

St. Francis of Assisi Parish
Office of Faith Formation
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Guidelines for children wishing to receive First Holy Communion
(Revised September, 2016)

The Eucharist is the focal point of our Catholic faith. Through the sharing of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus, we are united with fellow believers and become one body, one faith, one community in Christ. The Eucharist strengthens us to live as authentic witnesses to the gospel of Jesus Christ by our sharing, caring and loving.

The task of preparing your children for this very important sacrament of initiation is a joint effort between you and the parish community. The parish assistance comes primarily in the form of religion classes at the school or through the parish faith formation program. Parents, too, attend classes to help them in guiding their children.

The Archdiocese of Seattle has several mandates regarding First Communion that we follow:

- ✠ Your child **must be baptized** in the Roman Catholic Church or have made a Profession of Faith to the Catholic church if baptized in another Christian tradition.
- ✠ Your child must be at least 7 years of age and have attended at least **two** years of faith formation either through the parish or the school.
- ✠ If your child **is not yet baptized**, is age **seven** or older and you wish them to join the Catholic Church, please contact Cheryl Brooten to discuss arrangements for them to receive the necessary sacramental preparation. At least one parent must be Catholic or preparing to join the Church through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)
- ✠ To arrange for baptism of younger children or for a profession of faith for your child contact Elizabeth Hanks @ 242-4575 ext 25. Please contact Elizabeth if you wish to explore RCIA.

To facilitate the program at St. Francis, we have several requirements.

- ✠ Baptismal records are kept only for those baptized at St. Francis of Assisi. If your child was baptized in another Catholic parish, it is **your** responsibility to arrange to have a copy sent to the Office of Faith Formation. The school office does not share their records with us, unless you ask.
- ✠ Please return the completed application for Reception of First Holy Eucharist, the \$30 fee and baptismal records if needed to the Parish Office by **October 31, 2016**. Your prompt attention is greatly appreciated!