

ADEOCLUBS

163 East 81st Street, NYC, NY 10028 • T: (212) 535-9329 • F: (212) 628-8409 • info@adeoclubs.org • www.adeoclubs.org

FIRST COMMUNION PACKET 2018-2019

Dear Parents of First Communion Students,

We look forward to celebrating two very special sacraments with you and your child in spring 2019: First Penance, also known as Reconciliation or Confession, and First Communion. Enclosed, you will find information about the scheduling of both sacraments and also information on a number of wonderful events to help prepare for these sacraments.

All sacrament-related events take place at **Church of St. Thomas More, 65 East 89th Street (between Madison and Park Avenues)** unless another location is indicated. The phone number of the Church is 212-876-7718.

It is very important that your child attends mass regularly in preparation for First Communion. For those who travel frequently, www.masstimes.org is a helpful resource to find a Mass wherever you may be.

A) Contents of First Communion Packet:

Page 2: Important Fall Events

Page 3: First Penance Information

Page 4: First Communion rehearsals and Mass Information

Page 5-6: Adeo Clubs Events Calendar For Parents & Students

Page 7: Classes Calendar

IMPORTANT SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS:

Page 8: Prayers to review with your child throughout the year to prepare for First Penance and First Communion

Page 9: How to receive the sacrament of Penance

Page 10: Examination of Conscience for Children

Page 11-12: Maria Montessori Article on The Sacrament of Penance

B) All First Communion Forms to Complete:

[First Communion Form 1](#): RSVP to Mandatory First Communion Parent's meeting • DUE 10/12/18

[First Communion Form 2 of 3](#): RSVP to 1 Mandatory Instruction of the Mass • Due 10/19/18

[First Communion Form 3 of 3](#): First Communion Mass Altar Flower Donations • *All donations received before 04/05/19 will be listed in the program*

Important Fall Events

Opening Meeting for Parents of First Communion Students @ St. Thomas More Church- **Mandatory**

We will be opening the year with a **mandatory** meeting for parents of First Communion students on **Wednesday, October 24th from 6:30 – 7:30 pm**. Our speaker for the evening will be Adeo Clubs Board Member, Rosa Spinnato, speaking about ***“Discovering your Parenting Ally.”***

RSVP ONLINE BY 10/12/18 HERE: [First Communion Form 1](#): RSVP to Mandatory First Communion Parent's meeting

Instruction of the Mass @ St. Thomas More Church- **Mandatory**

This special event is **mandatory** and will help your child enter into the beauty of the Mass. The mass will be celebrated by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. Children are required to attend with at least one parent/guardian. We will offer this event twice, so that you may select from one of two dates. Priests will be available to hear adults' confessions from 4:00 – 4:30 pm. The Mass will begin promptly at 4:45 pm and conclude by 5:30 pm. Following the Mass, all are invited for a short reception in the Rochester Room.

Please select from one of two dates:

Option 1: Wednesday, November 7, 2018 • 4:00-6:00 pm

Option 2: Tuesday, November 13, 2018 • 4:00-6:00 pm

RSVP ONLINE BY 10/19/18 HERE: [First Communion Form 2 of 3](#): RSVP to Mandatory Instruction of the Mass

FIRST PENANCE

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (also called Penance, Confession) is a prerequisite for receiving First Communion. Your child will make his or her First Penance on Thursday, January 31, 2019 **OR** Thursday, February 7, 2019.

FIRST PENANCE A	FIRST PENANCE B
<p>MANDATORY REHEARSAL for Penance: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. St. Thomas More</p>	<p>MANDATORY REHEARSAL for Penance: Tuesday, February 5, 2019 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. St. Thomas More</p>
<p>FIRST PENANCE: Thursday, January 31, 2019 6:00 p.m. St. Thomas More</p>	<p>FIRST PENANCE: Thursday, February 7, 2019 6:00 p.m. St. Thomas More</p>

At the rehearsal the children will receive important preparation and have a chance to explore the confessionals. Some of our students will participate in a play about the Prodigal Son and will rehearse this at the end of the First Penance rehearsal. If any parents would like to assist in the play or with costumes, please let us know.

Attire for First Penance is appropriate church attire. We will try to keep the penance ceremony as simple as possible; it should last approximately an hour. There will be light refreshments in the Rochester Room following the ceremony.

Note: Family members are welcome to come to our First Penance ceremony. However, it does involve an extended period of waiting while the children make their individual confessions. For this reason, it is not always easy for younger children to sit through the ceremony. If you wish to bring young children, it is advisable to bring something for them to read or do while they wait quietly.

FIRST COMMUNION

FIRST COMMUNION A	FIRST COMMUNION B
<p>TWO MANDATORY REHEARSALS FOR FIRST COMMUNION (children's attendance at both is required, but parents/babysitters are not required to stay):</p> <p>Wednesday, April 24 3:30 - 5:00 pm St. Thomas More Church</p> <p>Thursday, April 25 3:30 - 5:00 pm St. Thomas More Church</p>	<p>TWO MANDATORY REHEARSALS FOR FIRST COMMUNION (children's attendance at both is required, but parents/babysitters are not required to stay):</p> <p>Tuesday, April 30 3:30 - 5:00 pm St. Thomas More Church</p> <p>Wednesday, May 1 3:30 - 5:00 pm St. Thomas More Church</p>
<p>FIRST COMMUNION MASS</p> <p>Saturday, April 27 10 am St. Thomas More Church</p>	<p>FIRST COMMUNION MASS</p> <p>Saturday, May 4 10 am St. Thomas More Church</p>

Children's Attire for First Communion:

Boys – white shirt, white trousers, conservative necktie, navy blazer, dress shoes

We will supply boutonnieres for the boys.

Girls – white dress, white anklets or white tights, black or white shoes

We will provide flower wreaths for the girls' hair, so therefore veils are not worn.

Rev. Kevin Madigan will officiate the Communion Mass, but please let us know if you have a family member or friend who is a priest who would like to concelebrate the Mass.

If you would like to donate flowers for the ceremony use this online form: [First Communion Form 3 of 3](#): First Communion Mass Altar Flower Donations • *All donations received before 04/05/19 will be listed in the program*

There will be a reception immediately following the ceremony from approximately 11 am -12 pm. Please call the office if the number of people you plan to invite is more than six. Thank you!

ADEO CLUBS

SPECIAL EVENTS 2018-2019 FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

FIRST COMMUNION EVENTS

CONFIRMATION EVENTS

Unless otherwise indicated, events take place at the Church of St. Thomas More (STM) at 65 East 89th Street. The Confirmation Mass and Rehearsal will be held at the Church of St. Vincent Ferrer at 869 Lexington Avenue.

Tuesday, October 9 th	Regular classes begin (Mon. classes begin Oct. 15 th)	<i>See classes calendar</i>
Wednesday, October 24 th	Mandatory 1 st & 2 nd Grade Parents Meeting Talk given by Adeo Clubs Board Member: Rosa Spinnato <i>"Discovering your Parenting Ally"</i>	6:30-7:30 PM STM
Thursday, October 25 th	Mandatory 6 th & 7 th Grade Parents Meeting Talk given by Adeo Clubs Board Member: Rosa Spinnato <i>"Discovering your Parenting Ally"</i>	6:30-7:30 PM STM
Wednesday, November 7	2 nd Grade Instruction of the Mass (Option 1)	4:00 – 6:00 PM STM
Tuesday, November 13 th	2 nd Grade Instruction of the Mass (Option 2)	4:00 – 6:00 PM STM
Wednesday, November 14 th	Adeo Cocktail and Launch Party: For Adeo Parents & Teachers Hosted at the home of Adeo Board Member: Susan Warner	6:30-8:00 PM
Wednesday, December 5 th	Adeo Family Mass & Party: For Adeo Families & Teachers Celebrant: Fr. Enrique Salvo	5:00 PM STM
Tuesday, December 18 th	Advent Holy Hour & Confessions <u>**Grades 3-6 only</u> **7th graders will have a special holy hour during their confirmation retreat	4:00 – 5:30 PM STM
Wednesday, December 19 th	Advent Confessions Option 2 <i>All students who have had their first penance are welcome</i> **3-6th graders should attend the Holy Hour on 12/18. If they cannot attend that event, they may attend this instead.	4:00 – 5:30 PM STM
Tuesday, January 29 th	First Penance Rehearsal GROUP A	4:00 - 5:00 PM STM
Thursday, January 31 st	First Penance GROUP A	6:00 PM STM
Tuesday, February 5 th	First Penance Rehearsal GROUP B	4:00 - 5:00 PM STM
Thursday, February 7 st	First Penance GROUP B	6:00 PM STM

Tuesday, March 5th	Confirmation Retreat for Parents & Students **Holy Hour Special Event for Students: Talk for Parents Confession Available	6:30-7:45 pm	STM
Wednesday, March 6th	Ash Wednesday Service	4:00 PM	STM
Tuesday, April 9th	Confessions for Lent	4:00 – 5:30 PM	STM
Wednesday, April 10th	Confessions for Lent	4:00 – 5:30 PM	STM
Wednesday April 17th	Exam and Interview for Confirmation Candidates	6:00 PM	STM
<u>Wed. & Thurs. April 24th & 25th</u> Saturday, April 27th	MANDATORY: 1st Communion Rehearsals GROUP A 1st Communion GROUP A at St. Thomas More	3:30 - 5:00 PM 10:00 AM	STM STM
<u>Tues. & Wed., Apr 30th & May 1st</u> Saturday, May 4th	MANDATORY: 1st Communion Rehearsals GROUP B 1st Communion GROUP B at St. Thomas More	3:30-5:00 PM 10:00 AM	STM STM
Tuesday, May 7th	MANDATORY Confirmation Rehearsal	6:45- 8:00 PM <i>ST. VINCENT FERRER</i>	
Friday, May 10th	Confirmation Mass	7:00-9:00 PM <i>ST. VINCENT FERRER</i>	
Wednesday, May 15th	4th Grade Doctrine Bee	3:30 - 5:30 PM	STM
Tuesday, May 21st	Finale: Rosary/Flowers to Mary Ice Cream Celebration to Follow in Upstairs Rochester Room	4:15-5:30 PM	STM

MONDAY CLASSES

October 15	First Class
October 22	Class
October 29	Class
November 5	Class
November 12	Class
November 19	Class
November 26	Class
December 3	Class

Wednesday, December 5th:

Family Mass & Party, 5 PM at STM

December 10	Class
December 17	Class and/or go to STM (grades 3-6 Holy Hour & Confessions 12/18 OR grades 3+ welcome for Advent Confessions 12/19).

December 24	No Class
December 31	No Class
January 7	Classes resume
January 14	Class
January 21	No Class (MLK)
January 28	Class
February 4	Class
February 11	Class
February 18	No Class (Pres. Holiday)
February 25	Class
March 4	Class
March 6	ASH WEDNESDAY: Go to 4:00 Service at St. Thomas More
March 11	Class
March 18	No Class (Spring Break)
March 25	No Class (Spring Break)
April 1	Class
April 8	Class and/or go to STM Church for Confessions for Lent: Tues 4/9 or Wed 4/10 (Grades 3-8)
April 15	Class
April 22	No Class (Easter Monday)
April 29	Class
May 6	Class
May 13	Last Regular Class

FINALE EVENT : No Class - Go to May Rosary & Flowers to Mary on **Tuesday, May 21** at STM Church 4:15 to 5:30 p.m. (party afterwards)

ADECCLUBS

Classes Calendar 2018-2019

TUESDAY CLASSES

October 9	First Class
October 16	Class
October 23	Class
October 30	Class
November 6	Class
November 13	Class
November 20	Class
November 27	Class
December 4	Class
Wednesday, December 5th:	
Family Mass & Party, 5 PM at STM	
December 11	Class
December 18	Class and/or go to STM (grades 3-6 Holy Hour & Confessions 12/18 OR grades 3+ welcome for Advent Confessions 12/19).
December 25	No Class
January 1	No Class
January 8	Class
January 15	Class
January 22	Class
January 29	Class
February 5	Class
February 12	Class
February 19	No Class (Pres. Holiday)
February 26	Class
March 5	Class
March 6	ASH WEDNESDAY: Go to 4:00 Service at St. Thomas More
March 12	Class
March 19	No Class (Spring Break)
March 26	No Class (Spring Break)
April 2	Class
April 9	Class and/or go to STM Church for Confessions for Lent: Tues 4/9 or Wed 4/10 (Grades 3-8)
April 16	Class
April 23	Class
April 30	Class
May 7	Class
May 14	Last Regular Class

FINALE EVENT : No Class - Go to May Rosary & Flowers to Mary on **Tuesday, May 21** at STM Church 4:15 to 5:30 p.m. (party afterwards)

WEDNESDAY CLASSES

October 10	First Class
October 17	Class
October 24	Class
October 31	Class
November 7	Class
November 14	Class
November 21	No Class (Thanksgiving)
November 28	Class
December 5	Class
Wednesday, December 5th:	
Family Mass & Party, 5 PM at STM	
December 12	Class
December 19	Class and/or go to STM (grades 3-6 Holy Hour & Confessions 12/18 OR grades 3+ welcome for Advent Confessions 12/19).
December 26	No Class
January 2	No Class
January 9	Class
January 16	Class
January 23	Class
January 30	Class
February 6	Class
February 13	Class
February 20	Class
February 27	Class
March 6	ASH WEDNESDAY: Go to 4:00 Service at St. Thomas More
March 13	Class
March 20	No Class (Spring Break)
March 27	No Class (Spring Break)
April 3	Class
April 10	Class and/or go to STM Church for Confessions for Lent: Tues 4/9 or Wed 4/10 (Grades 3-8)
April 17	Class
April 24	Class
May 1	Class
May 8	Class
May 15	Last Regular Class & 4 th Grade Doctrine Bee (4 th Graders only)

FINALE EVENT : No Class - Go to May Rosary & Flowers to Mary on **Tuesday, May 21** at STM Church 4:15 to 5:30 p.m. (party afterwards)

THURSDAY CLASSES

October 11	First Class
October 18	Class
October 25	Class
November 1	Class
November 8	Class
November 15	Class
November 22	No Class (Thanksgiving)
November 29	Class
Wednesday, December 5th:	
Family Mass & Party, 5 PM at STM	
December 6	Class
December 13	Class
December 20	Class and/or go to STM (grades 3-6 Holy Hour & Confessions 12/18 OR grades 3+ welcome for Advent Confessions 12/19).
December 27	No Class
January 3	No Class
January 10	Class
January 17	Class
January 24	Class
January 31	Class
February 7	Class
February 14	Class
February 21	Class
February 28	Class
March 6	ASH WEDNESDAY: Go to 4:00 Service at St. Thomas More
March 7	Class
March 14	Class
March 21	No Class (Spring Break)
March 28	No Class (Spring Break)
April 4	Class
April 11	Class and/or go to STM Church for Confessions for Lent: Tues 4/9 or Wed 4/10 (Grades 3-8)
April 18	No Class (Holy Thursday)
April 25	Class
May 2	Class
May 9	Class
May 16	Last Regular Class

FINALE EVENT : No Class - Go to May Rosary & Flowers to Mary on **Tuesday, May 21** at STM Church 4:15 to 5:30 p.m. (party afterwards)

+STM = St. Thomas More Church
65 E.89th St. between Madison & Park
+St. Thomas More phone: 212-876-7718

**PRAYERS TO REVIEW WITH YOUR CHILD BEFORE
THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE**

The Sign of the Cross

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Our Father

Our Father, who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Glory Be

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Act of Contrition

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You. I detest all my sins because of Your just punishments, but most of all because they offend You, my God, Who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Your grace, to confess my sins, to do penance, and to amend my life. Amen.

HOW TO RECEIVE THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

1. Go into the confessional (this is the room where the priest is). When you enter, you can either kneel down behind the screen or sit facing the priest.
2. Make the sign of the cross. As you are doing this, **SAY: "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."**
3. Tell the priest, as far as you can remember, how long it has been since your last confession.
SAY: "Bless me Father, for I have sinned. This is my first confession." [Or : " It has been (indicate the number of days, weeks or months) since my last confession."]
4. Then tell him the things you have done wrong and are sorry for. **SAY: "My sins are..."**
When you are finished, **SAY: "For these and all the sins of my life, I am sorry."**
5. Listen to what the priest says to you and answer any questions he may have for you. Then the priest will give you your penance. Remember what he tells you to do for your **penance**.
6. When, and if, the priest asks you, say **an act of contrition**. It can be the one below or one in your own words telling God that you are sincerely sorry.

"O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You. I detest all my sins because of your just punishments but most of all because they offend You, my God, who are all-good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve with the help of Your grace, to confess my sins, to do penance and to amend my life. Amen."

7. The priest will absolve you and he will say "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." You make the sign of the cross and answer, "Amen. Thank you Father"

The priest may or may not say the following- this is a general guideline but not a hard and fast rule:

PRIEST: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good.

YOU: HIS MERCY ENDURES FOREVER.

PRIEST: Go in peace.

YOU: THANK YOU, FATHER.

Leave the confessional and go back to your seat in Church and do the penance that the priest has given you.

Examination of Conscience for Children

Regarding Love of God

Do I speak to God everyday about anything on my mind and to ask his help?

Do I remember to thank God for the good things I've done or received?

Do I talk about God or his Church with reverence?

Do I go to Mass on Sunday unless I had a good reason? (lack of transportation, sickness)

Do I do all I can to make Sunday a day of rest and joy for my family?

Do I pay attention in Mass, or do I tease or distract others by talking or playing?

Do I listen to my parents, priests and teacher when they talk to me about God?

Regarding Care For Yourself and Others

Do I obey my parents and teachers quickly and cheerfully or must I be reminded many times?

Do I obey the rules of my home and school?

Do I help my brothers, sisters and classmates when they need my help?

Am I kind to everyone?

Did I hit, kick or hurt others on purpose in anyway?

Am I willing to play with everyone?

Did I make fun or say mean things to anyone?

Do I do all my schoolwork and my chores at home well?

Do I take care of my health such as eating the right food, etc.?

Do I tell the truth? Do I say things about other people that are not true?

Am I willing to share my things with others?

Did I cheat in class or in a game?

Did I steal or keep things that are not mine? Do I return things that I have borrowed?

The Sacrament of Penance by: Maria Montessori

Below is a wonderful excerpt from the writing of Maria Montessori. We share it with you because it expresses so clearly what we, in this program, believe to be the right approach to the Sacrament.

“...The...period from seven to twelve years old has different characteristics. At this age, children are very interested in question of right and wrong; their moral sense is developing. Great care must be taken so that they do not lose their assurance and their security in God’s love for them personally, when they begin to learn about sin, the Commandments and conscience. The children must be taught to hate sin, but at the same time scruples, anxiety and fear must not be aroused. They should detest sin and turn from it. This is a difficult task.

“The teacher must know how to answer their problems, never to answer just anything but always the truth. At this age, children should learn that there

are two kinds of sin: original sin and their own actual personal sin. That is sufficient for the first notion. Original sin is washed away by Baptism, and their own personal sins by the sacrament of Penance. God loves them so much that He wants to take away their sins and make them holy.

The Commandments

“Telling the children that each Commandment has two parts, as it were—one for grownups, and one for children—prevents anxiety about falling into mortal sin without knowing, a fear which afflicts children sometimes. In order to help them, the Commandments should be presented as safeguards, not as prohibitions; they are not restrictions but allow us to act freely, in security. One can compare the Commandments to the Rules of the Road. If they respect them, all goes well; if they do not, they will almost certainly have an accident. In the same way, the Commandments are for our protection.

What is Conscience?

“It is necessary to tell small children what conscience is. They are so often told that conscience is a voice. But it is not a voice. The child, who takes things in a very matter-of fact way, listens and hears nothing. Conscience is the soul,

the intelligence, which makes us understand whether a thing should be done or not... Conscience must always be followed. God has put it in our soul, in our mind, to illuminate and to protect us, to keep us from sin.

The Sacrament of Penance

“If we wish to go to confession three things are necessary; First of all, we must regret our sins, have contrition for them, as well as the firm purpose of amendment. This is most important because—though God is willing to forgive any sin, however serious, if we are sorry- He cannot forgive the smallest sin if we are *not* sorry. We must, therefore, ask God for the grace of true contrition.

“*Secondly*: Our sins must be told to a priest because our Lord gave the priest power to forgive them. We should tell him everything. The priest will never speak of it. He will never be angry, shocked, or surprised. He knows all about sin. When we tell our sins with true sorrow, God forgives us.

“*The conscience of the child should always be respected*. No one should ever ask him what he said in confession, nor should confession be laughed at. We should never say to him, “I hope you said this or that.” We must be ready to help him, but to speak to him in this way is quite another thing.

“When children are taught about mortal sin, we should always speak of it as something which does not concern them; for it is rare that a child is able to commit mortal sin. They may have “material” for a mortal sin, that is, “grave matter”; but the knowledge and the malice are wanting or hardly existing. They are, therefore, not wholly culpable in God’s eyes. It is best to teach them about mortal sin in relation to some imaginary criminal, who can have committed all sins necessary to illustrate our teaching. It should never be taken as a matter of course that the children will one day commit mortal sin themselves.

“*Thirdly*: We must make satisfaction. This means that if we have done something wrong, we must not only be sorry, but we must do something to make up for it, to repair it- just as broken things must be mended or replaced.

“After our confession, the priest gives us a penance to do, usually a prayer to say. This is our reparation, a way of “mending” what we have broken. The prayer that the priest gives us, which

we should say with love and attention, is part of our reparation, but it is in doing sacrifices of our own choice, and above all, in loving God greatly, that we make up fully for what we have done.

“These are some of the ideas which help to strengthen the feeling of security in the child. The sacraments will heal the weakness that remains in the soul after sin. We should avoid telling the children all the time that God will punish them. Showing God as a severe and strict judge could easily frighten them. But they must be shown that every sin has a result, an effect in the soul, and also in regard to other people, and even with regard to the whole world. But God is there to help, to draw good out of evil.

“PENANCE”

- A. The Sacrament of Penance is also known as CONFESSION or RECONCILIATION.
- B. On the first Easter Sunday, Penance was instituted by Christ for the forgiveness of sins.
- C. Penance restores grace to those in the state of mortal sin and increases sanctifying grace in the souls of those already in the state of grace.
- D. There is no sin too great to be forgiven.
- E. Christ was born, suffered and died so that our sins could be forgiven.
- F. The power to forgive sins was given by Jesus to the Apostles.
- G. All the bishops and priests of the Catholic Church have the power to forgive sins.

- H. A priest is never allowed to reveal what has been told him in Confession (SEAL OF CONFESSION).
- I. To receive the Sacrament of Penance worthily:
 - 1. Examine our conscience.
 - 2. Have sorrow for our sins.
 - 3. Firmly resolve not to commit those sins again.
 - 4. Confess our sins to a priest.
 - 5. Accept the penance which the priest gives us.
- J. The outward sign of the Sacrament of Penance is the confession of our sins to a priest in order to inwardly cleanse the soul of sin.
- K. Penance also gives us the opportunity to receive spiritual advice and counsel from our confessor.
- L. We should make our confession humble, sincere and complete.

Those who approach the sacrament of Penance obtain pardon from God's mercy for the offense committed against Him, and are, at the same time, reconciled with the Church which they have wounded by their sins and which by charity, by example and by prayer labors for their conversion (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, 11).