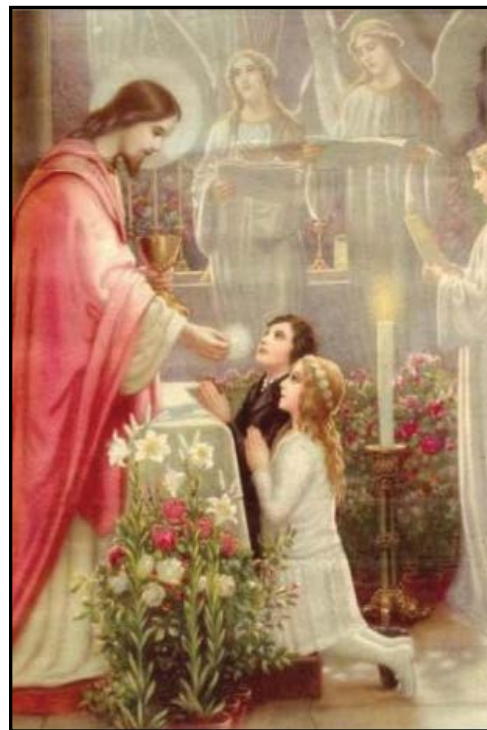


St. Jerome Sacramental Preparation 2012-2013



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Second Grade Preparation for the Sacraments 2012/13



Dear Parents/guardians,

This is a very exciting time for you and your child, as well as for the parish of St. Jerome at large as we prepare the youth to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist for the first time. This time of preparation can change not only your child's life forever but your entire family! You have the great opportunity to fall deeper in love with Christ and His Church in a way you may never have experienced before. Please pray about how God wants you to grow through this time, and make every effort to place this preparation process at the top of the list for your family. If you do, we promise that God has great things in store for you!

Take a moment to think of your life, its busyness, schedules, running around. What we spend our time doing shows us where our heart is and what we value. In a special way this year, you will be asked to dedicate maybe more time than you are use to, to prayer and forming your child in the faith. We will be asking you to prayerfully consider if you are able to completely dive into this process, and if you are willing to not just give time through formation, attending Mass every Sunday and Reconciliation at least 1x a year this specific year, but for the rest of the time your child is in your care. You will even be asked to sign a written promise (found in this packet). This is a big decision, and one that should not be taken lightly. If you are willing to pour your time, effort and prayers into this process we promise the rewards in this life and in the next will be beyond your wildest dreams! God loves you and has an incredible plan for you and your family!

Please take time to review each page found in this packet, and feel free to contact any of us with questions. We will also review this packet and give you the opportunity to ask questions during our first meeting together, Saturday November 10th. *Please keep this red folder and bring it with to each meeting. You and your families are in our prayers.

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Note: Because of the extra preparation, certificates, books, refreshments, and small gifts, there is a sacramental fee of \$20 for First Reconciliation and \$20 for First Eucharist = \$40 (full financial scholarships available, please do not hesitate to ask).

(Wednesday night Religious Education students have already paid this fee).

Please make checks payable to St. Jerome church attn Religious Ed

Sacramental Preparation Requirements 2012/13

Below are the requirements for St. Jerome's sacramental preparation program. For many of us our lives are full of running back and forth with sports, school, errands, work, hobbies and more, making it feel like we cannot possibly fit one more thing in. The Lord knows of our busyness yet in Luke 10:25-28 he is asked how we can inherit eternal life, and he answers "you shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind." The requirements below are not meant to be "hoops" to jump through for your kids to receive the sacraments, but rather they are meant to prepare your family and to strengthen your faith and love for Christ and His Church not just this year, but for the rest of your lives.

- **Attend Sunday Mass every week**

Attending Mass every week has always been an important teaching of the Catholic Church. This teaching is so important that it is an actual Mortal Sin if you purposefully miss Sunday Mass, and therefore you need to go to Confession before receiving the Eucharist again. This teaching is meant to help us live more dedicated lives to Christ. Many times we are so willing to have multiple practices and games every week for sports. We realize that the commitment is what makes us better at the sport, but then we complain about giving up just 1 hour for God and attending Mass. The Church is wise, just like a coach, knowing that without having it be "mandatory" we are less likely to go. By putting in just 1 hour of our week, we receive so much more than we could hope for. We receive grace to make it through another week, and encouragement and growth through the readings, songs, homily, Eucharist, community and more! When you continue in a sport, you begin to desire to practice and go to games and become better. Even more will your love and desire to go to Mass grow as you continue going and pouring yourself into the Mass. You must believe that the Catholic Church and the Eucharist are important if you are here having your child prepare for the sacraments. We ask you to show this importance to your child, and make sure to attend Mass every Sunday!

- **Attend all meetings/dates listed**

Please refer to the "Sacramental Preparation Dates" page for listed dates.

- **Signed Sacramental Preparation Parent/ Guardian Commitment Forms**

These pages can be found in this packet for you to review before signing. We will review them at our first meeting Sat. November 10th. This commitment is not something that we have made up, but rather a compilation from Church documents and diocesan requirements for a child to receive the Sacraments. Parents agree to these things by the act of having their child receive the sacraments, but we want you to visually see what you are committing to and make it concrete. You will have a chance to sign these documents at specific preparation meetings.

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- **Weekly Examination of Conscience**

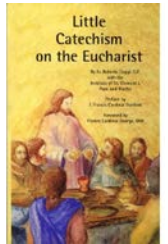
Part of preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation is reading through the Children's Examination of Conscience 1x a week in School or RED class, as well as 1x a week at home as a family. It is a great habit for everyone to examine how they did and did not serve God at the end of each day. We hope that this exercise will help develop this habit within your family, but also that it will help the child to learn what sins to confess to the priest. This activity could have a great impact on your family, giving you the opportunity to talk about areas you are struggling, a time to apologize to one another and to help each other grow in holiness. (The Children's Examination of Conscience can be found in this packet as well as a "How to go to Confession" page and a list of local Confession times. These examinations are to begin at the Nov. 10th meeting and asked to be continued through to the January 16th meeting.

- **Meaningful Mass sheets filled out and returned**

Part of the requirement to attend Sunday Mass weekly will be filling out "Meaningful Mass Sheets." These sheets help families and children to get the most out of Sunday Mass. The first of these sheets is located in this packet as an example. The rest will be given at the November meeting. These will be due at the Wed. January 16th meeting.

- **Assignments completed and turned in from the "Little Catechism of the Eucharist" by Fr. Roberto Coggi**

In Preparation for the Sacrament of First Eucharist we will be using the book "Little Catechism of the Eucharist" which you will be given to keep. There will be 5 short assignments from this book that you will do together with your child to learn more about the Eucharist and turn in at the Wed. April 24th meeting. These questions will be given to you at the First Eucharist meeting March 6th.





Sacramental Preparation Dates

Because preparation for the sacraments is so important, we ask that you **attend every meeting/event listed below. If there is an emergency and you cannot attend, an individual make-up meeting will need to be scheduled. At least 1 parent/guardian is asked to attend each meeting/event along with the child preparing to receive the sacraments.



Sat. November 10th Sacramental Prep Day Retreat 9:30am-12:00pm
Retreat takes place in the church and Ludescher Hall.

First Reconciliation

Wed. December 19th Advent Communal Penance Service (recommended) 6:30-7:45pm
Everyone meets in St. Jerome's church

This is an opportunity for parents/guardians to show through example the importance of everyone receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This is also a time for the children to observe how their First Reconciliation will take place and spend some time in prayer.

Wed. January 16th First Reconciliation Meeting 6:30-7:45pm
Everyone meet in St. Jerome School library

Wed. January 23rd First Reconciliation Communal Penance Service 6:30-7:45pm
Everyone meet in St. Jerome's church
A reception in Ludescher Hall will follow

First Eucharist

Wed. March 6th First Eucharist Parent/Child Meeting 6:30-7:45pm
Meet in St. Jerome School library

Wed. March 20th Lenten Communal Penance Service (recommended) 6:30-7:45pm
St. Jerome Church

Wed. April 24th First Eucharist Parent/Child Retreat 6:30-7:45pm

Wed. May 1st First Eucharist Practice 6:30-7:45pm
St. Jerome Church

Sat. May 4th Sacrament of First Eucharist 4:30pm Mass
St. Jerome Church (reception follows)

OR

Sun. May 5th Sacrament of First Eucharist 10:30am Mass

St. Jerome Church (reception follows)

Sun. June 2nd

Feast of Corpus Christi (recommended)

10:30am Mass

Wear First Communion attire and partake in the procession

Sacramental Preparation Parent/Guardian Commitment

Personal Copy of document signed and given to St. Jeromes

“It is the responsibility, in the first place, of parents and those who take the place of parents as well as of the pastor to see that children who have reached the use of reason are correctly prepared and are nourished by the divine food as early as possible, preceded by sacramental confession; it is also for the pastor to be vigilant lest any children come to the Holy Banquet who have not reached the use of reason or whom he judges are not sufficiently disposed (Canon 914).”

I / we desire for our child to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist at St. Jerome Catholic Church. As parents/guardians we understand that we have the right and responsibility to do the following:

- Be involved in the preparation of our child for the sacraments.
- Pray for our child
- Be a good witness of the Catholic Christian faith to our child
- Discern, with the pastor, religious education director, teacher and/or catechist our child’s readiness to prepare and receive the sacraments.
- Support our child’s faith life in every way possible.

We also promise to do everything in our power to make sure that the following commitments are made:

- Our child attends Mass every Sunday and holy days of obligation.
- Our child receives the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least 1x a year following his/her First Reconciliation.
- Our child completes Sacramental preparation and all that this entails.

Sign: _____

Sign: _____

Date: _____

First Reconciliation Preparation Parent/Guardian Commitment

Personal Copy of document signed and given to St. Jeromes

I / we desire for our child to receive the Sacrament of First Reconciliation at St. Jerome Catholic Church. We promise to do everything in our power to make sure that our child attends Mass every Sunday, holy days of obligation, and receives the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least 1x a year (following First Reconciliation). We promise to pray for our child, to be a good witness of the Catholic Christian faith, and to support their faith life in every way possible.

I also confirm that my child

- Is at least 7 years of age (age of reason)
- Was Baptized in a Christian church and the Baptismal certificate has been turned in to St. Jerome's.
- Knows that God's love is faithful, knows of the existence of sin, knows of the capacity to commit sin, and knows of God's power to forgive sin and reconcile the sinner with himself and with the Church. (*National Directory of Catechesis*)
- Knows the difference between mortal and venial sin.
- Understands how to celebrate the Rite of Reconciliation, and the 5 steps to a good confession.
- Understands the obligation to receive the Sacrament at least 1x a year and whenever one has committed mortal sin.

Sign: _____

Sign: _____

Date: _____

Preparation of First Eucharist Parent/Guardian Commitment

Personal Copy of document signed and given to St. Jeromes

“Children’s preparation for the reception of the Eucharist begins in the home. The family has the most important role; in communicating the Christian and human values that form the foundation for a child’s understanding of the Eucharist. Children who participate with their family in the Mass, experience the Eucharistic mystery in an initial way and gradually learn to join with the liturgical assembly in prayer (NDC 36A,3a)”.

I / we desire for our child to receive the Sacrament of First Eucharist at St. Jerome Catholic Church. We promise to do everything in our power to make sure that our child attends Mass every Sunday, holy days of obligation, receives the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least 1x a year, and worthily receives the Holy Eucharist. We promise to pray for our child, to be a good witness of the Catholic Christian faith, and to support their faith life in every way possible.

I also confirm that my child

- Is at least 7 years of age (age of reason/discretion)
- Was Baptized in a Christian church and the Baptismal certificate has been turned in to St. Jerome’s.
- Prepared for and received the Sacrament of Reconciliation before receiving the Eucharist for the first time (*see CCC1457, NDC 36,B2;Canon 914*).
- Participates actively and consciously in Sunday Eucharist Mass
- Understands that the Holy Eucharist is truly the Body and Blood of Christ under the appearance of bread and wine.
- Understands that the Eucharist is the commemoration of Christ’s last meal with his disciples and a memorial of his sacrifice for our salvation.
- Understands that by sharing in this special meal, we become brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ on earth.
- Has sufficient knowledge and preparation: *“It is required that they (children) have sufficient knowledge and careful preparation so as to understand the mystery of Christ according to their capacity and can receive the Body of the Lord with faith and devotion (Canon 913 –§1).*

Sign: _____

Sign: _____

Date: _____

Children's Examination of Conscience

#1- I am the Lord your God. You shall not have strange gods before me.

- Have I not given time to God every day in prayer?
- Have I used good luck charms (lucky penny, rabbit's foot) and believed that they can help me instead of trusting in God to help me?
- Have I believed in horoscopes or fortune telling?
- Have I told someone that I was not Christian or not Catholic because I was afraid they would make fun of me or not like me?

#2- You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

- Have I used the words "God" or "Jesus" in anger?
- Have I said bad words that I am not supposed to say (like swear words)?
- Have I hoped something bad would happen to someone who was mean to me or that I didn't like?

#3- Remember to keep holy the Lord's day.

- Have I not paid attention during Mass?
- Have I complained to my parents about going to Mass or put up a fight trying not to go to Mass?
- Have I not acted respectfully when I was in church, talking loud, running or misbehaving?
- Have I not tried to make Sunday a special day for God?

#4- Honor your father and your mother

- Have I disrespected or disobeyed my parents?
- Have I said mean words to my parents or talked back to them?
- Have I not been willing to help around the house?
- When asked to do something have I put it off making my parents have to ask me over and over?
- Have I not tried to get along with my brothers and sisters?
- Have I not been a good example to younger siblings and other children?
- Have I not respected others in authority: priests, teachers, bus drivers, police, the elderly, babysitters?

#5 You Shall not kill

- Have I said cruel things or made fun of others?
- Have I said mean things about others behind their backs?
- Have I hurt someone else's body by something like hitting them?
- Have I encouraged someone to do something bad or wrong that they shouldn't have done?
- Have I not reached out to someone when they were sitting alone, did not have a partner, or were being made fun of?

#6 You shall not commit adultery

- Have I not taken care of my body?
- Have I watched television shows or movies that I shouldn't watch?
- Have I worn clothes that I am not supposed to wear? (too short, tight, low, or had bad images on it)
- Have I said something impure or made a crude joke?
- Have I looked at pictures that are bad?

#7 You shall not steal

- Have I taken things from another person or a store that was not mine?
- Have purposefully not returned something that I borrowed?
- Have I returned things I have borrowed in worst condition than when I borrowed them?

#8 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor

- Do I tell lies to protect myself from punishment?
- Have I exaggerated or not told the truth to make a story look more exciting and better or to make myself look cool?
- Have I told a lie to make someone else look bad?
- Have I started a rumor telling others something about someone that was not true?
- Have I cheated or copied someone else's school work?

#9 You shall not covet your neighbors wife

- Do I get mad when I have to share my friends?
- Are there kids I will not play with or that I am mean to because they look different?
- Do I let my parents spend time together and talk without interrupting them?

#10 You shall not covet your neighbor's goods

- Am I not thankful to God and my parents for what they have given me?
- Am I jealous over the toys or things that other people have and are able to do?
- Am I jealous over the abilities someone else has in school, sports or with friends?
- Have I not shared the things I have with my family, friends and the poor?

The Act of Contrition (new form)

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

The Act of Contrition (old form)

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because of Thy just punishments, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, Who art all-good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasions of sin. Amen

Local Reconciliation Schedules

Church of St. Jerome

Saturday 3:30-4:00pm

By appointment (talk to Fr. Cletus) 651-771-1209

Communal Penance: Wed. Dec. 19th 6:30-7:45pm & Wed. March 20th 6:30-7:45pm

St. Johns Church

380 Little Canada Road East

Little Canada, MN 55117

Saturdays at 3:30 pm, in the Lower Church or anytime by appointment.

Church of St Pius X

3878 Highland Avenue

White Bear Lake, MN 55110

Saturday 3:30-4:30pm

St. Peter Catholic Church

2600 N. Margaret Street,

North Saint Paul, MN 55109

Saturdays from 3:00-3:45 p.m. Tuesdays from 7:15-7:45 a.m.

Located in chapel confessionals

Church of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

1725 Kennard Street

Maplewood, MN 55109

Wed 7:30-7:50am Sat 3:30-4:30pm or by appointment

St. Odilia

3495 North Victoria St.

Shoreview, MN 55126

(Saturdays 9:00am. By appointment, please call the parish office at 651-484-6681)

Cathedral of St. Paul

239 Selby Avenue

Saint Paul, MN 55102 Monday-Friday, 4 to 5 p.m. Saturday, 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Several Confessionals along sides of main church

You may also make an appointment for the Sacrament of Reconciliation by calling 651.228.1766.

How to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation

- #1- Examine your conscience
- #2- Be sorry for your sins
- #3 Make up your mind not to sin again
- #4 Confess your sins to the priest (look below)

Priest: In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit (*make sign of the cross*)

Penitent: Amen

Priest: (begins with this or similar short prayer).
“May God, who has enlightened every heart, help you to know your sins and trust in his mercy”

Repentant: Bless me Father, for I have sinned. My last confession was (give time) and these are my sins....(tell the priest your sins, especially all serious sins. End by saying...) ..and I am sorry for these and all the sins of my life.
(The priest will give you some words of help and a penance to do after you leave confession. He will then ask you to make your Act of Contrition)

The 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

Priest: God the Father of mercies, through the death and Resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sin; through the ministry of the Church may God give you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the (*make the sign of the cross as he absolves you*) Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

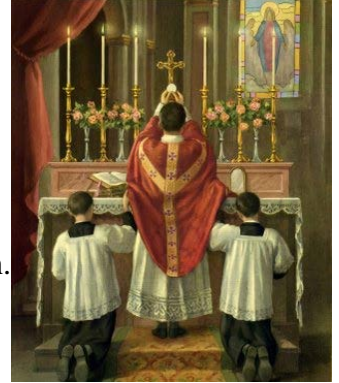
Repentant: Amen

#5 Be willing to do the penance priest gives you
You leave and do your penance

“Meaningful Mass” Sheets

Sunday, November 11th 2012
Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today I attended Mass at: _____ Catholic Church.



Reading through the Mass readings out loud as a family before you go is a great way to prepare and get the most out of your time with God. Each week the readings will be listed as well as the gospel fully typed out for you. You can also find these yourselves at <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/>

Reading 1 1 Kgs 17:10-16

Reading 2 Heb 9:24-28

Gospel Mk 12:38-44

*In the course of his teaching Jesus said to the crowds,
"Beware of the scribes, who like to go around in long robes
and accept greetings in the marketplaces,
seats of honor in synagogues, and places of honor at banquets.
They devour the houses of widows and, as a pretext recite lengthy prayers.
They will receive a very severe condemnation."*

*He sat down opposite the treasury and observed how the crowd put money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums.
A poor widow also came and put in two small coins worth a few cents.
Calling his disciples to himself, he said to them,
"Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury.
For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth,
but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood."*

WHAT GOD SHOWED YOU TODAY

At every Mass God has something special to teach us and help us grow in. It might be through a reading, a song, the homily, a prayer said out loud or quietly in your own heart. God always has something to show you, what was it today?
On the back of this sheet please write what God showed you today at Mass.

