

## Sacramental Preparation for Children at St. Elizabeth's

St. Elizabeth's uses a "Family Formation" model to help 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> graders prepare for Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Communion. In this process, YOU become the actual teacher of your child. If that sounds intimidating, don't be scared! We will guide you through every step! We've structured this process to help you and your child grow closer to God, to deepen your parent/child connection, and to learn about the sacraments in ways that are relevant to everyday life. This approach helps families feel more connected within the parish, too. Families meet regularly as a group for faith sharing and instruction, and conduct workbook activities at home. Parents, you know your child better than anyone else, and you are in a unique position to nurture your child's faith through the special connection you share. Our staff and leaders are excited to help coach you along the way as both you and your child grow in faith! So, what does this look like in practice?

### Monthly gatherings

We gather every 4-6 weeks. Some meetings are adult-only, and others are parent/child. Most will happen after Sunday Mass, with a potluck/meeting format and we finish by 12:15.

### Two 8-week long Home Study Courses

After we've met several times, you and your child will begin the **Reconciliation** workbook together at home, covering the chapters at your own pace over 8 weeks. Home lessons take about 20 minutes. We will include a self-pacing schedule so you don't fall behind, and will also send an email reminder each week to help you stay on track, including videos, highlights, discussion questions and activities. Keep in mind that we won't cover everything in the book when we all meet together; you are responsible for covering the material in the book with your child. **First Communion** prep follows the same format in the Fall of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. (**Confirmation** prep will be sprinkled throughout the process, mostly during our meeting time together).

### Memorization of Traditional Prayers

Parents are responsible for helping their child memorize the Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, the Act of Contrition and the names of the 7 sacraments. Consider folding these prayers into your bedtime routine, and your child will learn them in no time.

### Family Reconciliation Services

The entire family is strongly encouraged to participate in the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation as your child prepares for and receives the sacrament for the first time.

### Readiness Check-in

Parents, child and staff person meet one on one to keep lines of communication open and to discern together the child's readiness for the sacrament. This friendly meeting also acts as a check/balance to the home-study format. By this time the child should be able to describe the sacrament he/she is preparing for in an age appropriate way, and will have memorized some traditional prayers.

### Concurrent Enrollment in Lectionary Based Catechesis: Children's Word

"Children's Word" is a parallel program to sacramental prep at St. Elizabeth's. Children's Word is lectionary based, which means that we learn how to be Catholic by *being* Catholic. The simple act of bringing our children to Mass puts them in touch with scripture, sacraments, ritual and tradition...the nuts and bolts of our faith. Children's Word helps them understand what is happening at Mass on their level. Children are "dismissed" at Mass to reflect/do activities based upon the week's scripture readings. We expect 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> graders to be enrolled in both Children's Word and Sacramental Prep because participation in one enriches the other, and learning about the sacraments only makes sense if the child is attending Mass regularly.

## Sacramental Preparation Schedule for the Restored Rite 2016-2017

### FALL 2016

**Wednesday, September 21, 2016 at 7pm** - Parent Orientation Meeting

**Sunday, October 16, 2016** – Rite of Enrollment and First Meeting. We will pray for the children, call them forth by name and renew our baptismal vows together during the 9am Mass. After Mass we'll gather for a Parent/Child potluck and have our 1<sup>st</sup> meeting around the topic of Confirmation. Please bring a potluck item to share, and we'll wrap up by 12:15pm.

**Sunday, November 13, 2016 at 9am** – Children's Word (during Mass) will focus on Confirmation

**Sunday, December 4, 2016** - Parent/Child gathering after the 9am Mass (Confirmation #2). Please bring a potluck item to share, and we'll wrap up by 12:15pm

**Monday, Dec 12 at 6:30pm** – Advent Reconciliation Service. Your child will experience this sacrament in the Spring, so we invite you to re-experience this beautiful sacrament yourself before walking your child through his/her own preparation. This is an opportunity for the child to “see the sacrament in action” before experiencing it.

### WINTER/SPRING 2017

**Sunday, January 8, 2017** - Parent/Child gathering after the 9am Mass (Reconciliation #1). Please bring a potluck item to share, and we'll wrap up by 12:15pm

**Mid January through Mid March** – Home study for Reconciliation begins. We will send a weekly email to help you stay on track as you cover a chapter per week with your child at home. Each chapter takes about 20-25 minutes. Children should also be learning the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, an Act of Contrition and the names of the 7 sacraments.

**Sunday, February 12, 2017 at 9am** - Children's Word (during Mass) will focus on Reconciliation

**Week of March 20, 2017** – Readiness for Reconciliation Interviews. We'll schedule a 1/1 meeting with you and your child. The purpose of this meeting is to keep lines of communication open and to add integrity to the home study process. By this time, your child should be able to describe the Sacrament of Reconciliation in an age-appropriate way and to pray the traditional prayers with your help.

**Sunday, March 19, 2017** - Parent/Child gathering after the 9am Mass (Reconciliation #2). Please bring a potluck item to share, and we'll wrap up by 12:15pm

**First Week of April 2017** – Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (date/time TBA)

**Sunday, May 7, 2017** – Children will do a May Crowning for the Blessed Mother during the 9am Mass, with Parent/Child meeting to follow (Confirmation #3). Please bring a potluck item to share, and we'll wrap up by 12:15pm.

## SUMMER 2017

**June/July 2017** – Summer meetings are challenging to schedule, so we will send you the materials for Confirmation Session #4 to do at home.

**Sunday, August 13, 2017 (tentative date)** – Parish picnic at Lakeside Amusement Park.

**Sunday, August \_\_, 2017** - Parent/Child gathering after the 9am Mass (Eucharist #1). Please bring a potluck item to share, and we'll wrap up by 12:15pm. Date/time TBA

## FALL 2017

**September/October 2017** - Home study for Eucharist (Holy Communion) begins. We will send a weekly email to help you stay on track as you cover a chapter per week with your child at home. Each chapter takes about 20-25 minutes.

**Sunday, September \_\_, 2017** - Parent/Child gathering after the 9am Mass (Eucharist #2). Please bring a potluck item to share, and we'll wrap up by 12:15pm. Date/time TBA

**Sunday, October \_\_, 2017** - Parent/Child gathering after the 9am Mass (Eucharist #3). Please bring a potluck item to share, and we'll wrap up by 12:15pm. Date/time TBA

**Saturday, November \_\_, 2017** - Retreat and Rehearsal for Confirmation and First Holy Communion (3 hours). This retreat will take place the day before your child is Confirmed and receives First Communion.

**Sunday, November \_\_, 2017** – Celebration of Confirmation and First Communion at 9am Mass. We've requested several different Sundays in November 2017, but have to work with the Archbishop's availability.