



Summer 2025

Dear Second Grade Parents:

We are pleased to welcome you to sacrament preparation beginning with the sacrament of First Reconciliation (Confession) followed by the sacrament of First Eucharist. The Sacramental program is ONE parish program for both the families of school children and families of Catholic Formation children. These sacraments are central parts of the Catholic faith.

- **The Sacrament of Reconciliation** offers us God's forgiveness when we confess our sins to a priest.
- **Holy Communion** is receiving the real and physical presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist!

In preparing children to receive First Reconciliation and First Eucharist, we are preparing them not only to receive these Sacraments that **first** time, but to receive them regularly as an essential part of a happy, healthy, holy and eternal lifelong relationship with God.

This letter contains a lot of information including all of the important dates for the year, registration information, and an explanation of Sacrament Preparation. Please read carefully.

Sacrament preparation for both First Reconciliation and First Eucharist involves the following:

1. **Mass participation – weekly Sunday Mass attendance is expected of our Lumen Christi families. Without regular participation in the Mass on Sundays, it is difficult for children to be rooted in the importance of the Sacraments and outward expression of their faith.**
2. Formation – students receive formation for the sacrament in their religion class, both in our Catholic Formation program and in our day school. Both school and Catholic Formation use Go, Seek, Find! Published by St. Mary's Press as the basis of the curriculum.
3. Family Interview – each family schedules a fall meeting with Kate Heinzman as an opportunity for her to get to know your child and family, and talk through the year together.
4. At-Home Family Formation – at home parent led formation is a critical component of children embracing the faith. School families will receive this from their child's classroom teacher and Catholic Formation families will receive these packets from Miss Kate.
5. Retreats – (see attached schedule for details and dates)
  - Why a retreat?** We know retreats are a sacrifice of time. A retreat elevates the importance of our faith and the Sacraments that our children are preparing for. It allows us the time and focus to enter into the mystery of our faith that a worksheet, email or meeting cannot.
  - a. Fall Reconciliation retreat
  - b. Winter First Eucharist Parent/Child session
  - c. Spring First Eucharist student retreat

*We offer two dates for each retreat/session so we can accommodate everyone. Sign-ups for each will be sent in our Sacramental emails prior to the dates. If you are not receiving these emails after you register, please contact Karen Bersch at [berschk@lumenchristiparish.org](mailto:berschk@lumenchristiparish.org) or leave a message at 262-512-8983.*

**Baptismal Record** If your child was not baptized at Lumen Christi, please send a copy of his or her baptismal certificate to Karen Bersch by **October 1<sup>st</sup>**.

### Formation Registration

- Catholic Formation Families must register for formation through the CF registration open July 1<sup>st</sup>
- School Families are automatically included in Sacramental Preparation through their school registration. If your family is registered at another parish and are not preparing to receive the Sacraments here at Lumen Christi, please let Karen Bersch know.

### Sacramental Fee

- The sacrament fee for both sacraments is \$80 per child. This fee covers the cost of all three retreats and a special children's bible. This bible is used in both the school and Sunday formation classes in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and throughout the next few years. It is the foundation of their formation and for their assignments at home.
- Catholic Formation families are billed in addition to their Catholic Formation fees at the time of registration
- School Families will receive an invoice from Stacy Larrea in September/October.

## Important Dates

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**Parent Information Meeting | ATTEND ONE.** This meeting is for both school and CF parents; we will go over all of the details for the year.

- Sunday September 14      10:15-10:50am, School Cafetorium
- Tuesday September 9      5:30-6:00pm, St Cecilia Hall

**Fall Interview-** This family interview with Kate is an opportunity for her to get to know each child and their family, talk about the year together and receive the at-home Reconciliation family formation. A registration link will be sent out at the end of August/early September for a 20 minute time slot. Interviews will take place with a variety of time options

- Sept 15,16,18 (School Families)
- Sept 22, 23, 25 (Catholic Formation families)

## First Reconciliation

**First Reconciliation Retreat | ATTEND ONE.**

- Saturday October 18      9am-Noon, St. Cecilia Hall
- Saturday October 25      9am-Noon, St. Cecilia Hall

**About:** Registration for this retreat is done online and will be sent in a link at the same time as the interview schedule. This retreat is for both parent and child. We encourage both parents (whether Catholic or not) to attend the retreat alongside your child. The retreat will have a parent track and a child track with overlapping activities and discussions weaved throughout the morning. As the primary catechists of your children, the retreat is designed to help you feel equipped by building upon personal faith experiences, formation and preparing you to guide your child through this Sacramental year.

## Celebration of Sacrament of Reconciliation for children and families | CHOOSE ONE

A registration link for your preference date will be sent via email, so that we may know how many children to expect and how many priests we will need available.

- Thursday November 20 6:00pm, Church
- Wednesday December 3 6:00pm, Church

## First Eucharist

### First Eucharist Parent & Child Session | ATTEND ONE.

- Tuesday January 20 5:00-7:30pm, St. Cecilia Hall
- Friday January 23 5:00-7:30pm, St. Cecilia Hall

**About:** Registration for the family session is done online and will be sent in a link via email. A light meal will be provided. This family session is for both child and parent with rotating stations for parents to lead your child through. Parents will receive the banner for your child, the assignment packet and information about the First Eucharist rehearsals and Masses at this time as well.

### First Eucharist Retreat (student only) | ATTEND ONE.

- Friday March 13 5:00-7:30pm, St. Cecilia Hall
- Friday March 20 5:00-7:30pm, St. Cecilia Hall

**About:** Registration is done online and will be sent in a link via email. A light meal will be provided. This retreat is for your child and will reinforce the formation they have been receiving this year and allow intentional time to focus on Jesus' presence in the Eucharist. *Parents attend a meeting ½ hour before the end of the retreats prior to picking up your child.*

### First Eucharist Masses

The following are the four Masses for First Eucharist & the rehearsal date. A registration for the First Eucharist Mass will be sent out on Monday February 2nd at 7am. Spaces will be limited at each Mass.

#### First Eucharist Dates and Rehearsals:

Saturday, April 25 - 4:30pm Mass	(Rehearsal Wednesday, April 22 at 5:00pm in church)
Sunday, April 26 - 11:00am Mass	(Rehearsal Wednesday, April 22 at 6:30pm in church)
Saturday, May 2 - 4:30pm Mass	(Rehearsal Wednesday, April 29 at 5:00pm in church)
Sunday, May 3 - 11:00am Mass	(Rehearsal Wednesday, April 29 at 6:30pm in church)

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**Rehearsals for First Eucharist.** Attendance at the rehearsal for your child's First Eucharist Mass is mandatory. The rehearsal is approximately 40 minutes long. There will be 20 families at each of the Masses along with the congregation so there are important logistics we need to go over and practice for the benefit of both parishioners and the children making their First Eucharist. Please make certain you can attend the rehearsal for your Mass before you settle on a date. Thank you!

**Dress** – Traditionally the girls wear white dresses and some wear veils. Boys wear nice pants and a nice shirt with a tie or a suit but please do not let the clothing be a hardship on your family. What is most important is bringing a grateful and loving heart to the Lord when you receive Him.

**The First Communicants will receive both the body and blood of Christ through intinction.** Intinction is the Eucharistic practice of partly dipping the consecrated host, into the consecrated wine before consumption by the communicant. We will be practicing how to receive on the tongue with the children at the retreat and ask that you practice at home with your child the week before their special Mass. Parents will also be receiving through intinction.

**Students in Catholic Formation:** Sunday morning Catholic Formation is a critical part of your child's formation in preparing for both Sacraments. Students who miss class will be sent the missed work via email to be completed with a parent and turned in by the following class (either physically or digitally). Students who get behind in formation, may need to meet for additional formation with Kate Heinzman or may be delayed in receiving the Sacraments.

**A note for parents who are not Catholic:** We invite you & encourage you to participate in all of these formation opportunities with your child and family. You are welcome here! If you are interested in learning more about becoming Catholic yourself, please reach out to Meaghan Turner [turnerm@lumenchristiparish.org](mailto:turnerm@lumenchristiparish.org) for a conversation.

We look forward to working with you. Please contact our team with any questions or concerns. We pray that the Holy Spirit will bless us all with growth and strengthening of faith as we participate in this sacrament preparation.

In Christ's peace,

Kate Heinzman  
Child Ministry Coordinator  
[heinzmank@lumenchristiparish.org](mailto:heinzmank@lumenchristiparish.org)  
262-512-8984

Meaghan Turner  
Director of Catholic Formation  
[turnerm@lumenchristiparish.org](mailto:turnerm@lumenchristiparish.org)  
262-512-8985

Karen Bersch  
CF General Assistant  
[berschk@lumenchristiparish.org](mailto:berschk@lumenchristiparish.org)  
262-512-8983