

# RECONCILIATION & EUCHARIST POLICIES

## RECONCILIATION

The preaching of Jesus begins with the words: REFORM YOUR LIVES and BELIEVE IN THE GOOD NEWS (*Mark 1:15*). In response to this call, Christians accept the good news of God's love for them and seek to cultivate a spirit of conversion and repentance throughout their lives. The Church assists and encourages all its members to celebrate sacramentally this gift of reconciliation. Families with children prepare to receive this sacrament and help their child develop a sensitive conscience. (*Excerpt from Archdiocese Guidelines*)

### RECONCILIATION SEEKS TO:

- Make clear the relationship of the sacraments to the child's life.
- Help the child recognize wrongdoing and to repent.
- Turn to Jesus in the sacrament of forgiveness.
- Encourage the child to approach the sacrament freely and regularly, particularly during Advent and Lent

## EUCHARIST

The Sacraments of Initiation in the Roman Catholic Church are Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. Children baptized as infants receive the Sacrament of Eucharist before the final Sacrament of Initiation which is Confirmation.

Initiated into the faith by the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, Christians are fully joined to the Body of Christ in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. This sacrament is the center and the heart of the Roman Catholic Church and the life of a Catholic Christian.

**READINESS:** Candidates must have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The candidate must have a basic knowledge of Jesus, His mission, the Mass, and a desire to receive Jesus in the Eucharist. Children should know the difference between regular bread and the bread of the Eucharist.

**REQUIREMENTS:** Families must be registered members of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church and actively participate in weekend Liturgy. The children are enrolled in either a Catholic School or a Program of Religious Education.

### PARENTAL PARTICIPATION:

Parents are required to attend preparation meetings for Reconciliation and Eucharist. A parent should spend quality time with their child by using the material provided for the preparation of these two sacraments. If a parent chooses to delay the reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation for their child then the reception of First Eucharist is to be delayed, also. (*Diocesan Policy*)

## CELEBRATIONS OF RECONCILIATION & EUCHARIST

- Reconciliation is usually celebrated some time in January-February
- Eucharist celebrations take place at regularly scheduled Sunday Masses during the Easter Season.