

# FIRST RECONCILIATION & FIRST COMMUNION

Saint Mary Catholic Church



## INVITATION

Welcome to Saint Mary's Sacramental Preparation program! All baptized 2nd - 5th graders for this school year are invited to begin the process of preparation for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Children who begin and satisfactorily complete preparation this year will receive:

**First Reconciliation on November 7, 2024 at 6:00pm**

**First Communion on April 26 & 27, 2025 at the weekend Masses**

## WHAT IS NEEDED BEFORE WE BEGIN?

**\*Registration opens in July and closes September 15, 2024**

ALL students, including Saint Mary Catholic School (SMCS), need to complete these four tasks before preparation can begin:

1

**REGISTER YOU AND YOUR FAMILY AS PARISHIONERS AT SAINT MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH AT THE PARISH OFFICE.**

\*Is your child a student at SMCS, but you are registered at another parish? We need a letter from your pastor with permission for your child to receive sacraments here.

2

**FILL OUT THE ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM FOR SACRAMENTAL PREP AT [WWW.SAINTMARY.LIFE](http://WWW.SAINTMARY.LIFE)**

3

**PAY THE SACRAMENTAL PREP FEE OF \$100 (INCLUDES ADVENTURE DAYS PROGRAM).**

4

**BRING A COPY OF YOUR CHILD'S BAPTISM CERTIFICATE TO THE PARISH OFFICE IF THEY WERE NOT BAPTIZED AT SAINT MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH.**

\*We cannot obtain certificates from SMCS due to Canon Law, so please bring another copy for parish records.



# REQUIRED EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES 2024-2025

## 1. MASS

### Keep Holy the Lord's Day.

The Eucharistic Liturgy is the source and summit of our Catholic faith. Weekly Sunday Mass attendance is vital to the spiritual growth of every Catholic. **All students in Sacrament prep are required to sign in at whichever weekend mass their family attends.** At weekly Mass, children experience the depths of God's love through the Word, the community, and the Eucharist. We also encourage parents to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation as frequently as you can. Making these two sacraments a priority will show your child that they are important for our daily lives. **\*If this requirement is not met, the Sacrament will be delayed a year.\***

### CONFESSION TIMES

Saturday from 2:30pm - 4:30pm in the Church Chapel or call the office for an appointment.

### MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00pm

Sunday: 8:00am, 10:00am and 5:00pm

Traveling for the weekend? Visit [masstimes.org](https://www.masstimes.org) to find a Mass near you!

## 2. PARENT INVOLVEMENT

### Building the Domestic Church.

We want to empower you to be the primary catechist in your home. Parents and children will pray, study and prepare together for the great Gift of forgiveness in confession and the Gift of Jesus in Holy Communion. The parish will provide guidance, materials, and support along the way through email, text, phone call and parent meetings. **\*All six in-person meetings are mandatory to meet Sacrament preparation requirements.\***

## 3. ONLINE CLASSES AND ASSIGNMENTS

### An Engaging Way to Prepare Your Child.

We will utilize the Augustine Institute's First Reconciliation and First Communion preparation program called "Signs of Grace." This is a two part class--First Reconciliation has 7 sessions which will be completed in the fall, and First Communion has 8 sessions which will be completed in the spring. These classes are video-based with supplementary materials for parents and children to use together. It is our hope that this time will not only offer your child an increase in knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith, but will also help them fall in love with Jesus.

# SESSION DETAILS

Online class sessions should be done in order. **Do not do multiple sessions at once.** This is a process and should be done weekly. Dates for completing each session are listed on the back of this handout. PDF files are a part of the sessions, you may either print them out or read from the computer.

**1 THE FIRST 4 SESSIONS\* BEGIN WITH A PARENT PREPARATION VIDEO. THIS VIDEO IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT THE UPCOMING SESSION. PLEASE WATCH THIS BEFORE SITTING DOWN WITH YOUR CHILD.**

**2 PRAY WITH YOUR CHILD USING THE "LET'S PRAY AND INTRODUCTION" VIDEO. THEN GO THROUGH THE REST OF THE SESSION VIDEOS & READ ALONG.**

**3 YOUR CHILD COMPLETES THE QUIZ ON THEIR OWN. THIS WILL HELP YOU TO SEE IF YOU NEED TO GO BACK AND REVIEW ANYTHING FROM THE SESSION WITH YOUR CHILD.**

**4 CLOSE IN PRAYER.**

\*Reading and answering the questions with the "Hope Springs Story" is optional.

## PRO PARENT TIPS:

- Dedicate a specific day & time that you will do this weekly with your child. *Sundays right after Mass is the perfect time!*
- Parents have reported that sessions can take **30 - 60 minutes.** Do not wait until the last minute!

# CHECK OFF LIST

- ☐ Register your family as parishioners of Saint Mary Catholic Church.
- ☐ Register for classes and pay \$100 for the program (includes Adventure Days cost!)
- ☐ Bring a copy of baptismal certificate to the parish office (if not baptized at SMCC).
- ☐ Register for the online class portal once you receive the access code.
- ☐ Make sure you are receiving Flocknote group emails. Let us know if you are not receiving them!

## IMPORTANT DATES

We know that some children are involved in extracurricular activities, so we are giving you these dates well in advance so you can mark them on your calendar and make them a priority!

### FIRST RECONCILIATION PREP 2024

- ☐ September 15.....**Parent Only Meeting in PLC after 10am Mass**
- ☐ September 22.....Session 1 Due
- ☐ September 29.....Session 2 Due
- ☐ October 6.....**Session 3 Due & Mandatory Parent-Child Meeting after 10am Mass**
- ☐ October 13.....Session 4 Due
- ☐ October 20.....Session 5 Due
- ☐ October 27.....Session 6 & Session 7 Due
- ☐ November 3.....**First Reconciliation Retreat after 10am Mass**

**First Reconciliation Thursday, November 7, 2024 at 6pm**

**-THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS BREAK-**

### FIRST COMMUNION PREP 2025

- ☐ February 2.....**Parent Only Meeting in PLC after 10am Mass**
- ☐ February 16.....Session 1 & Session 2 Due
- ☐ February 23.....Session 3
- ☐ March 2.....**Session 4 Due & Mandatory Parent-Child Meeting after 10am Mass**
- ☐ March 9.....Session 5 Due
- ☐ March 23.....Session 6 Due
- ☐ March 30.....Session 7 Due
- ☐ April 6.....**Session 8 Due & Optional Portrait Day April 5th**
- ☐ April 12 (Saturday) **First Holy Communion Retreat 9am-11am**

**First Communion in Church April 26 and April 27, 2025**

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