**Sacramental Preparation Requirements**

**for First Holy Communion**

**Canon Law from the Catholic Church**

**Can 914 –** It is the responsibility, in the first place, of parents and those who take the place of parents as well as of the pastor to see that children who have reached the use of reason are correctly prepared and are nourished by this divine food as early as possible, preceded by sacramental confession; it is also for the pastor to be vigilant lest any children come to the Holy Banquet who have not had the use of reason or whom he judges are not sufficiently disposed.

• Desire to receive Jesus in the Eucharist

• Recognize the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist

• Understand that in the Eucharist, bread and wine are changed into the body and blood, soul and divinity of Christ.

**Diocese of Rockford**

Completed 1 full year of formal catechetical instruction and is currently enrolled in the second year of the regular catechetical program.

The Church asks that baptized children who are to celebrate First Holy Communion….

* have celebrated the Sacrament of Penance
  + Note: This is the norm for the Diocese of Rockford.
    - It is stated in the Catechism (#1457): “Children must go to the Sacrament of Penance before receiving Holy Communion for the first time.” (This references Code of Canon Law #914).

**Program Content of the sacramental program**

(from Diocese of Rockford Curriculum Guidelines for 2nd graders)

Memorize all the basic prayers

Content areas to be “mastered” include:

* define the Sacrament of Eucharist
* know these terms: Lord’s Supper, breaking of the bread, Holy Communion
* tell the story of the Last Supper

Content areas to be “developed” include:

* Jesus’ life, parables, and miracles
* know who the Holy Spirit is
* Communion of Saints
* name the 7 sacraments
* define the Sacrament of Baptism and know something about it
* realize Christ’s presence in the Eucharist
* know who may receive the Eucharist (the conditions for receiving Holy Communion worthily)
* understand why we kneel and genuflect
* know about Holy Orders and the roles of bishop, priest, deacon
* know the family is the domestic church
* know what sacramental are
* describe the importance of going to Mass
* identify ways to keep the Lord’s Day holy

**St. Charles Borromeo Church**

**(sacramental program for FR and FC)**

* Sacrament of Baptism; Catholic religion
* Attend Sunday Mass with family
* Sacrament Information form
* Copy of Baptismal certificate
* Religious Education students – missed classes need to be made-up at the other time slot.