

# SCHEDULE OF LESSONS FOR FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION – 2018

## SUNDAY MORNINGS, 9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Instructors: Mrs. Susan Mould – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade P.S.R. Mrs. Elaine Belko – Sacred Heart School

February 11 **Parent Gathering at Sacred Heart Church – 9:15 am in the School Gymnasium**

February 18 **Lesson 1: Jesus Promised the Gift of Himself** (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent)  
Jesus Christ is the living bread, the Bread that gives us life and love. The children see Jesus multiplying food for the crowd. They hear him inviting them to receive bread from heaven that is broken and shared for the salvation of the world.

February 25 **Lesson 2: We Celebrate God's Love**  
God's people celebrated his saving love at the Passover meal. At the Last Supper, Jesus gave the Church the means to join with him in joyful praise of the Father. The Mass makes Christ's sacrifice of himself to the Father present for us in a sacramental form. The children learn how to offer themselves with Jesus at Mass and how the Bread of Life helps them live in Christ and be united with God and with one another.

March 4 **Lesson 3: Jesus Invites Us**  
In this chapter, the children learn how the Introductory Rites of the Mass create a sense of anticipation and set the spirit of the celebration. They learn that Christians gather in Jesus' name to publicly proclaim that Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father, is Lord of all creation.

March 11 **Lesson 4: We Listen and Pray**  
In the Liturgy of the Word, we hear God inviting us to live more completely in love. The children learn that if they are receptive to God's Word, they will hear God speak to them personally and call them to proclaim the Gospel with their lives. They learn that the Creed summarizes our beliefs and moves us to turn to God with confidence and to pray for the needs of all.

March 18 **Lesson 5: We Prepare Our Gifts**  
The gifts of bread and wine that we present at Mass are signs of ourselves. The children learn that during the Presentation and Preparation of the Gifts, they prepare to offer themselves along with Christ's perfect offering to the Father.

March 25 **Lesson 6: Jesus Offers Himself** (Palm Sunday)  
The Eucharistic Prayer at the Mass joins our praise and thanks to the Father with Christ's sacrifice. In this chapter, the children learn that during Mass, Jesus becomes present among us in a special way.

April 1 **Easter Sunday – No Class!**

April 8 **Lesson 7: We Receive the Bread of Life**  
During the Communion Rite of the Mass, we receive the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ. In this chapter, the children are guided to prepare for Holy Communion and to receive Jesus reverently by meaningfully participating in each part of the Communion Rite. They learn that in Holy Communion, they are united with Jesus and through him with the Father and the Holy Spirit and also with his Body, the Church.

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| April 14 (Saturday) <b><u>Retreat – 9:00 AM-12:00 Noon – (Children and Parents)</u></b> |
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Meet in the School Cafeteria. Please bring a sack lunch.

12:00 Noon – Lunch

12:30 PM – Candidates and Parents meet in the Church for Practice

April 15 **Lesson 8: We Share God's Love with Others**  
At the conclusion of the Mass, the priest or deacon dismisses us, sending us out to glorify the Lord by our lives and serve the Lord. The children learn that gratitude for God's gifts is best shown by trying to glorify the Lord by serving others and sharing his love with them.

April 22 Review for First Holy Communion

April 29 **First Communion Mass – 10:30 AM**

➤ *Candidates should wear their Sunday best; Girls in dresses, Boys in slacks (no Cargo Pants), shirt and tie.*

➤ *No Video Taping or Flash Photography will be permitted during the Mass*