

# Sacramental Preparation for 2025-2026

Hello everyone! Welcome to Sacramental Preparation for First Reconciliation and First Communion! Such an exciting year for our Second Graders and their families!

Sacramental Prep will predominantly occur in Faith Formation class during the school day on Tuesday mornings or during Religious Ed. classes on Wednesday afternoons. I will send updates on our preparation throughout the year so that you can participate in conversations with your child on the parables and presentations they will receive.

**First Reconciliation will be on Thursday, April 9th, 2026 in the church at 6:00 pm. The First Communion Mass will be on Saturday, April 11th, 2026 at 11:00 am in the Church.**

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (our Faith Formation program) has a very beautiful component to Sacramental Preparation that includes discernment, a letter of intent, parent involvement and a retreat. Early October, I will share with the children what Sacramental Preparation is all about and ask them to pray and ask Jesus to prepare their hearts and minds to fully receive Him in the Sacraments. Once the children have discerned they are ready, we will together write a letter of intent in which each child will sign that they are ready to begin the process of preparation. This is a beautiful step in the preparation process, it gives the children responsibility and asks them to share with their parents their journey through First Reconciliation and First Communion.

After Christmas the children will receive 3 meditations in class 3 weeks in a row and when they have had an opportunity to work with them, they will be asked to take them home and share them with you. I will have a discussion sheet for you so that you and your child can fully unpack each mediation.

We will also have a gathering on **Saturday, February 28th from 8:00-10:00 am**. We will meet in the **Friary** (the school lunch room) to make our banners and decorate our candles. We will also have a short presentation in which the students can share reflections with their parents. Banner making is a long tradition here at Blessed Sacrament and the banners are displayed at our First Communion Mass. The candles we decorate will also be used at our Retreat, First Reconciliation Service and our First Communion Mass.

This year we are going to combine the First Reconciliation Retreat and the First Communion Retreat into one day and half retreat. On **Thursday, April 9th** the students in

Sacramental Prep will gather at the school in the Atrium (room 21 of the school) at Noon. We will spend the afternoon working and preparing for our First Reconciliation at 6:00 pm. We will be preparing our hearts for Jesus and after a light supper will join our parents in the Church for our First Reconciliation Service.

After the Service the students will go home with their parents to return at the start of the next school day, **Friday, April 10th**. We will gather at 8:15 am again in the Atrium and spend the day in retreat for our First Communion on Saturday. We ask the parents to meet us at 4:30 pm in the Church for a quick 30 minute practice of the First Communion Mass. The First Communicants will leave with parents and arrive on Saturday morning at 10:30 for prayer and some quiet reflection/preparation for the First Communion Mass at 11:00 am.

The Retreat will mean that the Sacramental Prep students will miss a day and a half of regular classes to attend the Retreat at school. For the boys and girls not in Sacramental Preparation, they will have regular classes on Thursday afternoon and all day Friday.

I am very excited for this year's Sacramental Preparation. If you are Catholic and your child has been baptized Christian and you would like your child to prepare and receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion please go to our parish website and register your child under the Sacraments tab. We will have a parent meeting **Sunday, October 12th after the 8 am Mass at 9:15 in room 23** of the school ( off the Friary in the art room).

Have a blessed day,

*Peggie Hansen*

Director of Faith Formation