



**FIRST RECONCILIATION AND
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION
SACRAMENT
INFORMATION
PACKET**

**Our Lady of Angels Catholic
Church
Allen, Texas**

Dear Parents,

I am so excited to be a part of this time in your families' lives. Helping your children learn and take this important step toward initiation into the Church is a privilege and an honor. The Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist are gifts that bring us closer to Christ. As we work together to bring our children to these Sacraments, we are called to renew and deepen our own understanding and relationship with Jesus.

As parents, you are the first and primary teachers of your children in the ways of faith as you promised at their baptism. It is my desire that we help you bring your children closer to Christ.

Together we can work to truly prepare your children for these beautiful Sacraments. Through the eyes of your children we hope you will experience the Sacraments anew and that God will touch you more deeply with His love.

In Christ's peace,



Sandy Hernandez
Elementary Faith Formation Coordinator
Our Lady of Angels
469-467-9669 ext. 106
shernandez@ourladyofangels.com

Our Lady of Angels Sacrament Formation

Eucharist and Reconciliation Two Year Schedule

Year One Sacrament Formation

- Student will attend their weekly elementary grade level faith formation class to build a foundation of knowledge of our faith.
- Students will receive a packet of materials to work on at home with their parents.
- Parents and students should attend weekly Mass together.

Year Two Sacrament Formation

- Student will attend their weekly elementary grade level faith formation class to build a foundation of knowledge of our faith.
- Parents and students should attend weekly Mass together throughout the year. Attending weekly Mass helps your child learn the order of the Mass, so that they will know how to participate fully, making their First Communion Mass even more meaningful.
- Parent and child will attend two retreats in the spring to finalize preparation for Reconciliation and Eucharist. These retreats are the equivalent of 3 classes and are intended to augment what parents are already doing, or to sow the seeds of parent led catechesis.

Reconciliation Retreat – February 8, 2020

Eucharist Retreat – April 18, 2020

Attendance at both retreats is required so that you and your child will be prepared. If you and your child are unable to go to a retreat, you must contact the Coordinator to see what arrangements can be made. Missing retreats or more than 20% of faith formation classes may delay your child's Sacrament. Communication is important to help us work with you on your child's faith journey.

Important Sacrament Dates for Year 2 Students

DAY	TIME	DESCRIPTION
Saturday, February 8, 2020	8:15am – 11:30am	Required Retreat for parents and students preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. (Attending the 8:30am Mass is part of the retreat)
Saturday, February 22, 2020	9:45am - Noon	First Reconciliation Service will be held in the Worship Center followed by individual confessions. Several priests will be available to hear confessions.
Saturday, April 18, 2020	8:15am – 11:30am	Required Retreat for parents and students preparing for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion. (Attending the 8:30am Mass is part of the retreat)
April 19 thru May 3		Sacramental banners can be turned in during this time frame. The banners are optional but encouraged.
Tuesday, May 5, 2020	6:00pm – 8pm	Rehearsal for students with Liturgy assignments: Cross and Candle Bearers 6pm to 6:30; Gift Bearers 6:30pm to 7:00; Banner Carriers 7:00pm to 7:30; Readers 7:30pm to 8:00. (Children can sign up for these jobs during the Eucharist retreat).
Wednesday, May 6, 2020	6 – 7pm	Mandatory General Rehearsal for all students who will attend the 9:30am 1 st Communion Mass (Sunday Yr 2 faith formation students in 2 nd thru 5 th grades)
Thursday, May 7, 2020	6 – 7pm	Mandatory General Rehearsal for all students who will attend the 1:30pm 1 st Communion Mass (Monday Yr 2 faith formation students in grades 2 nd thru middle school).
Saturday, May 9, 2020	Arrive at 9:00am Mass begins at 9:30am	9:30am First Communion Mass for Sunday 2nd thru 5th grade classes. There is a reception after Mass
Saturday, May 9, 2020	Arrive at 1pm Mass begins at 1:30pm	1:30pm First Communion Mass for Monday 2nd thru middle school classes. There is a reception after Mass

Baptismal Certificates

Did you know that the church where you were baptized keeps the records of all your Sacraments? That is why we need a copy of your child's baptismal certificate during Year 2 of their formation. This gives us the information we need to inform your child's church of record that they have received the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist.

Please supply a copy of your child's baptismal certificate before April 1st. We do not need the original. You may email a copy to me at shernandez@ourladyofangels.com

If your child was baptized at Our Lady of Angels, please notify me by email so that we may note that in our records. Sacramental records are kept separately from our student records.

All children should be baptized in the Church to make their First Communion. If your child was baptized in a church other than Roman Catholic, please contact the office as soon as possible so that we can work with you to help your child receive the Sacraments.

First Reconciliation Ceremony

On **Saturday, February 22nd**, we will gather at the Worship Center to celebrate our students' First Reconciliation.

The plans for Saturday are:

- The ceremony is scheduled to begin at 10am. **Please arrive by 9:45am** and check in at the table. You may sit as a family any where in the sanctuary.
- There is a prayer service before confessions are heard which will guide our children through the examination of conscience. Please let your child know that this is a special ceremony for their first confession and that their next confession may be different.
- Once the service is over, we will allow the students to choose a priest and wait in that line until it is their turn. A volunteer will be stationed at each priest in order to keep the line moving, and to keep children quiet and prayerful.
- Teachers and families are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Confession after all the students have made their confession.
- Families are free to leave once everyone in the family who wishes to do so has gone to Confession and completed his or her penance.
- We highly encourage you to make this a special day with your child after you leave. Go celebrate this special gift of mercy that our Lord offers to us!

First Holy Communion Mass

We have two First Communion Masses. All students **must** attend rehearsal prior to First Communion.

First Communion Mass	Rehearsal Dates
May 9 th , 2020 9:30am (for students who attend Sunday faith formation classes)	Wednesday, May 6 th , 2020 6 – 7pm
May 9 th , 2020 1:30pm (for students who attend Monday faith formation classes)	Thursday, May 7 th , 2020 6 – 7pm

Any student with a special Mass assignment *(cross bearer, candle bearer, etc.) will have an additional rehearsal on Tuesday, May 5th.

*Students will have an opportunity to sign up for these special Mass assignments during the Eucharist Retreat.

First Communion Mass Suggested Dress

Suggested dress for all students is Sunday dress. Girls' dresses should cover their shoulders and have a modest neckline. Simple street length is recommended and most girls wear white. A veil or headpiece is optional. Gloves are not allowed since they cannot receive communion wearing them. Boys should wear dress slacks and shirt. Suit jacket and tie are optional. The students should not carry anything.

First Communion Mass Guidelines

Absolutely no flash photography is allowed during the Mass.

We ask that parents remain in their seats during the Mass.

You may take pictures - without flash – from your seat, but you may not walk up to the front and take a picture of your child while they are receiving First Communion.

Please respect these guidelines.

What is a Sacramental Banner?

In recognition of our child's celebration of the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, parents may wish to prepare a sacramental banner. These will be displayed in the Worship Center the week of First Communion as an outward sign to the whole parish that your child is preparing to receive their special Sacraments.

The banner also serves as an opportunity for you to help your child connect First Eucharist with Baptism as the second Sacrament of Initiation.

The Sacramental banner is optional, but encouraged. If you choose to provide a banner you have a few options:

- You can make the banner yourself using the directions in this packet and materials that you can purchase at a craft store.
- You can order a banner kit online. There are several companies that offer a kit. Here are some that I found:

www.autom.com

www.creativecommunications.com

www.amazon.com

- You can have the banner made by someone else for a fee. There is information included for a parishioner that will make your child's banner on the following pages.

We will have examples of banners on display at the Spring retreats.

Directions for Sacramental Banner

The Sacramental Banners are optional. If you would like to make one, you will need:

1. A piece of fabric, felt or canvas, measuring approximately 12” to 18” wide by 18” to 24” long.
 2. Decorations to represent the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation and Eucharist.
 3. A wooden dowel, 4 inches longer than the width of your banner.
 4. 18” of decorative rope to hang the banner.
- The banner can be made of any material. Canvas, felt and broadcloth cotton all work well, but it is up to your personal taste and choice.
 - Sew or glue a hem across the top leaving either end open so that the wooden dowel can be inserted.
 - The banner should have your child’s name or just your family name listed on the top.
 - Along the left side, either list the sacraments or place symbols for Baptism, Reconciliation and Eucharist. Again, this is entirely your choice. In past years parents have embroidered, used fabric paint, or purchased decals, which were sewed, ironed or glued on. (Hobby Lobby is a good source for this.)
 - Across from each name or symbol, you may list the date of your child’s receipt of the sacrament.
 - Insert the wooden dowel into the top hem. Tie the rope at either end of the dowel to create a hanger for the banner. Please glue the rope to the dowel.
 - Please put the banner on a clothes hanger when you deliver it to the office. There will be a close rack set up in the office to hang your banner.

Custom Banners

If you want a banner, but don't want to make it yourself, one of our parishioners, Isabel Lozano Patino, makes handmade banners to sell. These are painted with acrylic over cotton fabric.

Boy's and girl's images available.

For more information, please contact Isabel Lozano Patino at:

214 906 6961

or e-mail Isabel_patino@sbcglobal.net

Cost: \$50.00, all materials included.

First Communion Banners Samples

Montse Patiño



Baptism—

11-25-00



1st Reconciliation—

02-23-08



1st Communion—

07-12-08

Marianna Flores



01-15-1999



02-11-2008



05-10-2008