



First Reconciliation Preparation 2019-2020 Schedule

All children and youth preparing for sacraments need a foundation in faith formation when coming to the sacraments. Parents will need to discern if their child is ready to begin preparation by prayerfully reviewing the questions below. After completing preparation, parents will join catechists and staff to determine readiness of your child to receive sacraments. Preparation for the sacraments is done *in addition* to ongoing faith formation appropriate to the grade level of the candidate for the sacrament.

Parents should attend the Parent Sacramental Preparation session listed below. *WE MUST HAVE A COPY OF YOUR CHILD'S BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE ON*

FILE BEFORE THEY CAN RECEIVE ANY SACRAMENTS.

- 1. Register for and attend grade level Formation Gatherings:** Held monthly on designated Sundays, see grade level formation schedule for dates.
- 2. Parental Discernment:** To help you discern if your child is ready to *begin* preparation for First Reconciliation you should carefully consider the following questions:
 - Has your child been baptized and reached the age of reason; 7 years old?
 - Does your child know the difference between right and wrong?
 - Can your child distinguish between mistakes or accidents and deliberate wrongdoing?
 - Does your child express sorrow for wrongdoing?
 - Does your child forgive others?
 - Does your child pray at home and at Mass?
 - Does your child relate to Jesus as one who forgives?
 - Are you committed to the sacramental preparation process and having your child attend every preparation session?
- 3. Register for First Reconciliation preparation:** After you have carefully considered the discernment questions and you feel your child is ready to *begin preparing* for the sacrament you may register. Registration forms are available to download from our website under Formation on the menu bar.

4. **Attend the parent information session for the sacraments, Monday, Oct. 14, 6:45-8:00pm, in the Commons.** Preparation for First Sacraments is a commitment for parents and children, requiring time, effort and energy. This information session will help you deepen your own understanding of Reconciliation and Eucharist and prepare yourself for your role as teacher.
5. **Complete homework before each sacramental preparation class; assignments for each class are attached. Homework assignments will be handed out with text books.**
6. **Bring your child to each of the 7 preparation gatherings:** All classes are Mondays, 6:30-8:00p
October 14 – Class #1
October 21 – Class #2
October 28 – Class #3
November 4 – Class #4
November 11 – Class #5
November 18 – Class #6
April 20 – First Reconciliation review class prior to reception
7. **Discernment of readiness to *receive* First Reconciliation:** Through a series of assessment questions, parents and catechists will work together to determine your child's readiness to receive the sacrament using the following guidelines. Children need to:
 - Understand what sin is and the need for forgiveness.
 - Understand God's love and Jesus example of forgiveness.
 - Understand the role of the sacrament in our relationship with God.
 - Know how to participate in the sacrament.

Readiness assessments December 2 sign up for time slot at Gatherings 2-6.

8. **Reception of the sacrament:** The sacrament of First Reconciliation will be celebrated with Fr. Felix on Saturday, **April 25**, starting at 9am. Sign-up for a time at sessions 2-6.

Note: Attendance at *all* classes is extremely important, *there are no make-up dates for missed classes*. The only excuse for missing class is illness or an emergency in the immediate family. Please notify Roni as soon as you know you will miss a class. Any missed work must be made up at home. If your child misses more than one class, we will assess your child's progress. You may be asked to postpone your child's receiving the sacrament until the following year.