faith have been understood.

What does the word Eucharist mean?

Eucharist means "giving thanks". In the Eucharist we give thanks to God.

Why do we give thanks to God?

We give thanks to God for Jesus, God's greatest gift to us.

What did Jesus do for us?

Jesus showed us how to live our faith. He died on the cross for us and rose again that we might have a new life.

Do you know any stories about Him?

(Told in child's own words. If child hesitates, suggest, "Do you remember the story about ...Loaves and Fishes; Wedding at Cana; Zaccheus; Last Supper?")

When did Jesus give us the Eucharist?

Jesus gave us the Eucharist at the Last Supper, the night before he died.

What happens to the bread and wine at Mass?

By the power of the Holy Spirit and the words and actions of the priest, the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ.

Whom do we receive in Holy Communion?

We receive Jesus, the Bread of Life.

- **Parent Pledge of Commitment**

Parents recite the following pledge:

I affirm my commitment to the Catholic Church to be a supportive force in my child’s life as I raise my child a Catholic.

Through my lived example, my child shall be reminded that I am the first and foremost catechist in the home.

Through me, my child shall come to understand Catholic values and attitudes by showing love for Christ and His Church.

Finally, I pledge to nurture the faith of my child by faithfully attending Mass each week together, by reverently receiving the Eucharist and living in its spirit, and by fostering justice and love in all our relationships as a family.

3. Practice Schedule

Our Lady of Good Counsel School Students:

First Holy Communion practices will be held during regular school hours.

Religious Education Students:

Practice times for the Sunday First Communion liturgies will be during class time.

Practices for the Saturday liturgies will also include the Friday before First Communion.

Practice Date	Practice Time	Place
Friday, April 30, 2010	10:30 AM Liturgy: 4:00 P.M. – 4:45 P.M. 1:00 PM Liturgy: 5:00 P.M. – 5:45 P.M.	Main Church

4. First Communion Dates

Our Lady of Good Counsel School Families:

Date	Liturgy
Saturday, April 24, 2010	10:30 A.M. - Mrs. Robinson 1:00 P.M. - Ms. Mulholland

Religious Education Families:

Parents in the R.E. Program request the First Communion Liturgy for their child from the dates and times listed below. Forms are sent home prior to Fall Parent Meeting, and due back at that time. Parents are notified of their assigned date as soon as the forms are processed.

Date	Liturgy	Time
Saturday, May 1, 2010	First Communion Liturgy	10:30 A.M. or 1:00 P.M.
Sunday, April 11, 2010 Sunday, April 18, 2010 Sunday, April 25, 2010	Sunday Liturgy Main Church	9:00 A.M. or 10:30 A.M.

5. Details regarding First Holy Communion

- **Information Form** - Located in this handbook. To be completed and handed in at January meeting, with copy of Baptismal Certificate and Sacramental Fee attached.
- **Baptismal Certificate** – A copy must be presented and verified *before* First Communion may be received. *Please secure a copy of your child's baptismal certificate PRIOR to the January meeting.* No certificate is necessary if your child was baptized at Good Counsel, as our office will verify this information to the Baptismal Register.
- **Sacramental Fee** – The fee of \$50.00 is to cover miscellaneous costs of the program.
- **Liturgical Ministers** – Forms will be distributed at the January Parent Meeting for any family with a commissioned altar server or Eucharistic Minister to participate in the liturgy. *Forms must be returned by the deadline stated, as other ministers will be assigned.*
- **Concelebrants:** Any family who has a priest family member or friend who they would like to concelebrate the First Communion liturgy, or assist at First Reconciliation is asked to notify the RE Office as soon as possible, so a formal invitation may be extended by the pastor.
- **Disability Seatings:** Any family requiring disability seating (wheelchair, walkers) must request the designated seating by contacting the R.E. Office no later than the January Meeting. Wheelchair and walker seating is located at the open pews in the middle of the church (at the break). At no time may strollers, infant seats, unattended wheelchairs, walkers, or oxygen tanks block the aisles. Ushers are available to assist families with special needs.
Please note: Disability seating is assigned to accommodate your guests with special needs, allow for distribution of the Eucharist, and to ensure that fire codes regarding unblocked aisles are met.
- **Seating :** **Good Counsel School:** Communicants sit together in front pews. Family / guests sit in assigned pews behind children.
Religious Education: Communicants sit with their families in assigned pews.
- **Tickets** –
Good Counsel School: A family pew will be reserved.
Parents may request general seating tickets, located behind the family pews.
Religious Education / Saturday First Communions: A family pew will be reserved.
Religious Education / Sunday Liturgy First Communions: A family pew will be reserved.
- **Attire** – Girls usually wear white dresses, although pastels are acceptable. Gloves and carrying of flowers are discouraged. Boys wear suit jackets and dress shirts with a tie.
- **Reverence** – Families are expected to observe a reverent demeanor in church during all liturgies.
- **Pictures** – **Once Mass has begun, we ask that no pictures or videos be taken. Following Mass, pictures may be taken. Parents are asked to convey this message to guests.**
- **Cell Phones** – Please be sure that all phones are turned off or set to silent mode during the Communion liturgies.
- **First Communion Packets** - The children will receive a First Communion book, entitled, *The First Eucharist.*, along with their First Communion Certificates at their assigned liturgy.
- **Donation of Communion outfits** – Families are invited to donate their child's gently used First Communion outfits to the parish's outreach effort with needy inner-city parishes in Philadelphia.

*Please present this form at the January First Communion Parent Meeting,
with a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate attached and the
Sacramental Fee of \$50.00.*

First Holy Communion
Our Lady of Good Counsel, Moorestown NJ

Name of child to receive First Holy Communion (Baptismal Name):

First Middle Last

Name, as you want it printed on First Holy Communion Certificate:

First Middle Last

Record of Birth of child to receive First Holy Communion:

City / State of Birth: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Record of Baptism of child to receive First Holy Communion:

Church of Baptism: _____

City / State: _____

Date of Baptism: _____

Parents' Name: (Conforms to information listed on child's baptismal certificate)

Father: (Legal Name): _____

Mother: (Include Maiden Name): _____

Age at time of First Communion: _____

Residence: ____ Moorestown, NJ ____ Mt. Laurel, NJ ____ Other: _____

For use by Office of Religious Education:

Baptismal Certificate Verified: _____ Sacramental Fee Paid: _____

Date of First Communion : _____