

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Sacramental Calendar 2009-2010

(Revised 01-11-2010)

As parents of second graders in the Good Shepherd Program, your child will be receiving the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist. The purpose of this schedule is to explain how sacraments are prepared for through the Good Shepherd methodology, and to provide a schedule of meetings, retreats and other important events. Please be aware that you will continue to receive emails and other communication from the parish in the days/weeks leading to the listed event.

Should you have question/concerns about this document, or any other aspect of sacramental preparation, please contact Laura Keverline, Good Shepherd Sacramental Liaison at (440) 205-1964 or email laurakeverline@oh.rr.com.

Monday September 28, Tuesday, September 29
First Time Families (Parents Only) All others

RECONCILIATION PARENT GATHERING/ORIENTATION

Time: 7:00-8:30

Location: Multi-Purpose Room

Content: This is an orientation meeting is for parents of second graders who will be making their sacraments in 2009/2010; the focus will be on the Sacrament of Reconciliation with information provided re: the spiritual preparation for this sacrament as well as logistical matters. You will also have an opportunity to meet with your Good Shepherd Sacramental Liaison during the break-out. If you are a parent with a child in the day school, please attend the Good Shepherd breakout session.

****Special Note: The children in the Good Shepherd Program will make their First Reconciliation on March 25, 2010 (not December 5th, 2009) ****

October 17-18

"CALL TO SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION AND FORMATION"

Time: At all masses

Location: Church

Content: Children making their sacraments this year are called to gather around the sanctuary, a time for the entire parish community to bless and pray for your child.

Saturday, November 14

FIRST RECONCILIATION RETREAT DAY

Parents and child attend this parish wide event

Time: 9:00-11:00 Session One

12:00-2:00 Session Two

Location: Multi-Purpose Room

Content: This retreat for parents and child includes how to receive the sacrament (The Rite of Reconciliation), a meditation on the Forgiving Father parable, and the difference between sin and mistakes.

Monday, January 11 Tuesday, January 12

First Time Families

All Others

FIRST EUCHARIST PARENT GATHERING/ORIENTATION

Parent(s) Only

Time: 7:00-8:30 PM

Location: Multi-Purpose Room

Content: Information regarding all aspects of the logistical and spiritual preparation for First Eucharist. If you are the parent of a child in the day school, please come to the Good Shepherd break-out session.

Thursday January 28, 2010

GOOD SHEPHERD RECONCILIATION RETREAT

Good Shepherd CHILDREN only

Time: 4:15-6:30 PM

Location: Atrium and Great Room

Content: This Reconciliation Retreat will focus on the maxims, (Examination of Conscience) as well as the moral parable on the Insistent Friend, the Found Sheep/Found Coin, and a review of the Rite of Reconciliation. **This is the first of three special GOOD SHEPHERD ONLY** retreats that your child will attend this year. Key lessons are given during the retreats so your child's participation is essential. Your CHILD ATTENDS THIS RETREAT WITHOUT PARENTS.

February 14- March 12

FAMILY CONFERENCES

A brief meeting between a member of the parish staff and you and your child; a chance for the parish staff to get to know your family a little better. Please sign up for a conference time by visiting the St. Gabriel website www.st-gabriel.org and click on the direct link to access the scheduling calendar to select a date and time. Kindly sign up for your family conference by 1-15-2010. Conferences are attended by the communicant and both parents (if possible) only. Please bring your child's Faith Journal to your family conference.

Saturday, March 13

FIRST EUCHARIST RETREAT DAY

Parent(s) and child attend this parish-wide event

Time: 9:00 - 11:00 AM ~ Group One

12:00 - 2:00 PM ~ Group Two

If at all possible, please select the same session as the Reconciliation Retreat t you attended in November. Unless you must change your time, it is assumed that you'll attend the same session as you did in November. Change requests can be sent to Lynn hadesh at: lhadesh@st-gabriel.org or cal 354-7551

Location: Multi-Purpose Room

Content: How to receive the sacrament, the Eucharistic Presence of the Good Shepherd, and a review of the signs and symbols surrounding our liturgy.

Monday, March 15

MEET WITH FR. FRED

CHILD ATTENDS WITHOUT PARENTS

Time: 4:15-4:45

Location: Chapel (Please enter via Parish Office doors)

Content: Fr. Fred will meet with Good Shepherd second graders to go over the rite and process of reconciliation answer questions, show confessional etc. Monday atrium children will be lead back to the Loft for the remainder of their session.

Thursday, March 25

GOOD SHEPHERD FIRST RECONCILIATION RETREAT

CHILD ONLY

Time: 4:15-5:15

Location: Atrium

Content: The second of three special Good Shepherd Retreats, we will revisit the Rite of Reconciliation, Revisit the maxims and examination of conscience, role-play, quiet, mediation time to fully prepare for the sacrament. **Your child attends this retreat WITHOUT PARENT(S).**

Thursday, March 25

GOOD SHEPHERD RECONCILIATION SERVICE

PARENT AND CHILD

Time: 5:15 arrival time...service begins promptly at 5:30)

Location: Church

At the conclusion of your child's First Reconciliation Retreat, the catechists will walk your child to the church at 5:15 PM where they will join you for the First Reconciliation Service at 5:30 PM. Immediately following the service (around 7:00 PM) we will all gather together in the Community Room for a celebration!

Some Notes Re: The Reconciliation service

- Only one person is to be in the confessional room with the priest
- We encourage parents to take this opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation as well as any older siblings
- There is no photography/video cameras permitted during the reconciliation service.
- Out of respect for others and the sanctity of the sacrament, please maintain a prayerful/quiet atmosphere in the church while waiting for your turn with the priest

Thursday April 29

GOOD SHEPHERD FIRST EUCHARIST RETREAT

Good Shepherd Child ONLY

Time: 4:15 - 6:15

Location: Atrium/Great Room

Content: This is the third and last special Good Shepherd Retreat in which key lessons will be presented and re-visited such as the Synthesis of the Mass, gestures of the Mass, practice Bow...Amen...Receive, continue missal work, and finishing up grapes. We'll also give the children a light dinner. **Your child attends this retreat WITHOUT PARENT(S).**

Thursday April /29

FIRST EUCHARIST PRACTICE

Parent(s) attend with child

Time: 6:30 -7:30 PM

Location: Church

It is preferable that BOTH parents attend this very important practice session, in that both parents need to have a very clear idea of what will happen on the day of your child's First Communion Mass. Please meet your child in the church at 6:20 PM (catechist will lead children to the church after their retreat in the atrium) for the practice session with Joanne Spiek. The practice session will begin promptly at 6:30. This special practice is for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd only.

Note: As this is a special practice for us...you DO NOT attend the other weekend liturgy practices or the Family Eucharist Practice on 4/26, 4/27)

Saturday, May 1st, 5:00 Mass (Monday atrium children)

Sunday May 2nd, 12:15 Mass (Tuesday and Wednesday atrium children)

FIRST EUCHARIST CELEBRATION MASS

Time: As above, arrive 20 minutes prior to Mass start time

Location: Church

The Good Shepherd children will be celebrating their First Holy Eucharist as a community during the 5:00 PM mass on Saturday, May 1st, OR at the 12:15 Mass on Sunday May 2nd. **Your child has already been assigned a mass time according to the schedule above.** Due to the large number of First Communicants this year, it was necessary to provide two separate masses in order to accommodate all. This is a regular weekend liturgy, and only the Good Shepherd children will be present as communicants. Immediately following the mass, we ask that you remain in your seat for the Grape Hanging Ceremony; the children hang their hand-made grapes on the vine as a powerful symbol of their Christian initiation and Christ's love through the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. The Grape Hanging Ceremony will last approx 15-20 minutes, so, please plan accordingly. In addition, your child will receive a special gift from his/her catechist to commemorate this beautiful event.

REGADING PHOTOS: We respectfully request that you wait until AFTER the Grape Hanging Ceremony to take family photos in the church, etc. Under no circumstances is it appropriate to take photos/video taping of any portion of the First Eucharist Mass as well as the Grape Hanging Ceremony. This is extremely disruptive to those around you, and greatly takes away the sanctity and beauty of the moment. Please make sure all attending family members aware of this important point.

OTHER OPTIONS: It is not mandatory that your child attend the 5:00 PM mass on 5/1 or the 12:15 Mass on 5/2 for his/her First Communion liturgy. You also have the option to choose the Saturday 5/1 at 9:30 a.m. or 12:00 p.m. liturgy (group celebrations including the day school and PSR children). You also may select a weekend liturgy (May 8, 9, 15, or 16.) If you choose either of these two options, please note that your practice day/time will not occur on April 29th. Additionally, please contact Lynn Hadesh at 440-354-7551 to request the change.

SPECIAL NOTE: If your child is in the St. Gabriel Day School (or other Catholic day school), please arrange to have a conversation with Laura Keverline, as well as your child's catechist to discuss how the two programs will blend. It may not be necessary for your child to attend all the Good Shepherd Retreats.