

First Communion & Confirmation

Preparation Guidelines



Teens must receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation & Communion before they can receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Teens in grades 6-12 who haven't received First Reconciliation (Confession) and First Communion, must have attended one year of Faith Formation prior to beginning preparation for First Communion in which they may also begin preparation for Confirmation.

R

RECONCILIATION

At home with aid of parents for 2-3 months including 1 interview with the teen & parent.

FC

FIRST COMMUNION

At home with parents for 2-3 months including 1 interview with teen and parents.

C

CONFIRMATION

2 yr. process in which teens attend classes Sunday mornings from 11:40am-11:50am.

Class Dates

Confirmation Classes will now take place on Sunday mornings from 10:40am - 11:50am. 1st yr. Confirmation will meet in Classroom #5 & 2nd yr. Confirmation will meet in Classroom #4.

Sponsor Meetings & Interviews

Please reference the attached calendar for dates when sponsors or parents will be asked to attend meetings about the Confirmation process.

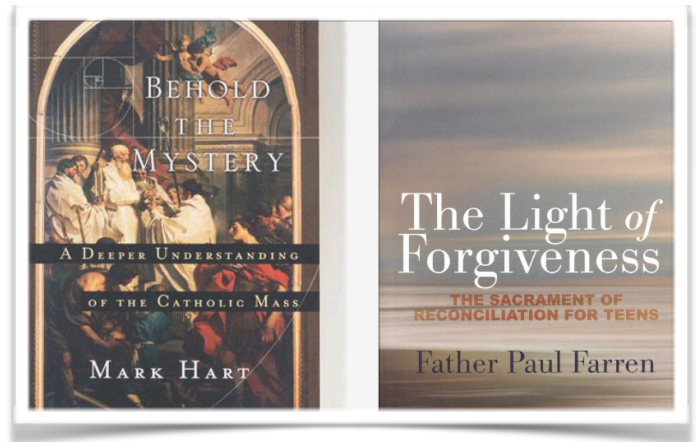
First Reconciliation /Communion Interview Dates

Dates will be given at the first parent meeting along with books.

The First Communion process takes place in two main stages:

Preparation for Reconciliation

1. The Reconciliation stage begins with a parent meeting in which all families are given a book covering Reconciliation and instructed on the best way to work through the book. Parents take this home and are given 2 to 3 months to complete the curriculum with their children. At a set date, all the children will be invited to the Church where interviews will be conducted in order to ensure that they have the basic understanding necessary to receive the Sacrament. Following this, a penance Service will be scheduled and all the children will receive their First Confession.



Preparation for 1st Communion.

2. After this is the First Communion stage. Again, another parent meeting is held in which all the families are given book covering First Communion & the Holy Mass. After 2 to 3 months another set of interviews are conducted and once this is completed the children will then receive their First Communion in the late spring and the process will be complete.

During both stages, *parents are the primary catechists for their teen*. As such, there are certain unique expectations that must be met in order for this process to be a success. Below is a list of the expectations that accompany preparation:

- During preparation, children are still expected to attend the Confirmation classes in the parish on Sunday morning at least 70% of the time (unless the teen is enrolled at Holy Cross Catholic Academy).
- As with all practicing Catholics, children are expected to attend Sunday Mass weekly with the parent(s), unless for a grave reason. To ensure this, the teen will be required to place special envelopes in the collection basket each Sunday.
- For each stage, families are given 2-3 months to complete the given curriculum. Parents are expected to work through this curriculum throughout the 2-3 months on at least a weekly basis.
- Families must be registered members of St. Mary's Cathedral.
- Children must be baptized (If not baptized the children will need to enter into our RCIA program in order to receive Baptism and 1st Communion).

CONFIRMATION

Preparation for Confirmation lasts two years beginning in the 6th grade. All those preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation are required to attend Confirmation Classes on Sunday Mornings from 10:40AM - 11:50AM. Teens are expected to attend at least 70% of the time (unless the teen is enrolled at Holy Cross Catholic Academy). Teens must also attend one retreat a year. Lastly, Sponsors/Parents are asked to attend a meeting once year to discuss the role of the sponsor and given resources to aid them in waking with the teens towards Confirmation.

