

## **SACRAMENTAL YEAR PROGRAM (RECONCILIATION AND EUCHARIST)**

As families we gather to celebrate important events at special meals, with favorite foods and shared stories. And as families we practice forgiveness and reconciliation, asking pardon when we hurt a loved one and forgiving others when they hurt us.

As Catholics our parish gathers to celebrate the most special of meals in the Eucharist. And in the sacrament of Reconciliation we celebrate the forgiveness that reunites us with God, the Church and our parish community.

The sacraments are signs of Jesus' presence in the world. When you presented your child for the first sacrament of Baptism, you made a promise to raise him or her in the Faith. Your family meals, rituals and your practice of forgiving and asking forgiveness are your child's first experiences of sacramental life. The preparation for celebrating the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist has already started with you, as the first and most important teachers. Through your family involvement in parish life, via your presence at weekly Mass, participation in parish activities, etc., your child is connecting with the church family and beginning to accept your faith as his or her own.

The Sacramental Year program is a one-year process for all students in grades 2 – 6 who wish to be prepared to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist (First Communion).

**Step 1 – Prerequisite:** Participation in the Sacramental Year Program requires prior attendance in a one-year preparation process, either as a student in a Catholic elementary school or in a parish Sacramental Preparatory Program.

**Step 2 – Reconciliation:** The Sacrament of Reconciliation, also called Confession and Penance, is studied and prepared for during the first part of the program year. A parent meeting is held in October where the program is explained and questions answered. The sacrament is received as a group in early December. At this first reconciliation service in December parents are also offered the opportunity to receive the sacrament, as an example to their child.

**Step 3 – Eucharist:** Instruction for the Sacrament of Eucharist, or First Communion, begins in January again with a parent meeting to explain the entire program. There are four special liturgies involved in the preparation for Eucharist – an enrollment liturgy at the beginning of the program, a liturgy at about the middle of the preparation, the actual reception of First Eucharist and then a final liturgy towards the end of May. The date for First Eucharist is May 7, 2011, the Saturday before Mother's Day.

Sacramental Year classes are offered on Sunday mornings from 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. or Wednesday afternoons from 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Attendance at Generations of Faith is also a mandatory part of this program.

2010-2011 Registration Forms are available at [www.steugenes.com/religiousedu.php](http://www.steugenes.com/religiousedu.php)