

Great Expectations*



***What we have for YOU as parents
with children in religious ed or the school**



The Plan Today

- A bit of Prayer first
 - with a reflection from Vatican II
- Why you as parents or guardians are so vital in the formation of your children
 - and why the parish can never be an adequate substitute for you
- Our plan here in this parish



Goals in this presentation

- **A conversation about your role as parents**
 - What should your role be?
 - What's working **now** in your experience of this?
 - How do you already, naturally do this?

What role do you *want* to play in the formation of your own children?



We know

- More than 90% of adult Catholics
 - are active today
 - because their parents were active
 - only about 10% come to the church as adults
- What does this tell us?
- You play **THE vital role!**



Principle

- We cannot succeed in faith formation without you in the picture.
 - You do form your own children
 - You have them far more than we do
 - YOU are the ones with influence...

- In the **good old days**...



A timeline to help

until 1960

Formation in the home
Mass every week
Feasts & Seasons
Fasting & abstinence
Confession
Catholic Schools & *the Sisters!*

CCD filled in a tiny gap



A timeline to help

until 1960

1960-70s

Major cultural shift
Television & media
Huge cultural shift in West
At Mass less often

CCD has bigger gap to fill

A timeline to help

until 1960

1960-70s

Religion class

...**with th**

Participation

Home life m

Catholic schools

The passing of faith from Generation to Generation is really not happening.

We can't substitute parish volunteers for the parents.

Our current approach is not working.

CCD has huge gap to fill



A timeline to help

until 1960

1960-70s

1980-90s

Today

Bringing parents into the learning circle is key
by coaching you to form your own kids

We want this to happen at every age and stage:

Baptism Prep

After baptism and until early school years

For Sacrament prep

After the first sacraments in the middle elementary years

In junior or senior high – Youth Ministry or Confirmation



The outcome of this:

- The passing of faith
- from **Generation to Generation**
- **has slowed down or stopped.**

- You tend to remain absent...
- ...and this isn't your fault.
- It's just how the system has worked.



Many of you

- May feel un-equipped
- You may feel that you don't know your own faith well enough to teach your kids
- **So you drop your child at the parish**
- And go do something else...



From Church teaching

- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
 - “Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children” (CCC #2223).

- Vatican II
 - “The role of parents in education is of such importance that it is almost impossible to provide an adequate substitute”
(*Declaration on Christian Education*, #3).



And we at the parish

- We accept these children
- And we do a pretty good job

- But we will always be only the **substitutes**
- **You form your own kids**, even if you don't take an active role

Going forward...

- What does this mean?
- How do we help you?





From Church teaching

- *General Directory for Catechesis*
 - “Parents are the primary educators in the faith” (GDC , #255).

- The Rite of Baptism
 - “You are accepting the responsibility of training [this child] in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring [this child] up to keep God’s commandments...”

(Rite of Baptism, #77)



From the GDC #226

The religious awakening which takes place in the household during childhood is, simply, **irreplaceable.**

It is most powerful when parents take the time to explain to their children the religious meaning of **life's moments:** including holy days, family events, and social, political or moral questions.



From the GDC #227

The local parish must, therefore,
help parents

by whatever means works best,

to prepare for and assume

their responsibility,

of educating their own children

in the faith.



Conversation

- What do you hear in all of this?
- What strikes you about it?
- Handout #1



Partnering with Parents

- A new kind of religious ed event
 - One where parents attend
 - With their children
 - If parents can't...
 - Grandparents
 - Older youth or others from the parish to act as "sponsors"

The parents are the teachers.



Growing up Catholic

Baptism

The years after Baptism
...until about age 5 or 6

Prep for Penance
and First Communion

Confirmation years
or Youth Ministry

Key years after 2nd or 3rd grade:
Basal Curriculum
Children often miss more...



Growing up Catholic

Baptism

- A dual approach
 - One avenue for parents who are active and engaged
 - Another for those who are on the edge of parish life and faith

Growing up Catholic

Baptism

The years after Baptism
...until about age 5 or 6



- *Entrusted to Your Care*
 - Through emails
 - Letters
 - Calendars
 - Invitations
 - Prayers
- The key: **Stay in touch**
- **Relationship**



Growing up Catholic

Baptism

The years after Baptism
...until about age 5 or 6



Prep for Penance
and First Communion

- An ideal time to launch coaching
 - Parents ***often want to be*** more involved
 - We want to work with you
 - You and your child will work together through the lesson with our coaching

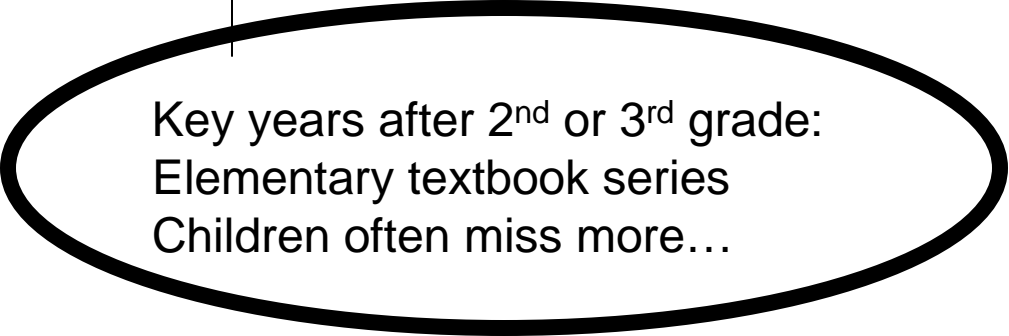


Growing up Catholic

Baptism

The years after Baptism
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Prep for Penance
and First Communion



Key years after 2nd or 3rd grade:
Elementary textbook series
Children often miss more...

Two Options

Middle elementary years

■ **Learning Centers for Parents**

- While your children are in class
- Age appropriate skills for talking about faith
- Plus “theological” background
- Plus seasonal stuff

■ **Whole Family Catechesis**

- Just like Sac Prep
- Parents and children work together
- You learn together about the topic and actually go through a lesson
- And you take home what you did



Themes for

Middle Elementary Years

- Our Hunger for God
 - Revelation
 - Trinity
 - Jesus Christ
 - The Church
 - Morality
 - Sacraments
 - The Kingdom of God
 - Scripture
 - Prayer
 - Social Teachings
 - The Mass
- Also coming soon:**
- Stewardship
 - Catholic Virtues & Values



How often?

- For the First Sacraments
 - Maybe all sessions
 - Or at least MOST sessions
- For Middle Elem Years
 - Once per unit in the textbook?
 - Or at least 3 times per year
 - Autumn, Advent and Lent



Growing up Catholic

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Mini-Courses

- **What are they?**
 - Short, defined areas of study
 - Combined with faith sharing
 - Purpose: to integrate faith into daily life
 - Usually 6 to 10 sessions per Mini-Course
- For example:
 - **What Does God Want?** *Living the Commandments*



Mini-Courses

- **How do they work?**
 - Parents and youth sit together
 - Use a strong resource
 - Pray as one whole group

- Then move to “active learning”
 - With a strong way of teaching
 - **“Learn & Teach”**



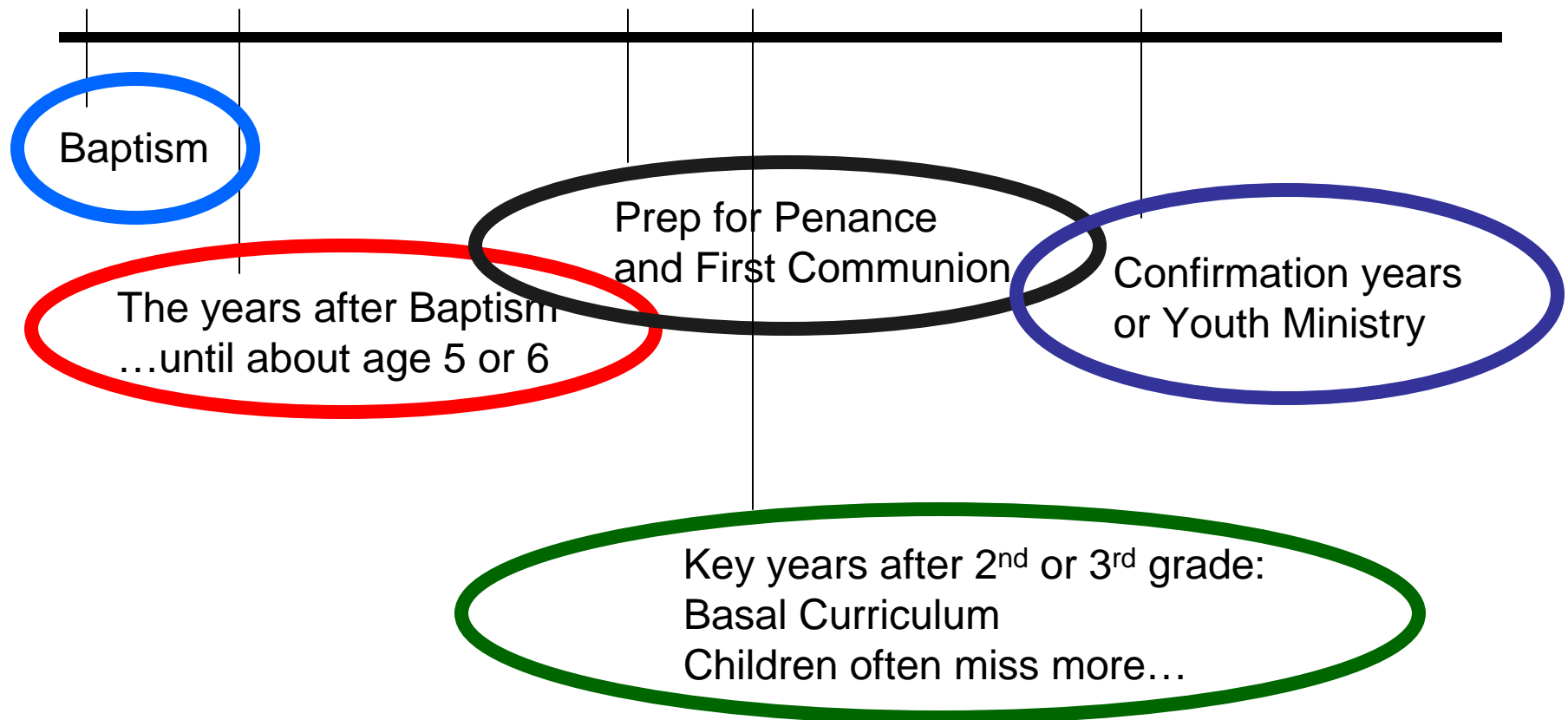
Mini-Courses

■ Learn & Teach

- Break the material into small chunks and assign each to a small group
- The group draws out the major points
 - Creates a one-page flip chart sheet on them
 - which will be presented to all
 - And prepares one of the points for dialogue
 - in dyads in the larger group
- They learn by teaching



Growing up Catholic





Prep for First Sacraments

One Example **Of a Parent-Child** **Resource**



Partnering with Parents

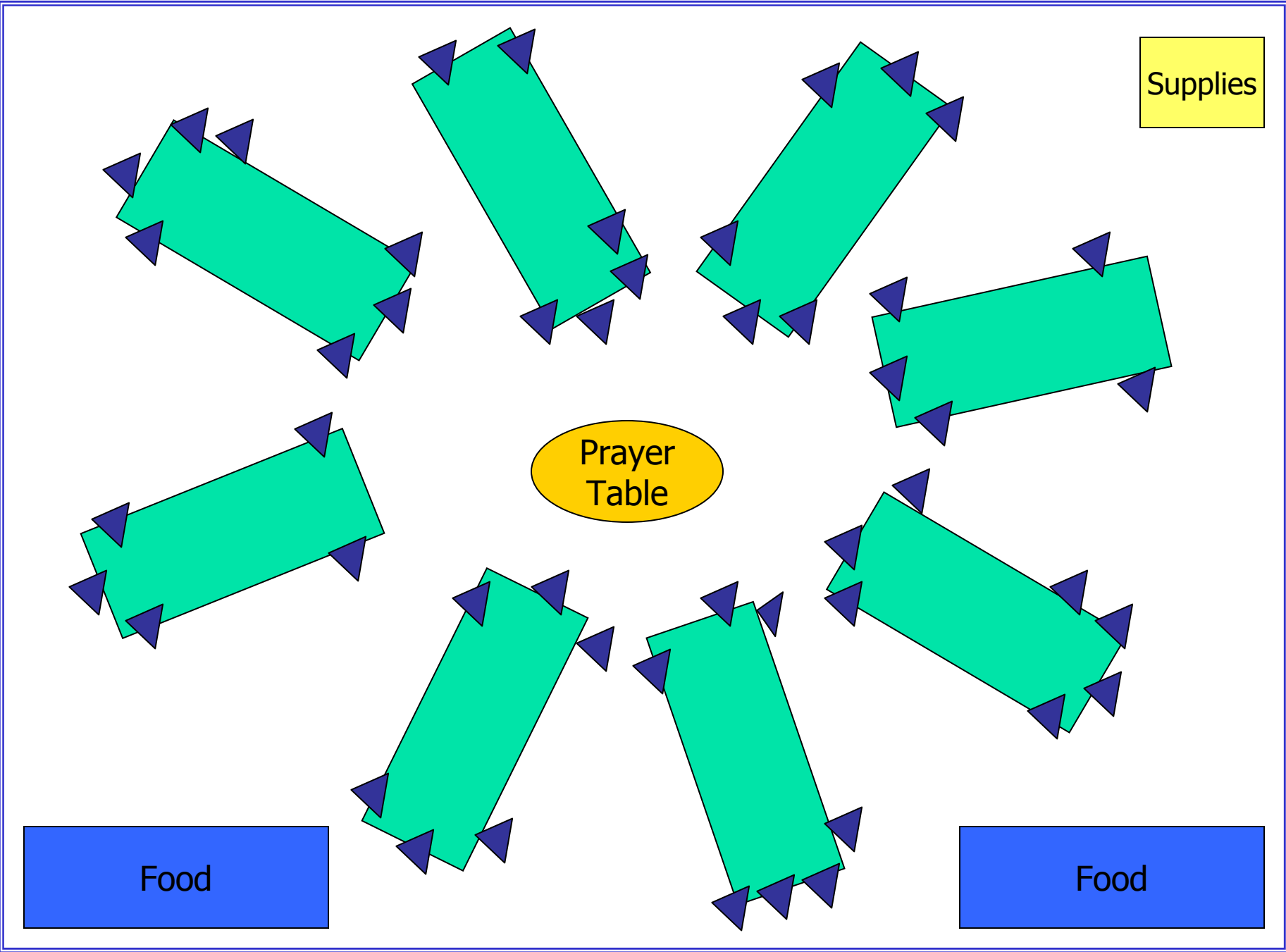
- Parents and children sit together
 - A strong resource is on the table
 - A Catechist leads the process
 - People called “roaming catechists” are available
 - keeping an eye out for your needs
- Here’s a picture of the room:

Supplies

Prayer
Table

Food

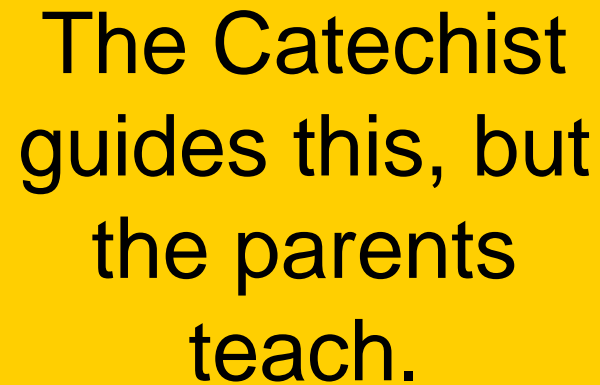
Food





Once everyone is gathered...

- Convene the group
- Orient folks to
- Pray together
- Work in **household groups**
- But in league with other households
- All moving along *messily* together
- Share food



The Catechist guides this, but the parents teach.



Here's one example:

- from ***Growing Up Catholic***
 - Sacrament Prep
 - **Coaching Notes** are all ready to use
- **The Web site**
 - Prayers to memorize together
 - Background on our teachings
 - Non-Catholic parents are welcome

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray in the Words that Jesus gave us.

Next to each line, draw a line to what it means.

Our Father Who art in Heaven		May your plan for our lives and the world come into reality! Soon.
Hallowed be thy name		Please continue to provide for our daily needs, as you always do
Thy Kingdom come		Forgive our sins in the same way we forgive people who hurt us
Thy will be done On earth as it is in Heaven		Oh God, you care for us like our mom or dad – with great love for us...
Give us this day our daily bread		Forgive any sins we have committed against you
And forgive us our trespasses		And protect us from all evil
As we forgive those who trespass against us		May we follow your teachings every day while we live on earth just like we will when we get to heaven
And lead us not into temptation		We have great reverence for who you are
But deliver us from evil.		Please don't let anyone tempt us
Amen.		Amen! Let it be so!

1 The purpose of exercise is to **understand & pray the Our Father.**

2 First, read through the words of the Our Father with them. **Read one line and invite your child to repeat it after you.** Your child should know this prayer by heart. Affirm your child often as he or she learns.

3 Then help your child find the correct meaning of each phrase of this prayer. Draw a line to that. We have given you two clues to get you started. **Here's the key:**

1 = 4

2 = 8

3 = 1 (given)

4 = 7 (given)

5 = 2

6 = 5

7 = 3

8 = 9

9 = 6

10 = 10



Meeting Jesus in the Bible

As we prepare to receive Holy Communion, we should remember that Jesus comes to us as a friend. He is like the Good Shepherd – he cares for us and watches over us.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd

Jesus told his friends one day that he is the “good shepherd.”

The good shepherd, he told them, lays down his life for his sheep.

If there is a hired shepherd tending the sheep and a wolf attacks them the hired shepherd runs away and let's the sheep be eaten by the wolf.

He does this because he doesn't really care about the sheep.

But I am the good shepherd.

I know my sheep and my sheep know me.

(Based on John 10:11-14)



1 We will now read about how Jesus is our friend, just as a shepherd is to his sheep. Begin by showing your child a **Bible**. Open it to show them this passage.

2 Tell them that we are going to read this story in words that we understand better.

3 Then close the Bible and ask them to read this passage aloud. Help them when needed. **Ask your child to retell this story in his or her own words.**

Color This Picture



"Jesus said, 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.'" John 10:11

4 Time for a break! Help your child **enjoy** coloring this image of Jesus and the children.

Coloring time is a good time to be close to your child without necessarily talking about faith.

Don't be afraid to **put your arm around your child** during this time.

5 Your child may not be familiar with what shepherds do. Explain that they look after their sheep with **tenderness and love**. Jesus watches over us that way.



At home this week

Work on this together at home as a way of continuing the process of preparing for The Sacrament of The Eucharist

A plan for love.

Tell or draw one way you will be kind and loving this week.

With your parents	At school	With your friends	With Jesus in prayer

Rehearsal for Holy Communion.

You can receive Communion in two ways:

In your hand

Open your hands like a small bowl. Bow in reverence and hold your hands upward toward the priest or person sharing Communion. Say "Amen" when you are offered the Host. When handed the host, place it in your mouth immediately and swallow.

On your tongue

Bow in reverence and say "Amen" when you are offered the Host. Hold your head back just a little. Open your mouth and place your tongue on your lower lip until you feel the Host being placed there. Close your mouth and swallow immediately.

The chalice

Take the chalice when offered to you and drink a small sip.

1 As part of the preparation for Communion, help your child **create a little plan** to be ever more loving in daily life.

Sit with your child at home and help him or her make this plan. Promise them you will also follow the plan.

2 This week, **rehearse** the reception of Communion with your child. Use the notes on the bottom of this page to help you. Your child will feel more comfortable if he or she is well rehearsed.



Great Expectations

Partnering with Parents

in teaching religion



We want to set this parish on fire!

- Coaching is one part of the whole parish process
- It fits into our overall plan for lifelong faith formation
- **This is how we hope to help you take on this role**

- Everyone grows.

Everyone grows.



Thank you

- For what you do in your homes
- For being here

- For taking on this new mission
- Come Holy Spirit,
 - fill the hearts of your faithful
 - enkindle in us the **FIRE** of your love!