



Department of Faith Formation

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August 2025

Dear First Communion and Prerequisite First Communion Families,

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to nurturing the spiritual lives of your children. As they prepare for the beautiful Sacrament of love, their First Holy Communion, please know that you are in my prayers.

Program Overview for St. Monica Parish Families:

- † Duration: ** First Communion involves a two-year program, starting with a prerequisite year in **1st grade** (Sept- May) and culminating in the reception of the Sacrament during **2nd grade** (Sept- May).
- † Role of Parents:** You are the principal educators in your children's lives and faith. The most enriching preparation for First Holy Communion comes from regular attendance at Mass. I encourage you to engage with your child about the Mass—discuss the significance of the prayers, gestures, and responses before and during the celebration.
- † Secondary Role from the Dept. of Faith Formation will be on Sundays from 10AM-10:50AM. This year, the parish curricula will include Word of Life** for the prerequisite year (1st grade) and Signs of Grace** for First Communion (2nd grade).
- † There are **three allowed absences** during the prerequisite (1st grade) and First Communion (2nd grade) years. Please review the calendar carefully to help plan your attendance.
- † The family fee is **\$100**, or **\$150** if you choose to forgo volunteering. **Families of Catechists, Catechist Aids, or Group Leaders are exempt from the fee.**

Program Overview for St. Monica School Families:

- † Duration:** St. Monica School Year (August- June)
- † Classes for the prerequisite and First Communion will take place at school during regular hours.
- † If your child is in the 1st Communion class, please register through the parish website for a **reduced fee of \$50**. This fee covers essentials such as banners, certificates, and the Reconciliation retreat (note: it does not include a \$50 late fee).
- † St. Monica School may have additional expectations (such as evening meditations). Please consult the CGS Catechist for further details.

Requirements for Both School and Parish (2nd Grade):

- † Two Sunday Parent Meetings** with Father (one prior to Reconciliation, the other prior to First Communion).
- † Participation in a **Reconciliation Retreat**.
- † Regular attendance at Sunday Mass.
- † Attendance at the **1st Communion Rehearsal**.

These programs provide the essential faith formation required by the Archdiocese and prepare your child for First Reconciliation and the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

Important Dates:

- † A **late fee of \$50** will be applied after **09/20/2025**.
- † **1st Communion Registration** and the prerequisite year (1st grade) **CLOSES ON 10/5/2025**. After this date, families must wait another year to continue their preparation.
- † Classes for the Parish 1st Communion will commence on **September 28, 2025, at 10 AM** (right after the 9 AM Mass).

For your convenience, I have included a QR code for easy registration for both Parish and School classes. Thank you for your dedication to guiding your children on their faith journey. May God bless you and your family as you embark on this special preparation for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion!

God Bless and Stay Safe,

Heather Miller-Martin,
PA of Sacraments
Saint Monica Catholic Church

Faith Formation / Sacraments / Youth Groups

