

Policy on the Preparation for First Reconciliation

Taken from the Sacramental Guidelines for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee

Reception of Reconciliation for Children

As Children reach the age of reason, generally around the age of seven, the Church extends to them an invitation to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation. Initiated into the Christian community at baptism, the children are now called to prepare for the sacrament of God's loving mercy. According to the Church's command, "after having attained the age of discretion, each of the faithful is bound by an obligation faithfully to confess serious sins at least once a year."

Time For The Celebration Of First Reconciliation

First sacramental penance (reconciliation) normally should be celebrated **prior** to the reception of the First Communion.

Catechetical Preparation for First Reconciliation

Every child who has reached the years of discretion must be given adequate basic catechesis for the celebration of reconciliation so that participation in the sacrament may be a free response of faith. No adequately prepared child may be denied the sacrament. On the other hand, no obligation to approach the sacrament may be imposed on the child, other than that which binds all Catholics, namely the consciousness of personal, serious sin.

Children normally participate in either a Catholic elementary day-school or a parish religious education program for **at least one year prior to immediate preparation for this sacrament.** Regular catechesis, provided through the parish school or religious education, together with the formation parents are providing in the home, forms the foundation upon which the immediate catechesis for first reconciliation can be built.

Preparation at St. Gregory the Great

Students must be enrolled in either St. Gregory the Great Grade School or Family Lighthouse Program for at least one year before the immediate preparation of the Sacraments.

During the year of immediate preparation, students must be enrolled in either St. Gregory the Great Grade School or Family Lighthouse Program.

Participation in the following is required as part of the Preparation Program:

Blessing of Children preparing for Sacraments of Reconciliation & Communion

Two Parent/ Child Sessions

Saturday Morning Parent/ Child Mini Retreat

Loyola Press: God's Gift Reconciliation Workbook

Loyola Press: My Reconciliation Booklet

First Reconciliation – Celebrated in December