



Beverly Catholic Collaborative – Religious Education

552 Cabot Street
Beverly, MA 01915

Mrs. Sarah Coen, Coordinator of Religious Education reled@beverlycatholic.com or 978-922-5542 ext 105

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Thank you for your interest in the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist for your child, and thank you for making your child's faith a priority for your family. We have scheduled a Parent/Guardian Orientation meeting on **Thursday, November 5th, at 7:00pm** for parents on Zoom. Here is the link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6041547517?pwd=QTdMaFJFSSt5WC9jdlp3RW8yc1NuQT09>. You will learn more about our parish's process for preparing your child to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. Please attend the Parent Orientation meeting with any practical questions you may have regarding the process and celebration of the sacraments. Mary Murray will assist families in preparing for the sacraments at St. Margaret.

Enclosed are three attachments: the First Reconciliation/Eucharist Registration form, the 2026-2027 calendar, and a description of the process and a **guide to help you discern your child's readiness to prepare for the sacraments**.

Please return the following items to the Office of Religious Education by Monday, December 7th, 2026.

Please mail the registration form to: Beverly Catholic Collaborative, 552 Cabot Street, Beverly, MA 01915, or **email:** reled@beverlycatholic.com

- A completed First Reconciliation/Eucharist 2026-2027 Registration form (make additional copies if you have more than one child preparing for a sacrament)
- A copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate (if not baptized at one of the Beverly Catholic Collaborative parishes). If baptized at one of the Beverly parishes, please note the approximate date by month and year.

We will have both in-person and virtual sessions:

Our Tour of the Church session for candidates and parents:

- **Sunday, December 13th at 1:00pm at St Mary Church. (Make-up session via Zoom Sunday, December 20th at 3pm, same link as above)**

First Reconciliation has one workshop for candidates and parents:

- **Sunday, January 24th at 3:00pm at the St Mary Convent. (Zoom session will be Sunday, January 31st at 3pm, same link as above)**

We are offering Group First Reconciliation Services which will be held on:

- **Sunday, February 28th at 10:30am at St Margaret Church with a snow date of Sunday, March 7th at 10:30am**
- **Saturday, March 13th at 11:00am at St John Church**

If you cannot attend the group reconciliation service, please consider Confessions on Saturdays 9am in the Reconciliation Room at St John the Evangelist Church (111 Balch Street) or make an appointment with a priest by calling the parish office. Confessions are also heard at the Carmelite Chapel in the Northshore Mall ([Carmelite Chapel in the Northshore Mall - Catholic Church in Peabody \(carmelitepeabody.com\)](http://carmelitepeabody.com)) Monday through Saturday. Should other opportunities for the sacrament become available, families will be notified.



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Our First Eucharist sessions will include:

- Eucharist Workshop on **Sunday, April 11th at 1:00pm at St. Mary Convent**. A make-up session will be available via Zoom recording; the video link will be emailed.
- Rehearsals that include a walk-through of the Mass will be held in-person as follows:
 - **Wednesday, April 28th at 5:30pm** for Saturday, May 1st 10:00am Mass at St. Mary - rehearsal will take place at St. Mary Church
 - **Thursday, April 29th at 5:30pm** for Saturday, May 1st 1:00pm Mass at St. John – rehearsal will take place at St. John Church
 - **Friday, May 7th at 3:30pm** for Saturday, May 8th 10:00am Mass at St. Margaret – rehearsal will take place at St. Margaret Church

First Communion Liturgies are scheduled on Saturdays in May:

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • St Mary | Saturday, May 1 st | 10:00am Mass at St Mary |
| • St John | Saturday, May 1 st | 1:00pm Mass at John |
| • St Margaret | Saturday, May 8 th | 10:00am Mass at St Margaret |

Please let us know of any need for seating to accommodate guests living with a disability. If you are unable to participate in any of these 1st Eucharist liturgies, you may have your child receive at a regularly scheduled weekend or daily Mass. The Religious Education Office will confirm the date and time of the liturgy that you request.

We are pleased to have the opportunity to work with your family this year. Please review the important, enclosed information.

Yours in Christ,

Sarah Coen – Religious Education Coordinator, St John & St Mary Parishes



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Guide for Parents about the process for preparing for the Sacraments of 1st Reconciliation and Eucharist

- The Beverly Catholic Collaborative follows the archdiocesan policy for the reception of sacraments. First Reconciliation and Eucharist is a two-year process. **The archdiocese requires that, before a child can be considered a candidate for sacraments, s/he must have completed at least the equivalent of one year of religious education (usually grade 1) just prior to immediate preparation for the sacrament and must be currently enrolled in a program. Religious Education can be done through the parish religious education program or Catholic school.**
- The primary role in the religious formation of children is the one that parents/guardians carry out simply by being Christian parents. Our process recognizes this truth and supports parents as partners in ministry. Catechists will work alongside parents/guardians in preparing your child/ren for these two sacraments. The parish will conduct special celebrations to introduce the children to the experience of the sacraments. Working together, we hope to offer the very best preparation for First Reconciliation and Eucharist.
- We want to begin our parish process for the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist by offering our children the individual attention and personal care they need as well as the gradual experience of sharing more deeply in the liturgical prayer of our Christian community. We will call on the talents of all who are directly involved in the children's faith formation: parents/guardians, catechists, priests and other community members.
- Before a child can celebrate the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, the parents/guardians and the candidate need to participate fully in the process by attending the parent and candidate sessions between November and April. We want a partnership of parents/guardians and the parish community working together for the good of our children as they prepare to encounter Christ in our sacramental way of life. A calendar is enclosed with this letter and will be reviewed at the Orientation meeting. All families with children in this process must participate in faith formation classes through the parish or Catholic school.
- We live in a world that has many demands upon us in regard to our time, responsibilities, and taking care of those entrusted to our care. The Church teaches us that the Eucharist is the "source and summit" of our lives. We must gather each week as a community to be strengthened to live our lives in the secular world. St. Augustine teaches us, "See the Body of Christ. Eat the Body of Christ. Become what you eat." With the reception of Jesus, we are empowered to live a life of discipleship. **Families are expected to attend Sunday Mass weekly. It truly helps the child understand what is taught about the Eucharist in sessions by participating in weekly Eucharistic celebrations. Children learn best by doing, and thus we help to create a hunger to experience Christ in Word and Sacrament. Together, we celebrate and become what we eat: the Body of Christ in the world.**



1st Reconciliation/Eucharist 2026-2027

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1st Reconciliation & Eucharist Registration Form 2026-2027

Candidate's Name _____ Grade: _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Complete Mailing Address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ E-mail _____

Child Attends: Religious Education: ____ St. Margaret ____ St. Mary ____ St John ____ Other _____)

Home Parish: ____ St. Margaret ____ St. Mary ____ St John ____ Other _____)

Baptism Information

Place of Birth: (City and State) _____ DOB _____

Is child baptized Catholic? ____ Yes ____ No If baptized in another tradition—what is it? _____

Church of Baptism _____

City and State _____

Date of Baptism _____

(Please provide a copy of your child's baptismal certificate. If baptized at a Beverly parish, please indicate the church and the approximate baptism date to help retrieve the record. Certificates are due by December 7th)

Parent Information

Father's Full Name _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Mother's Full Name _____
(First) (Middle) (Maiden Required on certificate and church records) (Last)

If applicable: Is non-custodial parent aware of and supportive of sacrament preparation? ____ Yes ____ No

Non-Custodial parent name, address, phone, and email (if necessary) _____



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I would like to schedule _____ (child's name) for the following dates and times:

1ST RECONCILIATION

Please indicate by a check mark or 'x' which date you wish for your child to receive 1st Reconciliation.

Date/Time: _____ Sunday, February 28th, 2027, at 10:30am or snow date: Sunday, March 7th, 2027, 10:30am at St Margaret Church, or
_____ Saturday, March 13th, 2027, at 11:00am for the group service at St John Church

You may also have your child attend Saturday confessions at 9:00 a.m. at St. John Church (111 Balch Street) or schedule an appointment with a priest for Reconciliation.

1ST EUCHARIST

Please note: Seating is limited; there is room for approximately *10 guests per family pew*. Overflow seating is available in the pews towards the back of the church. Only families with guests who have disabilities will have reserved seating.

You also have the option of having your child receive at a regularly scheduled weekend liturgy or Saturday daily Mass if you are unable to do the group celebration. Mass preference will be confirmed by the office.

First Eucharist Masses are set for the first weekends in May. Please indicate a first and second choice for Mass times.

Number of guests including candidate who will be attending Mass: _____.

_____ 1st _____ 2nd **Saturday, May 1st, 2027 – 10:00am liturgy at St Mary**
(Practice and walk through the Mass – Wednesday, April 28th at 5:30pm at St Mary Church)

_____ 1st _____ 2nd **Saturday, May 1st, 2027 – 1:00pm liturgy at St John**
(Practice and walk through the Mass – Thursday, April 29th at 5:30pm at St John Church)

_____ 1st _____ 2nd **Saturday, May 8th, 2027 – 10:00am liturgy at St Margaret**
(Practice - Friday, May 7th at 3:30pm at St Margaret)

_____ 1st _____ 2nd **Individual at a weekend liturgy or daily Mass (Tentative date/time: _____ will be confirmed by office)**

Requirements

1. Must complete the equivalent of one year of religious education prior to immediate preparation (usually grade 1).
2. Must be enrolled in a religious education or Catholic School while preparing for the sacrament (usually grade 2).
3. Parent to attend orientation meeting.
4. Completion of Tour of Church, Reconciliation session, Teaching on the Mass session, and 1st Eucharist Rehearsal.
5. Preparation materials will be periodically emailed to parents to review at home with the candidate.

I have read and understand the above requirements. I will help my child meet these requirements before celebrating the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. Please return form via email to reled@beverlycatholic.com by December 1st.

Parent's Signature _____ Date _____



1st Reconciliation/Eucharist 2026-2027

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Date	Time	Event	Location
Thursday 11/5/2026	7:00pm	Parent Orientation for 1 st Reconciliation/Eucharist	Zoom Session
		SESSIONS	
Sunday 12/13/2026	1:00pm	Tour of the Church	St Mary Church
Sunday 12/20/2026	3:00pm	Tour of the Church	Zoom Session
Sunday 1/24/2027	3:00pm	Walk Through the Rite of Reconciliation	St Mary Convent
Sunday 1/31/2027	3:00pm	Walk through the Rite of Reconciliation	Zoom Session
Sunday 4/11/2027	1:00pm	Teaching on the Mass - Walk through the Rite (Make-up session will be provided by a recorded Zoom session. (A weblink will be emailed to families soon after the class.)	St Mary Convent
		RECONCILIATION	
Sunday 2/28/2027	10:30am	Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation for 1 st Reconciliation candidates and their families	St Margaret
Saturday 3/13/2027	11:00am	Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation for 1 st Reconciliation candidates and their families	St John
SNOW DATE Sunday 3/7/2027	10:30am	Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation for 1 st Reconciliation candidates and their families	St Margaret
		EUCARIST	
Wednesday 4/28/2027	5:30pm	Rehearsal for Saturday, May 1 st 10:00am Liturgy	St Mary Church
Thursday 4/29/2027	5:30pm	Rehearsal for Saturday, May 1 st 1:00pm Liturgy	St John Church
Saturday 5/1/2027	10:00am	First Eucharist liturgy	St Mary
Saturday 5/1/2027	1:00pm	First Eucharist liturgy	St John
Friday 5/7/2027	3:30pm	Rehearsal for Saturday, May 8 th Liturgy	St Margaret
Saturday 5/8/2027	10:00am	First Eucharist liturgy	St Margaret