

ST ANSELM CATHOLIC CHURCH

GUIDE TO FIRST
RECONCILIATION
& FIRST EUCHARIST



2026

FIRST RECONCILIATION

When is First Reconciliation?

- Wednesday, February 25
- Location: main church

Arrival time and instructions:

- 6:30 pm in the main church
- Please sit with your child in any pew you prefer.
- Confessions open at 7:00 pm.

What to wear and bring:

- Comfortable outfit appropriate for Sunday Mass
- Please turn in your purple Reconciliation workbook in regular PSR classes on Tuesday, February 24.

How should we prepare as a family?

The ultimate goal of sacramental preparation is sacramental participation. The “first” anticipates the second, fifth, tenth, etc.

Your example is most important to your child. You can do several meaningful things as a family:

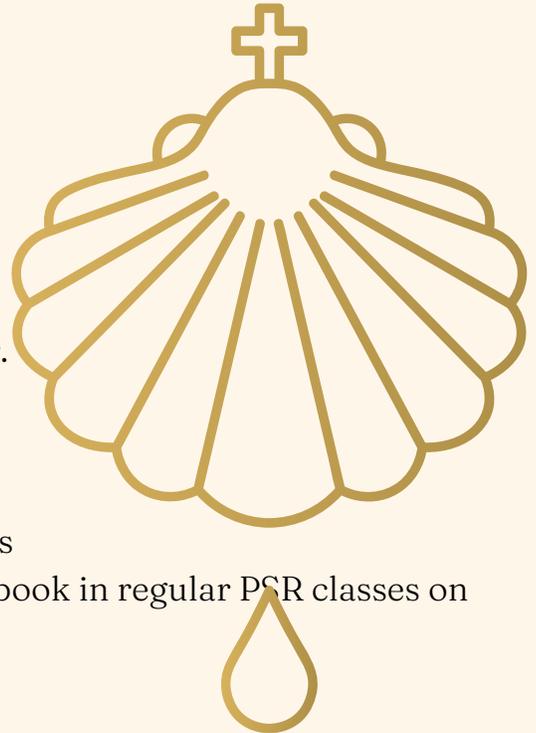
- Talk about the experience, including that sometimes we might feel a little nervous and that’s okay.
- Discuss how the Holy Spirit works through the priest to wipe away our sins, repair our souls, and refill us with grace.
- Remind your child that in Confession, we are really talking to God—and God is so happy when we go to Confession because He never tires of forgiving us.
- Practice the steps of Confession.
- Practice the Act of Contrition.
- Pray together and work through an Examination of Conscience. Your child also has several age-appropriate options in his/ her *Received by Jesus* book.

Can I receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, too?

- Yes! We invite you to experience the grace and healing of Confession, too.

“CONFESSION IS AN ACT OF HONESTY AND
COURAGE – AN ACT OF ENTRUSTING OURSELVES,
BEYOND SIN, TO THE MERCY OF A LOVING AND
FORGIVING GOD.”

+ST JOHN PAUL II



FIRST COMMUNION RETREAT

When is the First Communion Retreat?

- Sunday, April 19
- Location: main church and Weseman Center

Arrival time and instructions:

- 11:00 am: attend Mass together (parents and children)
- 12:00–3:00 pm: retreat program in Weseman Center
- Please escort your child to the Weseman Center after Mass.

What to wear and bring:

- Comfortable outfit appropriate for Sunday Mass
- Lunch and snacks will be provided.

What we'll do:

- Make banners to be hung on pews
- Spend time with Jesus in the Eucharist
- Sing special songs and practice prayers
- Hear talks and enjoy activities that bring us closer to Jesus

Dismissal after retreat:

- Parents will collect children at 3:00 pm in the Weseman Center.



"DO YOU REALIZE THAT JESUS IS THERE IN THE
TABERNACLE EXPRESSLY FOR YOU – FOR YOU
ALONE? HE BURNS WITH THE DESIRE TO COME
INTO YOUR HEART."

+ST THERESE OF LISIEUX

FIRST COMMUNION REHEARSAL



When is the First Communion rehearsal?

- Thursday, April 30
- Location: main church
- 6:00-7:00 pm

Arrival time and instructions:

- 6:00 pm in the main church
- Please drop off your child and then move to the parent session in the Weseman Center.

What to wear and bring:

- Comfortable outfit appropriate for Sunday Mass
- Children's banners must be turned in by rehearsal or they will not be hung in the church.

What we'll practice:

- Walking in and where to sit
- How to receive the Eucharist (using unconsecrated hosts)
- Review Mass responses and procedures

During rehearsal we will also:

- Distribute white ties (boys) and floral headpieces (girls)
- Collect completed banners

Parent session:

- During the children's rehearsal in the main church, parents will attend a session in the Weseman Center.

Dismissal after rehearsal:

- Parents will collect children from the main church after the session.

"HOW MANY OF YOU SAY: I SHOULD LIKE TO SEE HIS FACE, HIS GARMENTS, HIS SHOES. YOU DO SEE HIM, YOU TOUCH HIM, YOU EAT HIM. HE GIVES HIMSELF TO YOU, NOT ONLY THAT YOU MAY SEE HIM, BUT ALSO TO BE YOUR FOOD AND NOURISHMENT."

+ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

FIRST COMMUNION MASS

When is First Communion Mass?

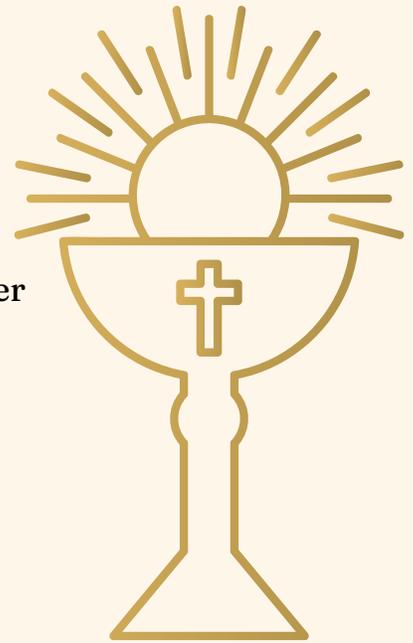
- Saturday, May 2
- Location: main church
- 10:30 am: Mass begins

Arrival time and instructions:

- 8:15–8:30 am: Drop off children at the Weseman Center
- 8:30 am: Church opens. Seating is first-come, first-serve. No pews will be reserved.

What to wear and bring:

- Girls:
 - White (not ivory or cream) dress that covers shoulders and knees
 - White flat dress shoes (no heels)
 - White ankle socks or tights
 - Floral headpiece (provided)
 - No veil is provided, but personal veils are welcome.
 - No gloves may be worn during Mass; girls may wear them for personal photos, but they will be removed during Mass.
- Boys:
 - White ties (provided)
 - Long-sleeved button down white shirt, dress pants, dress shoes (jacket encouraged but not required)
- Please note:
 - No denim
 - No polo style shirts
 - No athletic shoes
 - No high heels
 - No floor-length dresses
 - Veils should be shoulder length, sheer white, and simple. No large tiaras or bridal headpieces.
 - Optional gloves should be white. Gloves will be removed during Mass.



"IF ANGELS COULD BE JEALOUS OF MEN, THEY
WOULD BE SO FOR ONE REASON: HOLY
COMMUNION."

+ST MAXIMILIAN KOLBE

FIRST COMMUNION MASS

What will happen before Mass?

- Review songs and responses
- Final practice
- Group photo (photo orders available)

Seating and guests:

- Children will be seated together as a class in the front pews.
- Family seating is first come, first served.
- All guests should wear comfortable clothing appropriate for Sunday Mass; please cover shoulders and knees.

Photography:

- A photographer will be available before Mass for a class photo as well as individual photos for order.
- Photography may not occur during Mass.

Dismissal after Mass:

- Parents will collect children from the pews at the end of Mass.
- Children will receive gift bags including First Communion certificates.

Gifts and special personal items:

- Please give any special items (gifts, gloves, keepsakes, etc.) to children before Mass and hold them; children may not bring anything into Mass.



WHAT TO EXPECT ON FIRST COMMUNION DAY

8:15–8:30 am | Arrival

- Please drop off your child at the Weseman Center during this time.
- Children should arrive dressed and ready for the day.

8:30 am | Church opens

- Families may enter the church and find seating.
- Seating is first come, first served.

8:30-10:00 | Practice and preparation

- Children will review songs, responses, and walking order.
- Final reminders and encouragement will be given to help children feel calm and confident.
- A class photo will be taken before Mass.
- Photo orders will be available.

10:30 am | First Communion Mass

- Children will process in and be seated as a group in the front pews.
- Catechists will be nearby to support the children if needed.
- Children will receive Jesus truly present the Eucharist!

After Mass

- Parents will be invited to come forward to collect their child from the pews.
- Each child will receive a First Communion gift bag with their certificate.

Reminders

- Please give and hold any special items (gifts, gloves, keepsakes, etc.) before Mass. Children may not carry gifts or other items into Mass.
- Pray for your child to experience Jesus' love in a new, intimate way!

CALENDAR OF DATES

Wednesday, February 25

First Reconciliation, 6:30-8:00 pm, main church

Sunday, April 19

First Communion Retreat, 11:00 am Mass in main church followed by retreat program 12:00-3:00 pm, Weseman Center

Thursday, April 30

First Communion rehearsal, 6:00-7:00 pm, main church; parent session concurrently in Weseman Center.

Saturday, May 2

First Communion Mass, 8:15-8:30 am arrival in Weseman Center; 10:30 am Mass begins.

FIRST COMMUNION GIFT IDEAS



1. Received by Jesus and Renewed by Jesus: We (Colin and Aimee) wrote these books to help kids enter more deeply into Mass and Confession. Both books have won multiple awards and feature beautiful artwork, prayers, and age-appropriate examinations of conscience.
2. Tiny Saints charms: These adorable charms come in every saint imaginable, so you can gift heavenly friends that are personalized for your child's namesakes, patrons, and interests. (Pictured is tiny St Michael the Archangel).
3. Freshwater pearl cross bracelet: We gave our daughter a similar bracelet for her First Communion paired with a personal letter about how Jesus will always be her "pearl of great price" and she will always be His.
4. A Saint a Day daily saint devotionals (hardcover): This beautiful book offers accessible, saints-inspired devotionals for every day of the year—great for readers and non-readers.
5. Combat rosary: This rosary is especially great for boys because it is based upon the historic design of the 1916 WWI Service Combat Rosary that was carried by soldiers, sailors, and flying aces; it's beautiful yet able to withstand harsh environments. Don't forget to pray a rosary for him on these beads before you gift!
6. Jesus night light
7. Catholic stickers (pack of 400)
8. Tiny photo frame: The small size (2x3) is perfect for a child's nightstand. Inside, place a special prayer or holy card.
9. The Prayer Map for Boys and The Prayer Map for Girls: We often give these prayer journals as First Communion gifts. Each one has simple but meaningful prompts to help children learn to pray.
10. Guardian angel plush (boy) and guardian angel plush (girl)
11. Make your own rosary kit