



First Reconciliation Preparation 2025-2026 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 their 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 **must** attend the Parent Sacramental Preparation session listed below, as well as ROCK (Raising Our Catholic Kids) sessions. ***WE MUST HAVE A COPY OF YOUR CHILD'S BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE FROM THE CHURCH OF RECORD BY NOVEMBER 1ST.***

1. **Register for and attend grade level Formation Gatherings:** Held monthly on designated Sundays beginning in September, 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 the family attend Mass regularly?
 - 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 and a parent attend every ROCK 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.
4. **Attend the First Sacraments Parent Orientation:** At least one parent/guardian attend the **First Sacraments Parent Session**, on Monday, September 22 at 6:00 pm in the Commons, designed to help deepen the parent's understanding of the sacrament and prepare them for their role as primary teacher of the faith.

5. **Attend ROCK (Raising Our Catholic Kids)**, Mondays of classes, 6:00-7:30pm, in the Commons. Preparation for First Sacraments is a commitment for parents and children, requiring time, effort and energy. These sessions provide a non-judgmental place to receive guidance, support and unconditional love, exactly what you want to give to your children.
6. **Complete homework before each sacramental preparation class.** Homework assignments are on the website under the “Sacraments” tab on the First Reconciliation and First Communion webpage.
7. **Bring your child to each of the 6 preparation gatherings and Assessment:** All classes are Mondays, 6:00-7:30pm. Child **MUST bring their *BELONGING* workbook** to each class.
September 22 – Class #1
September 29 – Class #2
October 6– Class #3
October 13 – Class #4
October 20 – Class #5
October 27 – Class #6
8. **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 (knows the steps to engage in the sacrament).**Readiness assessments on November 10.**
9. **Reception of the sacrament:** The sacrament of First Reconciliation will be celebrated on **Saturday, November 22**. Parents are encouraged to participate in the sacrament as a role model for their child(ren).

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 Carole 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.