



**St. Maria Goretti**  
Catholic Church

# *The Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion*

## **Purpose**

“The purpose of the sacraments is to sanctify men, to build up the Body of Christ and, finally, to give worship to God. Because they are signs they also instruct. They not only presuppose faith, but by words and objects they also nourish, strengthen, and express it. That is why they are called ‘sacraments of faith.’” CCC1123

## **Goal of Preparation at St. Maria Goretti Parish**

The primary aim of sacramental preparation is to ensure that those approaching the sacraments are suitably instructed and properly disposed. Parents and pastors are called work harmoniously together in fulfilling the evangelizing mission of the Church by taking joint responsibility for ensuring that children receive suitable instruction.

## **Program**

Enrollment in either Family Catechesis or St. Maria Goretti School is a requirement.

In addition to regular and consistent formation, the year of preparation is comprised of 3 components: Family, Parents, Student. Each is integral in living the life of discipleship in the Church and all are strongly dependent on one another.

## **Expectations and Requirements**

### The Parents

- Complete the Forgiven and Presence Video Series (3 Videos each) – Each video and questions will be made available on the parish website for the entire month in which they are to be completed.
- Assist in your child's take-home lessons and activities.

### The Family

- The celebration of Mass is the source and summit of our faith [SC #10]. Attending Mass weekly is the minimum expectation of all Catholics.
- Absences from Family Catechesis or Sacramental Prep sessions should only occur in instances of illness or family emergency/longtime scheduled event as we only have 8 sessions.
- Adoration provides an opportunity to spend time with our Lord and Savior in the Blessed Sacrament. Student and their family are expected to spend 30 minutes/month at Adoration. After which, your child is to complete "My Visit with Jesus" sheet. This can be returned in the Sunday collection basket or to their teacher/catechist every month or via email to Melissa.
- Participate in 2 activities which allow for exploration and discovery of the inside of a Catholic church, its role in our salvation history, and the names and purposes of many sacramental items only seen in a Catholic church.
  - The Church Scavenger Hunt involves exploring SMG and another Catholic church to identify all the similarities and how they reflect salvation history. This can be completed at your convenience during the month of November. Directions will be posted on the parish website and sent to you via email.
  - First Holy Communion Retreat
- Complete 1 service project of your choosing prior to both First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Submit the questionnaire upon completion to teacher/catechist or via email to Melissa.

### The Student

- Complete all work assigned by teacher/catechist.
- Pray every morning and every night.
- Participate in the sacramental prep interview with a catechist, staff member, or parish priest prior to First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Parents are welcome to attend with their child. Sign up will come later.