

First Eucharist Diocese Policy:

- ❖ The decision as to when a child is ready to celebrate any sacrament for the first time is a decision which rests primarily with parents in consultation with the catechist and priest who will administer the sacrament but not before the age of reason (age7).
- ❖ Formation for First Eucharist is to be conducted separately from preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- ❖ First Reconciliation precedes First Eucharist and is to be six months apart.
- ❖ Children are eligible to participate in First Eucharist preparation beginning in **3rd grade**.
- ❖ The Eucharist, as a source and summit of Christian life, and the parish as the primary Christian community (outside of the home), should be **celebrated for the first time with the parish faith community**.
- ❖ Therefore, **all children of the parish are to prepare for the sacrament together**.
- ❖ All preparation processes should include the following elements:
 - Parental catechesis
 - Family Retreat
 - Attention to learning specifically about the sacrament and its effects.
 - Opportunity for Christian service, ideally, as a family.
- ❖ **Preparation for a sacrament is not a year long process**. This is in addition to regular religious instruction provided in the parish faith formation program or Catholic school.