

## Second Grade Parent Sacramental Preparation FAQ's

### Dear Parents,

We look forward to meeting you in the fall. We are excited to share with you an overview of the First *Reconciliation and First Communion* preparation experience. It is such a great year for your family to grow closer to God as your child receives the Sacraments of *First Reconciliation* and *First Eucharist*.

Second Grade is the year in which the *entire parish, Catholic families* and a *Catholic second grade child* prepare for the *Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist*. (A sacrament is a personal encounter with Jesus which is celebrated in the context of the Catholic Community).

Although we prepare families for First Communion in PSR or St. Gabriel Day School, the celebration of the Sacraments are parish celebrations. First Communion is celebrated in the context of the parish because students will be receiving communion on an ongoing basis in the parish community.

We normally go over this information with parents of First Graders, but due to the pandemic, we will have to share this information by email.

### FAQ's

#### What can parents expect from the Parish as we prepare for their child's First Communion?

As a parish we will:

- Encourage your family's weekly participation at Mass (the Celebration of the Eucharist)
- Assist you or a family member, if you wish, for baptism if a family member has not been baptized.

- Assist you, as parents if you wish, to prepare for any sacraments you may have missed (baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, or if you were married outside the church, by having your marriage blessed).
- Assist you, if you wish, in the annulment process if either spouse was married previously so you can have your marriage blessed.

***"I feel that someone will judge our family if we haven't been to Mass for a while or my child isn't baptized yet."***

Our goal as a parish is to help your family grow in God's love, without judging. We know that 'life happens' and things can get away from us. We want to help you as a family to deepen your faith and to help you prepare for your child's *First Reconciliation* and *First Communion*.

If you are asking for your child to receive their First Communion, you are taking on the responsibility of bringing them to Mass each week; to receive more than just a First Communion, but a lifetime of Communion with our Lord.

#### In what ways will the pandemic effect First Communion?

The Ohio Bishops have given us guidelines to follow. You can read all the guidelines by [clicking here](#).

As you know this is an ongoing and changing situation. We will publish our calendar towards the end of June. Please know that we have planned for this year, have alternate plans, and may still have to adapt our plans to the changing recommendations from the Governor and the Ohio Bishops. Please be patient with these best attempts to do what is best for everyone.

**What if we attend St. Gabriel Day School and we are not Catholic?**

If a child or family is not Catholic, the child will learn about the Catholic Sacraments and will have a very special year without receiving the Sacraments. There is no pressure to 'become Catholic'. They will experience everything the other students do in Second Grade except receiving the Sacraments.

**What if my child is not baptized?**

*Baptism is the doorway to the rest of the Catholic Sacraments.* Sometimes life gets away from us and we see the notice for registering for First Communion and remember that our child was not baptized. Whatever the case, reply to this email and we can help with baptizing your child if it is your will for them to be baptized and to become part of the Catholic Church.

**What if my child was baptized in another faith and we want them to become Catholic?**

If you or a family member were baptized in another faith tradition, we can assist you, if you wish, to be received into the Catholic Church.

Although we do not re-baptize people who were baptized, "*In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,*" there is a process *to be received into the Catholic Church*, which is called the **RCIA**, The **Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults**. Please reply to this email and we can help you with explore this option.

**Does my child need a Sponsor for First Communion?**

No, your child will not need a Sponsor for First Communion. In some cultures, a sponsor is chosen for the child making his/her First Communion. The Roman Catholic Church does not require a sponsor for First Communion.

Sponsors are required for Baptism and Confirmation.

**Do we need to register for Sacramental Preparation in the Second Grade?**

Yes, that way we know that you are requesting that your child receive the Sacraments.

By requesting to participate in the sacramental preparation process, you are saying you and your child wish to grow deeper in love with Jesus and the parish community.

To register for the *Second Grade Sacramental Preparation Process*, please sign up online. It is important for you to register online so we know that you wish to have your child receive the Catholic Sacraments of *Reconciliation* and *First Eucharist*. There is a link on the parish website to register or you can [click here](#).

**Why do parents have to attend meetings? It's the child who is receiving the Sacrament.**

Sacraments take place in the context of the family and the parish.

The bishops have asked that we provide parent catechesis to help the parents deepen their understanding of the Sacraments and to deepen their own faith. We gather once a month for parents. Sometimes the gatherings are for parents alone, other times they are for parents and children.

**To help you plan for next year we will email a calendar at the end of June** These dates are very important and are 'mandatory' for parents and at times children to attend.

**If you have any questions**, concerns, or are in need of discussing any part of this information, Please contact Deacon Bob Grgic at 440-352-8282 ext. 105 or by email at [bgrgic@st-gabriel.org](mailto:bgrgic@st-gabriel.org)

# Overview of the Sacramental Preparation Process

## Register for the Second Grade Sacramental Preparation Process

- Register online at the parish website [st-gabriel.org](http://st-gabriel.org)

**Families are encouraged to attend Mass each week**  
(Saturday Vigil Mass or Sunday)

## Children participate in one of our Faith Formation Processes:

- PSR (Parish School of Religion)
- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- St. Gabriel Day School or other Catholic grade school

## Parent Conference with one of the Priests or Deacons

- You will be asked to sign up for a conference (in October or November) with a priest or deacon to discuss the ways we can be of assistance as you prepare your family and your child to receive their *First Reconciliation* and *First Eucharist*.

## Monthly Parent Gatherings

- To help parents to deepen their understanding of the Faith.
- Usually offered twice (first half/Second half of Alphabet)
- Beginning in September and going through March.
- Some gatherings are parent only; others are for parents and child.

## Monthly Journal Pages to be completed.

- Children receive the journal in September.

## Saturday Morning or Afternoon Gatherings

- *First Reconciliation Retreat* in January
- *First Reconciliation* for Child and their family in January
- *First Eucharist Retreat* in March
- *First Eucharist Large Group*, first Saturday in May, (or a weekend Mass on designated weekend offerings)