

Make-Up Work for “Confession Class #1”

2014-15 Sacramental Prep Classes

for First Confession and First Communion

(for Candidates in Grades 2-5 on Thursday evenings)

Notes to Parents for Make-Up Work: (1) Please try to remember to begin and end each “make-up class” with a prayer. Although the use of spontaneous prayer is allowed, the children will have to memorize/recite the memorized prayers (Grade 1 and/or Grade 2) from the prayer sheets we’ve provided. Please review/pray those prayers often throughout the year. (2) Please read and discuss the following information with your child. If you have questions, please don’t hesitate to call Mrs. Frances at our Church Parish Office (937-6888). (3) Please complete the last page of this make-up packet and return it to our church parish office so Mrs. Frances can update the attendance chart.

In case you’ve misplaced your 2014-15 Schedule of Classes:

All Thursday evening classes are held in the **Religious Education Classrooms** from **6:00 – 7:00 p.m.** unless otherwise noted.

This schedule does not include other religious education classes (Sunday Sessions, EDGE sessions, or IGNITE! sessions)! Our full schedule of religious education and Sacramental prep classes may be found on our website’s Current Events page.

Description of Class	Date
Meeting #1 for parents of all First Communion Candidates	October 9 6:30 p.m.; Church Parish Hall
“Welcome to Sacramental Preparation” Class	October 23
Confession Class 1	November 6
Confession Class 2	November 20
Confession Class 3	December 4
Confession Class 4	December 18
TBA	January 8
First Confession Retreat (NOTE: This is the only evening class that will end at 7:30 p.m.)	January 22; 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Rel. Educ. Classrooms and Church
First Holy Confessions (The Sacrament of Reconciliation)	January 29 6:30 p.m. in church
Meeting #2 for parents of all First Communion Candidates	February 12 6:30 p.m.; Church Parish Hall
Communion Class 1	February 26
Communion Class 2	March 12
Communion Class 3	March 26
Communion Class 4	April 9
First Communion Retreat (NOTE: A parent must attend the rehearsal at 10:30 a.m.)	Saturday, April 25 8:00 a.m. – Noon (ends with rehearsal for Mass)
First Communion Mass (and Cake/Punch Reception)	Saturday, May 2 6:00 p.m. Mass followed by reception

Confession Class 1

We read and discussed **Lesson 3 (The Blessed Trinity)** in the New Saint Joseph First Communion Catechism textbook. (Your child's textbook will stay in our classroom until the last class.) The following information will help explain some of the topics that were discussed.

Jesus taught many things that were difficult to understand, but everything He taught revealed **God's unconditional love for each one of us**. Even though we don't understand some of the things He taught, we should believe Him (because Jesus would never lie to us).

- **Jesus taught His disciples (and us) that there is only one God.**
- While it may be easy to understand that there is only one God, it's much more difficult to understand that there are **three Persons in one God**:
 - ✠ **God the Father**
 - ✠ **God the Son** (Jesus Christ),
 - ✠ and **God the Holy Spirit** (the helper that Jesus promised to send to His Apostles after He ascended into Heaven)
- We imagine **God the Father** to be a kind and gentle father, but He is really a spirit. We cannot see or touch Him. He always was, is now, and always will be. (Because He is not a man, He was never born.)
- **God the Son** (Jesus Christ) was born in a humble stable and lived on the earth. He was a kind and gentle man who taught us how to love and respect God with our whole heart, mind, soul, and strength, and love our neighbors as ourselves.
- When Jesus knew that He would soon ascend into Heaven to be with His Father, He promised to send an advocate (a helper), His **Holy Spirit**, to His Apostles (and to us).
- Each one of them is God, and all together, they are God. All three are equal. None of them are more important or better than the others. We don't know how it happens, but when we have faith, we know that we can trust Jesus to teach us God's Truth.
- The three Persons in one God is called the **Blessed Trinity**. The Blessed Trinity is God's family. All is love in His family. They never argue or fight. They are always happy.

We also read and discussed **Lesson 4 (The First Sins)** in the New Saint Joseph First Communion Catechism textbook. Once again, the following information will help explain some of the topics that were discussed.

Although it's often an unpleasant thought, the fact is that, someday, hopefully a long time from now, our bodies will die, but if we have faith in God, we know that our **souls** will continue to live! God wants our **intangible** (*can't be seen or touched*), **immortal** (*will never die*) souls to spend eternity with Him in Heaven, and He knows that we need His help to prepare our souls for that possibility.

Sin is disobedience to God's laws. When we choose to do or say something that God would not want us to do or say, **or** when we choose not to do or say something that He would want

us to do or say, we make a choice to ignore God. Our bad choice shows Him that we love ourselves more than we love Him! Regardless of who makes those bad choices, when they are made, or why they are made, our bad choices offend God.

In Lesson 1 of our textbook, we learned that God created the **angels**. (*Extra note: He created all of the angels He will ever need, and each of the nine categories of angels has its own set of responsibilities. We will never become angels. Instead, God wants us to become saints so our souls can live with Him in Heaven.*) The angels were created to serve God, but some of them loved themselves more than God. They chose not to serve God. They committed the **First Sin**. We call the “**bad angels**” devils. At God’s command, **St. Michael, the archangel**, drove the “bad angels” out of Heaven. (*Extra note: The Prayer to St. Michael is a wonderful prayer to help protect us from evil in today’s world.*)

Adam and Eve committed the **first sin on earth**. God put them in the Garden of Eden where they could live in the beauty and abundance of God’s creation without the need for hard work. He gave them only one rule: Do not eat the fruit of one particular tree in the garden. He told them its fruit would make them die. Like the fruit on the other trees, the fruit of that tree looked delicious. Disguised as a serpent (snake), the devil spoke to Eve and told her that, if she ate the fruit of that tree, she would be like God. She ignored God’s rule, ate the fruit, and gave some to Adam. (They loved themselves more than they loved God!) Their sin is called **Original Sin**. Their sin had consequences. They had eaten the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Their innocence and purity “died.” They knew it because they made clothes for themselves and hid from God when He called their names! When they came out of hiding, God made them leave His garden! They were no longer welcome to live in His presence! They would now have to “toil” (work) for their food, clothing, and shelter, and feel suffering and pain.

We are descendents of Adam and Eve. Their sin is passed onto each one of us when we are born. (*We are born without God’s Grace—His life in us—in our soul!*) Baptism washes this sin off of our souls, but Original Sin leaves our souls weak. We often think of pleasing ourselves more than pleasing God. We often love ourselves more than we love God!

In order to free everyone from sin, God knew He would send His only Son to earth. He wanted His Son to have a good mother, so He made the best mother He could. The **Blessed Virgin Mary** was born free of Original Sin. As she grew, her soul was always turned towards God and her heart was always full of love for God. We call this Mary’s **Immaculate Conception**. She always did what God wanted her to do. When God sent an angel to speak with her, the angel explained that God wanted her to be the mother of God’s Son. Although she may have had some concerns, she trusted God and said, “Yes.” She gave birth to Jesus and, as he grew, she helped Him prepare to die on the Cross for us.

Closing prayer:

- Please review the **Glory Be** prayer with your child. He/She will have to memorize and recite it for one of our Prayer Partners before the **Sacrament of Confession** is administered.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

- **Glory:** to give great honor and praise
- Remind the children that God never had a birthday! He was always here, is still here now, and will be here forever!

Parent: Please complete the form on the next page!

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Please complete this page and return it to our Church Parish Office as soon as possible so Mrs. Frances can update our attendance records to indicate that you have helped your child make up the work that was missed during the class identified below.

My child, _____, and I have read and discussed all information included in this make-up packet for the First Communion Prep **“Confession Class #1.”**

Parent/Guardian's Printed Name

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Current Date