

Sacramental Preparation for 1st Reconciliation and 1st Communion

Each year our Catholic community welcomes, prays for, and supports the families who desire to prepare their children to celebrate First Reconciliation and First Communion. These sacraments are the continuation of your child's relationship with Jesus that began at baptism.

The knowledge of forgiveness, reconciliation and healing begins in the family home. The goal of preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation is to help you prepare your child to encounter the presence of Jesus and to respond to God's forgiving love. It is required that all children receive this sacrament before First Communion.

We gather to celebrate Holy Communion each week in response to Jesus' invitation at the Last Supper, "Do this in remembrance of me." This gift of the Eucharist nourishes, strengthens and heals us. Celebrating together is the sign of our dependence on Jesus and of our unity, our support and our love for one another as a community.

Preparation for sacraments is separate from Faith Formation classes and Catholic school.

We encourage parents to be alert for signs of readiness that you should see in your child.

Readiness for First Reconciliation should include:

- ***knowledge of right and wrong, and understanding*** that their wrong actions hurt themselves and their relationships with God and with others
- ***sense of responsibility*** for their actions
- ***beginning attempts*** to "make up" for hurtful actions
- ***understanding of reconciliation*** as a special sign of God's forgiveness
- ***age appropriate ability*** to talk with the priest
- ***regular attendance at Mass*** with their family
- ***ongoing formation*** in Children's Faith Formation classes or Catholic school
- ***ability and willingness of family*** to participate in preparation process

Readiness for First Communion should include:

- ***regular attendance at Mass*** with their family
- ***child's desire to receive Eucharist*** with the community
- ***child's ability to distinguish*** the Eucharist from ordinary bread.
- ***at least one full year of formal Faith Formation*** classes or Catholic school
- ***on-going formation*** in Faith Formation classes or Catholic school
- ***family's willingness and ability to participate*** in meetings and home-based activities.

If you and your child are ready to prepare and celebrate this year, please fill out the First Reconciliation & First Communion registration form and return it to Megan Altenritter at the Parish Office by **September 12th, 2021**. Make sure to check the schedule for essential dates before committing to this preparation process.

If your family and your child are not ready to participate this year you will have an opportunity again next year. The Church recognizes parents as the primary catechists (one who passes on the faith) of their children and the staff is here to help you fulfill the responsibilities you accepted at your child's baptism. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Megan Altenritter at 637-4500 or megan.altenritter@dor.org.