

First Holy Eucharist

2016



St. Michael Parish
Sacramental Preparation
989.967.3520
8929 50th Ave Remus, MI 49340
faithformation@stmikes.us

Dear Parents,

We are sending you this handbook so that you can be sure to mark your calendars with all the pertinent information as we prepare, with your family, the very first time your child will receive Jesus in the Eucharist.

*First, **Thank You** for all that you do. Being a parent is incredibly hard work with a lot of self-sacrifice. Most of what parents do is found in the daily grind and in tedious details. On behalf of St. Michael's – and Holy Mother Catholic Church--thank you. Because of the choices you make -and only because of you--your child has an opportunity to grow up in a Catholic household – a Domestic Church.*

*In times past, parents often **believed that it was the job of the parish or school** to "teach religion" especially the preparation of the Sacraments. And it still is a very special and unique time that The Church must assist you and your family. But we also now know that parents are the single most important factor in religious formation and the faith life of a child. Our job as your Parish is to help you with the "what's" and "how's" to pass the faith along to your child, growing your Domestic Church.*

*Undoubtedly, we recognize that **you have many things going in your life** as a family. Running a household, a job to keep up with, parents and family to keep track of, not to mention keeping groceries in the house, maintenance projects, and finally, squeezing in family and relax time is a juggle. So when the parish requires that you take part in your child's program, we understand that it could tend to get treated like another item on a 'to-do' list.*

*And yet - **this is a time of tremendous faith growth as a family**, a chance to re-organize the priorities and shift the focus from 'right now' towards Eternity. Think of this as a real chance to grow together. Most of all, this time will bring you and your child closer to God. In obvious ways, through the reception of the Holy Eucharist, but also in other, less obvious spiritual ways that will reap benefits down the road and set the sure foundation for a lifetime. **Don't skip this process or cut it short** because you're too busy now.*

*Your role in the faith formation of your child is central. **No one can replace you, not even the best parish program.** The Parish is here to reinforce what you do at home. If you are engaged with your faith, chances are that your child will be, too.*

Thank you for your commitment to your family and St. Michael's parish through your child's sacramental preparation. We look forward to the journey.

Please Print

The information provided below is considered CONFIDENTIAL and is used only for communication purposes.

CHILD INFORMATION: PLEASE DO NOT USE NICKNAMES- THIS IS RECORDED IN THE SACRAMENTAL RECORD BOOKS

Child Name:	_____	_____	_____
	Last	First	Middle
Male:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Female:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Address:	_____	City/Zip:	_____
Date of Birth:	_____	City of Birth:	_____
Parent Email Address:	_____		
Phone:	_____	Texting OK	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

Mother's Maiden Name:	_____	Mother's full name:	_____
Religion:	<input type="checkbox"/> Catholic <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	Marital Status:	<input type="checkbox"/> Civil <input type="checkbox"/> Church <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced
Father's Full Name:	_____		
Religion:	<input type="checkbox"/> Catholic <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	Marital Status:	<input type="checkbox"/> Civil <input type="checkbox"/> Church <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced
Child lives with:	<input type="checkbox"/> Both Parents <input type="checkbox"/> Guardian <input type="checkbox"/> Father <input type="checkbox"/> Mother		

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS *(please check where appropriate)*

<input type="checkbox"/> Registered in Parish
<input type="checkbox"/> Is in 2 nd Grade(or Higher)
<input type="checkbox"/> Family involved in parish organizations, ministries, and youth activities – Please list: _____

FAITH FORMATION EXPERIENCES

<input type="checkbox"/> Attend Sunday Mass Regularly (at least 3x/mo)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Activities:
<input type="checkbox"/> Baptism Church: _____
** Please note: If you have been Baptized in a Catholic Church <i>other than St. Michaels</i> , you MUST have a recent (within the past 6 months) Baptismal Certificate brought to the St. Michael's Parish office by February 1 st . Without this, your child will not receive First Holy Communion

**THIS IS A TWO-SIDED FORM :: PLEASE COMPLETE ENTIRELY
REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS**

Along with this completed form:

- Course material fee:
 - \$40 St. Michael's Parishioner
 - \$75 (out of parish)
(Checks may be made out to St. Michaels/Sacramental Prep)
- **Note:** No child will be denied sacramental preparation due to finances. Please see Kris Beers with any questions.
- Copy of Baptismal Certificate

**Office use:
Date Received:**

- Baptism Verified**
- Amount paid:**
- Ck #**
 - Cash**

- I understand that Parent Sessions are an integral part of my child's formation and I will attend.
- I agree to make sure my student attends all classes in their entirety.
- I acknowledge and give permission to St. Michael's Parish to post on social media photos of my family for the purposes of Parish programming.

Signature

Date

[If your child was not baptized at St. Michaels, Remus, you MUST request a recent copy (6 months or less) from the parish your son/daughter was baptized in. You can have it mailed to the address on the front of this packet.]

Seating designations for First Eucharist Mass will be filled as forms are returned. (Those needing Baptismal records are not considered complete until the required forms are in the office)

Retreat Day Saturday, April 29th

Our Retreat day is Saturday, April 29th. This will include parents – please note that Baptismal Sponsors (Godparents) are welcome as well as part of their responsibilities they took on.

*This special preparation day will begin at 8:30 AM with prayer and reflection in the Parish Center. Included in the retreat day is practice in the Church. We will break at 11:30 for a **potluck lunch, so please plan to bring a dish to share**. We are also in need of a parent to organize the food for the luncheon. If you would like fill this spot, please let Ms. Snyder or Mrs. Beers know.*

Your role in the faith formation of your child cannot be underestimated. Once again, the only way a child will frequent any Sacrament is for the parents to make it a priority. You are the gatekeeper to all activities in your son/daughter's life and this is a great time to make Mass and Reconciliation a regular part of the life of your family.

First Reconciliation

All the children must be instructed and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to reception of First Holy Communion. This Sacrament is a great gift and we will also be encouraging you to come to the Confessional – whether it's been two weeks or twenty years, God is eager to meet you there!! His Mercy is endless – as Pope Francis has said, "God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking His mercy".

This is a very solemn moment with your child's faith journey – we strongly urge you to be an active participant, prayerfully assisting your son/daughter through this moment. We all know it takes courage to confess your sins out loud and your child will need that courage and example you provide by your sincere reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This is a great time to make Mass and Reconciliation a regular part of the life of your family.

First Eucharist Checklist

- Mark your calendars for Parent Sessions, beginning with **Strong Catholic Families and Feedback Session – All future sessions hinge on your participation with this important first two sessions** – Times, Dates, and Topics will be gleaned and set. *Plan to attend **both** one Parent Session **and** one Feedback Session.*
 - Parent Session: October 28 6pm-8pm **OR** October 30 12pm-2pm
 - Feedback Session: November 8 6pm **OR** Nov 6 12p

****** Parent Sessions are Required ******
 - Obtain a copy of your child's baptismal certificate {*ONLY if he/she was not baptized here at St. Michael's*} Turn this in as soon as possible; no later than March 1st.
 - Send in registration to Parish Office or School Office as soon as possible
 - Call the Parish office [989.967.3520], email [stmichaelsfaith@gmail.com], or send a message through website [stmichaelsremus.com] to volunteer if you are a Lector, Eucharistic Minister, Usher, or Altar Server and would like to participate in First Eucharist Mass. **All forms must be turned in and person volunteering must be properly trained prior to request.*
 - Come to the craft making day on TBD
 - Retreat day, April 29th. 8:30 AM-11:30AM **Bring your dish to share** *Parent required
 - TBD Sacrament of Penance.
-

First Eucharist Mass Sunday, May 7th 11am

- ALL Children arrive no later than 10:35 AM in the Narthex of the Church. Children and teachers will begin to prepare for Mass.
- Parents proceed into Church proper and designated seating areas. Take rosaries and other belongings with you. Father will bless religious articles after Mass and will do so prior to being available for photos.

A little note about Parent Sessions:

We look forward to working with you and your family as we prepare for your child's First (of hopefully thousands!) reception of Holy Communion. As Pope St. Pius X said, "Holy Communion is the shortest and safest way to Heaven"; and that is what our goal is, right? Giving our children the foundation to get to Heaven and spend eternity with God.

While your kiddos are getting a full plethora of instruction in the classroom, we will be focusing on giving **YOU**, mom and dad, the tools you need to continue, support, and lead by example at home. Just like any good system of change, one must have the tools of knowledge to pass it along to the next person; Or, as Bishop Robert Barron would say, "Everyone else thinks they know what Catholicism is. It's time we share the great news of what Catholicism really is". (or something close to that!)

What does this mean for you? It means that we are going to have 5 classes just for you, beginning with a Parent Session (and follow-up) of Strong Catholic Families. We are offering two different days/times to fit into your schedule. The same with the follow-up session – **which is the most essential piece to the puzzle** – your input is necessary but can only be followed by attendance at the parent session. The two meetings fit together hand and glove while the remaining 3 session topics, along with dates and times, *will be based on your feedback*.

Some of you may have attended our Strong Catholic Families parent session that was held 18 months ago – if that is the case, we will be **so glad** to have you be a table leader as you attend the session again. Just like a good book, the information doesn't get old and something new will likely hit you. You aren't the same person you were 1 year ago, right? Your kids are older, possibly in a different stage, your parenting style has adjusted, your family needs are different. Honoring that change, we are eager to see you at the sessions.

We cannot stress enough how **your involvement is the key** to your child's life lived fully alive in the Catholic faith. What do you wish for your child? How are you going to make it happen? How can we help you? A life full of joy is our goal for you and your family.

All 5 of the sessions (2 for Strong Catholic Families, 3 additional parent classes) will be spread out between now and First Holy Eucharist on **May 7th at 11:00AM Mass**. We ask that you plan to attend all 5; and remember, your input decides the topic and dates for the next three sessions.

Please send in your completed registration form as soon as you can – and mark your calendar for the Strong Catholic Family Parent session of your choice. You can register online at stmichaelsremus.com or via email faithformation@stmikes.us.

St. Michael's Parish

First Holy Eucharist Guidelines

Please remember to fill out, neatly, the registration form included in this packet. For those not baptized here at St. Michael's, don't forget to have a recent (6 months or less) copy sent to the parish office by the due date. Simply contact the church of baptism and request one to be sent to St. Michael's [8929 50th Ave, Remus 49340]

*The children's attire is Sunday best, or traditional First Eucharist apparel. White dress, veil, suit, and tie are not mandatory; Slacks, a button-up shirt and nice dress are acceptable. **Sneakers, t-shirts, jeans, and above the knee skirts/dresses are unacceptable.** A shawl or sweater must be worn over sleeveless dresses or spaghetti straps. Please, **NO MAKE-UP.** Your child is innocently receiving the Body and Blood of Christ for the first time – Jesus is the priority, not appearance.*

*The Sacrament of Holy Eucharist is very special and sacred. Because of the sacredness of this Sacrament, **we strongly urge family to be active participants during the Mass and take photos afterwards.** Please refrain from any flash photography during Mass. Those taking photos during Mass must stay behind the second pew and off to the perimeter of the Church – **NO photographers in the aisle.***

Children should not have anything in their hands for the procession. Please take purses, rosaries, and other items with you as you drop your child off in the Pavilion. Girls who are wearing gloves must receive the Host on the tongue or remove the gloves prior.

***Your family will have a designated pew for this special Mass.** The Communicant will sit on the end, closest to the aisle, with parents and/or family filling in the pew. If you have any more than will fill a pew, your people should sit with the congregation.*

*First Communicants will come forward in a procession line to receive Jesus. **Parents and family, please remain in your pew.** Children will wait at the side of their family pew until all have received. When all first Communicants are complete, Communion will be distributed to the remainder of the congregation.*



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

MEDIA RELATIONS/PROMOTIONS RELEASE FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____
Street City State Zip

PHONE: _____

RELEASE

IF PERSON BEING USED IN THE MATERIAL IS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE, PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN MUST SIGN THIS FORM.

I/we give my/our permission to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Grand Rapids, Michigan, (the Diocese) and all entities, representatives, employees, and agents operating under its authority to use, without prior notice, my name or my minor child's name, city and state, and/or audio, video(s), photo(s), and/or any other likeness and to use statements made by or attributed to me or my child relating to the Diocese, without compensation, for web, social media, publicity or similar promotions for the Diocese. I waive my right to inspect or approve such publications, including any written copy that may be created in connection therewith. *I/we agree that my/our signature(s) below releases any and all claims against the Roman Catholic Diocese of Grand Rapids, or its associated entities related to or arising out of the Diocese's use of the stated items as media relations/promotional material(s).*

Yes, I grant permission for release

No, I do not grant permission for release

Signature of Individual (if 18 or older): _____

Date: _____
.....

Name of Parent/Legal Guardian (print): _____
(if individual is under 18 years old)

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian: _____

Date: _____

If individual referenced above is under 18, please indicate your relationship to that person: _____

*Once completed, please return this form to your parish/school administration office