

**Parent Meeting – Dohony Hall  
Wed., September 26, 7:30 PM**

## **First Reconciliation**

**PREPARATION (10 AM - 12 NOON)**

October 6 (parent stays)  
October 20  
November 3 (parent stays)

**CELEBRATION:**

**November 17 (10:00 AM)**

## **First Eucharist**

**PREPARATION (10 AM -12 NOON)**

March 8 (parent stays)  
March 29  
April 19 (parent stays)

**PRACTICE: May 1, (7 PM)**

**CELEBRATION: MAY 3 (10:00 AM)**

## ***FIRST RECONCILIATION***

***and***

## ***FIRST EUCHARIST***

***2007-2008***

For more Information  
Call 410-465-0622 ext.20  
[dfranzdre@aol.com](mailto:dfranzdre@aol.com)

Saint Paul's Church  
Ellicott City, MD  
Sr. Dorothy Franz July 2007

**Reconciliation**

The immediate Preparation for Reconciliation is free standing in that it is separate from and congruent with regular Religious Education. During this phase a program is offered to parents to help assist their children in their preparation for celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Immediate catechesis includes formation in the meaning of sin, psychological and moral development of the child, conscious formation, the meaning and various forms of the sacrament of reconciliation, and the love and mercy which is extended to Gods people through this sacrament.

Children ordinarily are to be enrolled in a religious education program for at least one year prior to the entrance into the program for immediate catechesis.

The immediate catechesis for Reconciliation is not associated with any particular grade level in the parish or school religious education program. All those who have reached the age of discretion are invited and encouraged to participate in the sacrament of Reconciliation after receiving appropriate formation.

Parents are to be involved in the preparation of their children for this sacrament, and parishes can rightfully expect that parents participate in preparation programs designed to assist them to carry out their responsibilities in this regard.

Care is taken to insure that all children as they reach the age of discretion (usually age 7 or older) and their parents are informed about and invited to the immediate catechesis for Penance so that the celebration of First Penance may precede First Eucharist and that children may be assured of this opportunity. The norm of the Church is that first sacramental confession should precede the reception of First Eucharist. This norm affirms the ability of children at the age of discretion to begin to realize, according to their stage of development, that their actions and attitudes, both negative and positive, have an impact on themselves and on their relationships with other people and God. It is also based upon the need to grow in Christian values and upon the value of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in fostering this growth. This practice can help children to know more personally and to experience more deeply the love of Jesus, who is merciful and forgiving, leading us to the fullness of life.

## EUCCHARIST

The program for immediate catechesis for Eucharist is also a free-standing program apart from any grade in the parish or school religious education program in

which the child continues. The immediate catechesis for Eucharist is scheduled in such a way that it can naturally follow the immediate catechesis for Reconciliation. The concept of Eucharist as a sacrament of unity permeates the child's immediate preparation. Saint Paul's provides sessions for parents and guardians as an integral part of this immediate preparation time in conjunction with the immediate catechesis for children.

Immediate catechesis for Eucharist for adults is an integral element of the catechumenate process. As with Reconciliation, children ordinarily are to be enrolled in a religious education program for at least one year prior to entrance into the program for immediate catechesis.

The program for immediate catechesis includes candidates, the candidate's family and the parish community. Parents have a right and duty to be intimately involved in preparing their children for First Communion. An individual candidate continues to participate in the parish or school religious education program and also participates in the program for immediate catechesis with the other children and parents in the parish.