

### ***How do parents prepare their children for First Communion?***

Parents work with their children to complete a home study book. All needed materials are distributed at Eucharist Parent Meeting #1. Parents also attend a second formation meeting (#2) and children attend a retreat. The child's book and First Communion banner are due at the children's retreat.

### ***When is First Communion?***

First Communion is held on the first two Saturdays of May. Beginning in the Fall, parents will have an opportunity to sign-up for their preferred Mass date. A mandatory rehearsal is held on the Thursday prior to each celebration.

### ***Are these meetings required for my child to receive the sacraments?***

Yes! Parent meeting #1 for both sacraments is required for all parents. Children are required to attend both children's retreats.

Parents are exempt from the Parent Meeting #2 only if they have participated in Sacramental preparation at St. Andrew within the past three years.

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***For other questions or further information, contact:***

**Katie Fortunato**

Elementary Faith Formation Director  
919.362.0685 ext. 25  
email: [elemfd@saintandrew.org](mailto:elemfd@saintandrew.org)  
or

**Mary Stone**

Faith Formation Secretary/Registrar  
email: [fdoffice@saintandrew.org](mailto:fdoffice@saintandrew.org)  
919.362.0685 ext. 22

## **2011-2012 First Sacraments Calendar**

### **Reconciliation Parent Meeting # 1 (pick one)**

Wed, September 7, 2011 9:45-10:15  
Thurs, September 8, 2011 7:00-7:30  
Sun, September 11, 2011 1:00- 1:30  
Tues, September 13, 2011 6:30-7:00

### **Parent Meeting #2 (pick one)**

Sun, October 2, 2011 2:00-4:00  
Mon, October 3, 2011 6:30-8:30

### **Children's Retreat (sign up required)**

Sun, October 23, 2011 2:00-4:00  
Sun, November 6, 2011 2:00-4:00

### **FIRST RECONCILIATION CELEBRATION**

Sat, November 19, 2011 – 9:30 am – Church  
OR

Sat, December 3, 2011 – 9:30 am – Church

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### **Eucharist Parent Meeting #1 (pick one)**

Sun, January 8, 2012 10:45-11:15  
Sun, January 8, 2012 12:45-1:15  
Mon, January 9, 2012 5:00-5:30  
Mon, January 9, 2012 6:45-7:15  
Sun, January 22, 2012 10:45-11:15  
Sun, January 22, 2012 12:45-1:15  
Mon, January 23, 2012 5:00-5:30  
Mon, January 23, 2012 6:45-7:15

### **Parent Meeting #2 (pick one)**

Sun, February 26, 2012 2:00-4:00  
Mon, February 27, 2012 6:30-8:30

### **Banner Bonanza (optional)**

Sun, March 4, 2012 2:00-3:30 in FH

### **Children's Retreat (sign up required)**

Sun, April 15, 2012 2:00-4:00  
Sun, April 22, 2012 2:00-4:00

### **FIRST COMMUNION CELEBRATION**

Saturday, May 5, 2012 – 10:00 am  
OR

Saturday, May 12, 2012 – 10:00 am

***Mandatory First Communion Rehearsals are held the Thursday prior to Communion from 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm. Parents and children attend.***

# **First Reconciliation & First Eucharist Preparation 2011-2012**



**St. Andrew the Apostle  
3008 Old Raleigh Road  
Apex, NC 27502**

*2011-2012 workshop calendar on reverse.*

Preparing for a child's first reception of the sacraments is a very special time. We hope this will be a joyful and spiritually enriching experience for your family.

Please use this brochure for assistance with some of the most frequently asked questions about the sacramental preparation process. We hope you will feel free to contact us at any time before, during, or after your preparation experience.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

***My child is enrolled in Catholic school but our family is registered at St. Andrew. Will my child receive the sacraments at the Catholic school?***

No. You will receive the sacraments at St. Andrew. Sacraments are to be celebrated in the context of your faith community. Diocesan policy states that all children receive sacraments in the parish where the family is registered. If you are registered at St. Andrew, you and your child will participate in St. Andrew's sacramental preparation program. This program is NOT the same as the regular Faith Development program which is for children enrolled in public school. This means all children enrolled in public schools, private schools, Catholic schools, and home-based programs prepare in exactly the same process. This preparation relies on parent participation and enables parents to be the "primary catechists" of their children.

***When is my child eligible for First Sacraments?***

Your child is eligible if he or she:

- is in second grade or higher
- is baptized
- has completed a full calendar year of Faith Development and is about to be enrolled in his or her second year
- has a record of good attendance and completion of classes. Students may not have more than 5 absences in the catechetical year and must complete 2 GRACE events. (Please see the GRACE brochure for details.) This requirement does not apply to children in Catholic Schools.

***What if my child is older and has not received First Reconciliation and First Communion?***

Please contact our office if your child is nine years old or older and has not previously been enrolled in faith formation.

If your child has not been baptized, please contact Cathy Rusin, 362-0685 x24 or [adult\\_faith@saintandrew.org](mailto:adult_faith@saintandrew.org).

***Do I have to register for this program and, if so, when?***

Yes. Registration for the sacramental preparation program is required. Mail in registration begins on May 18.

If your child is in parish Faith Development class or the parish Home Program, you may register for first sacraments on the same form. If your child attends Catholic school or is home-schooled, please use the parish Faith Development registration form and write "Sacramental Preparation Only" at the top.

***How much is the fee and why is a fee required for sacramental preparation?***

The sacramental preparation fee is \$50 for First Reconciliation AND First Eucharist. This is in addition to any other tuition or registration fees. These funds help offset the cost of materials used by the parent and student (books, certificates, copies, etc) and for volunteer training.

***Will I need to provide a baptism certificate?***

Yes, if your child was baptized elsewhere. No, if your child was baptized at St. Andrew.

Please bring the original baptism certificate to the Faith Development office prior to, or at, Parent Meeting #1. A staff member will make a copy and return the original to you immediately. If your child was baptized at St. Andrew, please inform our staff.

***How do parents prepare their children for First Reconciliation?***

Sacramental preparation is a formation process distinct from religious education in the parish, school, or home programs. Parents are required to complete a home study book with their child. Parents attend two meetings. Children attend a retreat at which time the completed book is due.

***When is First Reconciliation?***

Please see the calendar on the back of this brochure for all dates. Reception of the *sacrament for children fully prepared* is conducted in communal celebrations. Several priests participate and each child has an opportunity to confess to a priest face-to-face.