

GUIDELINES FOR FIRST CONFESSION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

To receive first confession and first Holy Communion:

1. Families of children and youth preparing to celebrate First Holy Communion should be registered and active members of a Catholic parish.
2. The child must be baptized in the Catholic Church.
3. Families must be able to present the child's baptismal certificate prior to the child receiving the sacrament.
4. Children must have attended an approved religious education program in either a parish, Catholic school, or approved home school program with regular attendance for an academic year prior to the sacrament.
5. Children who attend religious education at the parish may miss no more than three (3) sacrament preparation classes. Furthermore, the material covered during the missed class(es), must be completed at home. Should the number of absences be exceeded, the pastor will have to consider having the child repeat the grade the following year.
6. Children must demonstrate sufficient knowledge of the Faith and the sacraments that are being received.
7. Parents must consent to the Family Covenant.

It is possible for children who are not parishioners of the parish to receive their First Holy Communion here if the parents are able to provide verification that they are registered members of another Catholic parish if the pastor of that parish provides us with written permission.

For children who are older than the traditional preparation year for a sacrament, and have not yet celebrated that sacrament, depending on the age and circumstances, special arrangements for sacramental preparation may have to be made.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Registration for classes takes place in late July/early August. The year will begin with a parent meeting in which at least one parent is required to be present. Classes begin in late August (around the time students return to school). For those children who are properly prepared to receive the sacraments, they will make their first confession during Lent. First Communion generally takes place in early May. Prior to the celebration of First Holy Communion, there will be a mandatory rehearsal for the children and at least one parent must attend.

FAMILY COVENANT

In order to move forward with preparing your child(ren) for first confession and first Holy Communion, parents must consent to the following Family Covenant: At your child's Baptism, you accepted the responsibility for training your child(ren) in the practice of the Catholic faith. The covenant below outlines the responsibilities of both parent and Church in the raising of the child in our Catholic faith. By submitting this registration, you are agreeing to: 1) Attend Sunday Mass each week, as well as Holy Days of Obligation, with my child(ren), 2) Provide the opportunity for me and my child(ren) to confess their sins in the sacrament of confession at least once a year, 3) Lead and encourage regular prayer at home, 4) Assure that my child(ren) faithfully attend religious education classes and events and are prepared to receive the sacraments, and 5) Attend all required parent meetings.

REGISTRATION FEE

There is a per child registration fee for first confession and first Holy Communion preparation. The amount will depend on the year. No family will be denied access to the sacraments if the registration fee cannot be afforded.