

JOURNEY TO FIRST EUCHARIST

2025 – 2026 Important Dates & Reminders

September: Families in RE and GOF receive the *Encounter with Christ (Reconciliation)* child book and parent guide. SAS students are instructed in class.

December 2 (Tues): First Reconciliation/Penance Parent Meeting, 6:00-7:00p.m. (FDC Community Room).

January: Family Life Curriculum is electronically sent to all RE and GOF families for home-study - no January sessions.

January: First Reconciliation/Penance Celebration – Jan. 6, 10, 13 & 17 –
Two Tuesday evenings and two Saturday afternoons to choose from; we will send you a Sign Up Genius as we get closer to the dates and to confirm.

January 20 (Tuesday): First Eucharist Parent Meeting; 6:00-7:00 p.m. (FDC Community Room)

February 2026: We begin our preparation for the Sacrament of First Eucharist (Communion). RE and GOF families receive *Encounter with Christ (Eucharist)*, child book and parent guide. SAS students are instructed in class.

February 22 (Sunday): First Eucharist Application Form is due. (Forms are located on parish website.) Please make every effort to get this in on time.

March 15: (Sunday): First Eucharist Retreat; 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. (FDC Community Room and Church.)

April 28 (Tuesday): 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Practice for the 9:30 a.m. First Eucharist Celebration (FDC Community Room and Church).

April 29 (Wednesday): 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Practice for the 12:00 p.m. First Eucharist Celebration (FDC Community Room and Church).

May 2 (Saturday): First Eucharist (Communion) — 9:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.;
we will send you a Sign Up Genius as we get closer to the date.

CURRICULUM

Encounter with Christ by Our Sunday Visitor (OSV)
Parent guides are provided with registration.



CONTACTS

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Church of Saint Ann



2025 - 2026

Journey to First Eucharist

As we begin this journey together, it is important to think about the role parents play in passing on faith to their children. The parish will help support you in many ways, but it is the parents who have the greatest impact on a child's faith and faith development.

Sacraments are events that are directly related to our lives, the way we raise and form our children, and how we spend time with our families. Sacraments call to mind the single reality of God's love for us. In each sacramental celebration we:

- +Remember God's saving work in Jesus
- +Celebrate God's action within the life of the community
- +Express our trust and confidence in God's loving presence into the future

THE SACRAMENT OF FIRST RECONCILIATION (PENANCE)

***Our focus September 2025 through middle of January 2026:** The Sacrament of Reconciliation celebrates God's forgiveness and mercy; through the sacrament, we are reconciled with God and one another. In addition, through the grace of reconciliation, God empowers us to be people, parents, spouses, and friends who forgive.



THE SACRAMENT OF FIRST EUCHARIST (COMMUNION)

***Our focus from end of January 2026 until May 2026:** In Eucharist, we celebrate union (communion) with God through Christ. At the same time in receiving Jesus' presence in the Eucharist, we are nourished and given the grace to be the presence of Jesus to others and our world.

Note that children in Grades 3 through 8 who are enrolled in RE but who have *not* yet received First Eucharist are required to complete individualized learning in addition to their RE classes. They will receive the Sacrament of First Eucharist at a regular Sunday Mass during the Easter Season (between April 12 and May 17). We will work with you and help you schedule a day and time as we get closer to those dates.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY?

Since sacraments are always community celebrations, your ongoing connection and participation with this faith community is very important. Your connection to the parish is an important catalyst to your son's or daughter's experience of the sacrament and their ongoing participation—it is a challenge to speak of the community of faith if your child does not have a sense of being part of this community. Thus making the effort to participate in parish activities and attend Sunday liturgy as often as possible is important.

In addition to celebrating what God is doing in the sacrament, each sacrament celebrates what God has done and continues to do in your life and in the life of your family. Helping your child see the connection between the sacraments and life is essential.

This is also a good time for parents/guardians to reflect on

their own understanding of sacraments and to grow in your own faith and relationship with God. Praying, reflecting, participating at Sunday worship, simply taking the time for quiet and solitude – all of these actions can foster your growth in faith and enrich your spiritual journey.

The Sacrament of Penance is a celebration of God's ever-present forgiveness and mercy that is always available to us. Through the grace of the sacrament, we are strengthened to live faithful lives in light of being both a forgiven and forgiving people.

Eucharist is one of the sacraments of initiation, the other two being Baptism and Confirmation. Each of these sacraments is a significant mark along the journey of faith.



Eucharist is the core of our Catholic Christian lives—the source of our *communion* with Christ and one another. It is an act of *thanksgiving* (the word “Eucharist” means this). Eucharist is the food that sustains us on our journey through this world. So when you are talking about First Holy Eucharist (Communion) with your child, remind them that this sacrament unites them with the entire Body of Christ—the bigger family that they belong to—here at Saint Ann and all throughout the world. Help them realize that each Sunday, millions of Catholics all across the world gather together to celebrate Eucharist, strengthened by their participation in this great Mystery.

God bless your families as you prepare for this milestone along your child's faith journey!

***“And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
—Matthew 28:20***