

Requirements for Early Implementation of the Restored Order of the Sacraments

Effective until the promulgation of new Sacramental Norms in Fall 2025

General Overview

Preparation for the reception of the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, Confirmation, and First Eucharist must begin at least **seven months** prior to the celebration of **Confirmation and First Eucharist during Mass**.

As part of the preparation process, it is understood that the **family of the child preparing for the sacraments** is:

- Fulfilling their Sunday obligation, and
 - Participating in the parish's program of family catechesis, when available.
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Minimum Requirements for Sacramental Preparation

1. Initial Reconciliation Preparation

- Announce the **date and time** of the first **Parent/Child Meeting** for Reconciliation several weeks in advance.
- Provide **adult faith formation** to assist parents in discerning their child's readiness for each sacrament.
- Host the **first Parent/Child Meeting** at the scheduled date and time.

2. Catechesis for First Reconciliation

Provide a **minimum of four weeks** of parish- and family-based catechesis for children, including:

- Development of conscience and sense of sin
- Ability to distinguish right from wrong
- Examination of conscience in light of the Ten Commandments
- Expression of contrition for failure to love God and neighbor
- Personal accountability and the need for forgiveness
- Understanding sacramental confession as a means to obtain pardon for sin

- Knowledge of how to celebrate the Rite of Penance, including the meaning of the gestures and prayers—especially the Act of Contrition

3. Transition to Confirmation Preparation

- After catechesis for Reconciliation, **wait at least four weeks** before the second Parent/Child Meeting.
- Announce the **date and time** of the second Parent/Child Meeting during this interim.
- Host the **second Parent/Child Meeting** at the scheduled time.

4. Catechesis for Confirmation

Provide a **minimum of four weeks** of parish- and family-based catechesis for children, including:

- Doctrine of the Trinity, especially the Holy Spirit
- Confirmation as the completion of Baptism and renewal of baptismal promises
- Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Fruits of the Holy Spirit as signs of living out the gifts
- Rite of Confirmation:
 - Role of the Sponsor
 - Patron Saint (Confirmation Name)
 - Laying on of Hands
 - Anointing with Chrism

5. Transition to First Eucharist Preparation

- After catechesis for Confirmation, **wait at least four weeks** before the third Parent/Child Meeting.
- Announce the **date and time** of the third Parent/Child Meeting during this interim.
- Host the **third Parent/Child Meeting** at the scheduled time.

6. Catechesis for First Eucharist

Provide a **minimum of four weeks** of parish- and family-based catechesis for children, including:

- Distinction between ordinary bread and wine and the Holy Eucharist
- Belief in the Real Presence: Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Christ
- Meaning of receiving Holy Communion under both species

- Understanding the parts of the Mass:
 - Introductory Rites
 - Liturgy of the Word
 - Liturgy of the Eucharist
 - Dismissal Rites
- Full, conscious, and active participation in the Mass
- Understanding the Mass as the living memorial of Christ's sacrifice and the commemoration of the Last Supper

7. Scheduling of Sacrament Celebration

After catechesis for the Eucharist, **wait a minimum of three weeks** before scheduling the celebration of **Confirmation and First Eucharist**.

For Children/Youth Who Have Already Received First Eucharist

Catechesis for Confirmation should include the following topics:

- Doctrine of the Trinity, especially the Holy Spirit
- Confirmation as the completion of Baptism and renewal of baptismal promises
- Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Fruits of the Holy Spirit as signs of living out the gifts
- Rite of Confirmation:
 - Role of the Sponsor
 - Patron Saint (Confirmation Name)
 - Laying on of Hands
 - Anointing with Chrism