

HOLY COMMUNION



First Communion Preparation 2027 Schedule

All children and youth preparing for sacraments need a foundation in faith formation when coming to the sacraments. Parents will need to discern if their child is ready to begin preparation by prayerfully reviewing the questions below. After completing preparation, parents will join catechists and staff to determine readiness of their child to receive the sacrament. The Sacrament of Reconciliation must have been received prior to receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

1. **Register for and attend grade level Formation Gatherings:** Held monthly on designated Sundays, see grade level formation schedule for dates.
2. **Register for First Communion preparation:** After you have carefully considered the discernment questions and you feel your child is ready to begin preparing for the sacrament you may register.
3. **Attend the First Sacraments Parent Orientation:** At least one parent/guardian attend the **First Sacraments Parent Session**, on **Sunday, January 31, 2027, 3:00 pm** in the Commons, designed to help deepen the parent's understanding of the sacrament and prepare them for their role as primary teacher of the faith.
4. **Attend ROCK (Raising Our Catholic Kids),** Sundays, concurrent with classes, 3:00-5:00pm, in the Commons. Preparation for First Sacraments is a commitment for parents and children, requiring time, effort and energy. These sessions provide a non-judgmental place to receive guidance, support and unconditional love, exactly what you want to give to your children.
5. **Complete homework before each sacramental preparation class.** Homework assignments are on the website under the "Sacraments" tab on the First Reconciliation and First Communion webpage. Workbooks will be distributed at the December Faith Formation Class.
6. **Prepare for and bring your child to each of the preparation classes:** Sessions are held on Sundays, 3-5 pm in the worship space. Children **MUST bring their workbook** to each class.

March 21 – Class #1

April 11 – Class #2 – We will practice receiving Eucharist; the children will have a chance to taste the host and wine. Parents are *required* to attend the last 30 minutes of class. This class may run over a little.

7. **Discernment of readiness to *receive* First Eucharist:** Through a series of interview questions, catechists and office staff will determine your child's readiness to receive the sacrament using the following guidelines:
 - Knows the Holy Trinity are: God the Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit.
 - Understands what prayer is.
 - Regularly attends, participates in and understands the Mass.
 - Understands and believes that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist.
 - Realizes the difference between the Eucharist and regular bread and wine.
 - Understands the importance of observing the Eucharistic fast.
 - Knows how to receive the Eucharist reverently.
 - Can express their desire to receive Eucharist.

April 18 – First Communion Assessment – Children will be assessed during and after their Faith Formation class.

8. First Communion Mass Rehearsal: Sunday, **April 25**, 6:00- 7:30 pm, all children and parents are *required* to attend. Children will again taste the host and wine.

9. Reception of First Eucharist: Saturday, **May 1, 2027**, 11:00 am is the dedicated First Communion Mass. Children check in at 10:30 am.

Note: Attendance at *both* classes is extremely important, *there are no make-up dates for missed classes*. The *only* excuse for missing class is illness or an emergency in the immediate family. Please notify Carole as soon as you know your child will miss a class. If your child misses more than one class, we will assess your child's progress. You may be asked to postpone your child's reception of the sacrament until the following year.