

First Reconciliation Policy:

- ❖ Great care should be taken to ensure that these sessions do not conflict with regular Catholic school religious education program or the parish faith formation program.
- ❖ The decision as to when a child is ready to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation 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 (age 7).
- ❖ It is the policy of the Diocese of Buffalo that the celebration of First Reconciliation precedes First Eucharist and be at least six months apart.
- ❖ Parishes usually will provide preparation for **First Reconciliation in the 2nd grade and First Eucharist** for those in the 3rd grade.
- ❖ Generally children will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before receiving First Eucharist; yet caution should be exercised so that ***no child is forced*** to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before he/she receives First Eucharist.
- ❖ Following elements will be included in the preparation program:
 - Parental catechesis
 - Family Retreat
 - Attention to learning specifically about the sacrament and its effects.
 - Opportunity for Christian service, ideally, as a family.