

Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church

First Confession and First Communion - Spring 2021

Reminders for Parents of Candidates in Grades 2-5:

1. All First Communion Candidates should display a sincere **desire** to learn more about our Catholic faith and an age-appropriate **knowledge** of the Sacraments of Confession and Communion before receiving the Sacraments.
2. The **Schedule of Classes** is included in the **registration packet** and may be downloaded from the Events page of our church website (www.ololcatholic.com).
3. Regardless of their age or grade level, all First Communion Candidates will **memorize and recite traditional, sacred prayers** for Mrs. Frances or her volunteers. Several of those prayers are used in the preparation for, during, or in the assigned penances after Confession, The chart at the bottom of this page offers **suggestions** to help families stay on track.
4. To avoid crowded sign-up tables, Mrs. Frances has linked a chart of **available Prayer Appointments** to the First Communion page (www.ololcatholic.com/first-communion) of our church website. It will be updated 2-3 times each week. Some appointments are scheduled in the afternoon after elementary schools dismiss and other appointments are scheduled on days/holidays when school is not in session. Parents are encouraged to view the available dates/times and email or call Mrs. Frances to book at least three appointments. The following chart may be helpful.

First Communion Candidates memorize and recite sacred, traditional prayers, etc., during **Prayer Appointments:**

NOTE: All of these prayers, etc., are provided on our **First Communion Prayer Sheet**. Because we should return to Confession often throughout our lives, our candidates learn, review, and recite these prayers throughout Grades 1-5.

<p>Spring 2021 First Confessions will be heard beginning only a week or two before the First Communion Mass. These suggestions will help parents and Candidates stay on track.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Suggested Plan for “Confession” Prayer Appointments:</p> <p>Appointment #1: The Sign of the Cross, The Lord’s Prayer, Hail Mary, and Glory Be Appointment #2: The Ten Commandments and Brief Examination of Conscience Appointment #3: The Act of Contrition and the Bless Me, Father “Conversation” in the Confessional</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Suggested Plan for “Communion” Prayer Appointments:</p> <p>Appointment #4: The Angel of God and Prayer before Meals Appointment #5: The Apostles’ Creed</p>

NOTE: (1) If your child struggles to memorize prayers, please don’t put undue stress on him/her and/or yourself! Please reach out to Mrs. Frances at the church office (937-6888) at your earliest convenience. She will gladly meet with your child to assess the situation, offer help, and/or determine if another strategy/procedure is necessary. The sooner you call, the less stress you’ll encounter! **(2)** If your child can recite more than the suggested prayers in one appointment, that’s great! Some children may be able to recite all of them in one or two (or three) appointments rather than five appointments!

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Although all of us should exhibit appropriate respect and dignity when receiving the Sacraments at any Mass, the first reception of these Sacraments mark specific milestones in your Candidate's faith journey. Please adhere to the following dress code on these occasions:

Dress Code for First Confession (Candidates in Grades 2-12)

Day/Date: First Confessions will be heard at the end of First Communion Retreat (Saturday, May 8, 2021, *and* Saturday, May 15, 2021); a parent must be present in church at 11:00 a.m. on the day his/her child attends one of these retreats

Acceptable: nice slacks or jeans; dress shirt or polo shirt; modest skirt and blouse with sleeves; modest dress with sleeves; socks or stockings, clean closed toe and closed heel shoes.

NOTE: A clean school uniform shirt and pants (**not** shorts) is acceptable!



Unacceptable: distressed jeans, capris, shorts, t-shirts, athletic clothing; flip flops

Dress Code for First Communion Mass (Candidates in Grades 2-12)

Day/Date: "Large Group" Mass is scheduled for 5 p.m. on Sunday, May 23, 2021; to assist with social distancing for candidates (or family members) who battle health issues, Mrs. Frances will discuss options for "small group Masses" at the parent meetings

Girls: modest white dress with sleeves, white Communion veil, white socks or stockings, white closed toe and closed heel shoes; gloves are optional

(**NOTE:** No purses or dangling earrings. Teenage candidates may wear a very light application of makeup.)

Boys: black dress pants; white long-sleeve, button-down dress shirt; black socks; black dress shoes (no tennis shoes); black tie

