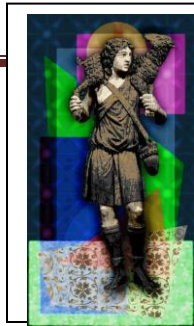


Readiness



Overall Readiness

Child

- The child knows of God and the person of Jesus.
- The child is familiar with basic bible stories and characters.
- The child knows the Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be (Doxology), Guardian Angel, and Meal Grace.
- The child has been participating in an ongoing religious formation process or program at home and/or at the parish.
- The child has been participating in Sunday Mass regularly and has a basic awareness of the “flow” of the liturgy.

Family

- The family attends Mass weekly.
- The family is open to nurturing an ongoing relationship with God through prayer, community and a reflection on the symbols of the sacraments.
- The family understands that celebration of the sacraments is a moment in the lifelong process of conversion, not an end goal, and there is a commitment to ongoing religious formation.

Signs of Readiness for the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Listen carefully to what your child says about wrongdoing and misbehavior. Encourage your child to take responsibility for his/her behavior rather than blaming others. Observe if s/he is capable of being sorry and asking forgiveness of others without your prompting. Reflect:

- Is prayer a part of my child’s life?
- Does my child have the capacity for sincere sorrow and make an honest effort to do better?
- Can my child express sorrow and describe wrongdoing in his or her own words?

Goals for Reconciliation Preparation

- Child is aware of the difference between right and wrong and that accidents or mistakes are not sins in themselves but rather choices we make on how to respond to those accidents or mistakes.
- Child knows that when we deliberately choose to do what is wrong and turn away from God, we sin.
- Child is aware we all make poor choices that affect ourselves, others and our relationship with God

Readiness

- Child believes that God is loving and merciful and will always forgive us if we ask
- Child is aware that Jesus has given us the sacrament of Reconciliation through which our sins are forgiven and we receive the grace to live as God's children
- Child knows that just as God forgives us, we must be willing to forgive others

Signs of Readiness for First Eucharist

- The child has been participating in Sunday Mass weekly.
- The child is beginning to know the responses and prayers of the Mass, esp. the Our Father, the Holy, Holy, Holy, Memorial Acclamations and the Great Amen.
- The child has the capacity for reverence that is necessary for sharing in the Eucharistic banquet.

Goals for Eucharist Preparation

- The child experiences Jesus' love and the offer of forgiveness through Reconciliation and the Mass.
- The family experiences a community of faith and love that supports them in their faith journey.
- Participants grow in their awareness we are called to live faith in service to others and how we can do that at St. Michael Parish.
- The child knows that the bread and wine have indeed become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ and that Jesus is truly present.
- The child is able to receive the Eucharist with appropriate devotion and reverence.
- The family deepens their awareness and understanding of the basic symbols related to Baptism, Reconciliation and Eucharist.
- Families are familiar with the basic structure of the Bible.
- Participants recognize the basic structure of the Mass.
- Participants highly value and understand the importance of weekly Mass attendance.

