

St. Cecilia's Sacramental Preparation Guidelines



First Communion

Confirmation

2020-2021

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM GUIDELINES: First Communion, a 2 year program

All students intending to make First Communion must first receive the sacrament of **Reconciliation (Confession)**. **Students who are older than the second grade must take monthly “Special Communion classes” in addition to the weekly classes.** Please see below.

FIRST RECONCILIATION (Confession): Requirements

- Age for reception of the sacrament: general instruction is given in the 1st grade and proximate preparation takes place in the 2nd grade. In any event, 2 years of formation in faith is required for reception of the sacraments.
- **For all children** enrolling for the first time and are **in the 3rd grade or more**, the 2 year basic weekly formation is required, along with **additional monthly Communion classes** (called “Communion for Older Students)
- **Weekly attendance** at Sunday Mass is required of each child in sacramental preparation classes as in all classes.
- **Parents are expected to attend one parent workshop** and the scheduled parent meetings (see Parent Handbook).
- **Readiness:** The child must demonstrate an understanding and awareness of right and wrong, of forgiveness and know how to make a good confession, including the **recitation of an Act of Contrition**.

□ **DATES FOR FIRST RECONCILIATION:** *The following are mandatory sessions*

- ❖ **First Reconciliation Practice: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 TBD** *(Always the week of the Sacrament)*
- ❖ **First Reconciliation: Sunday, March 20, 2021 10am-12pm**
Children must be accompanied by an adult. The service will be followed by a reception afterward to celebrate this great sacrament.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:

The above requirements apply; in addition, the child must demonstrate an understanding that God the Father has given us the greatest gift, His Son, Jesus in the Eucharist to be our life and salvation; that Jesus changed bread and wine into His Body and Blood so as to be food for our souls. The child must know the requirements for a worthy reception of the Eucharist, and the basic parts of the Mass.

□ **Dates for First Communion Students:** *The following are mandatory sessions*

- ❖ **First Communion Retreat—Saturday, April 10, 2021 Time and Location TBD**
- ❖ **First Communion Practice: TBD (Always the week of the Sacrament) ~**
- ❖ **First Communion Masses**
 - Saturday, May 8, 2021- 5:00pm English
 - Sunday, May 16, 2021 - 10:30am English
 - Sunday, May 30, 2021 9:00 a.m. (Portuguese), 12 Noon (Spanish)

✦ **Special Communion Classes:** Students who did not make their First Communion in the 2nd grade receive Religious Education on Sundays in their current grade level, and receive ‘**Older Student Communion Classes**’ the first Sunday of each month, from 1:30 pm to 2:45 pm – via Zoom – Sunday, October 4, 2020- 1:30 p.m.; Classes: Nov. 1, Dec. 6, Jan. 10, Feb. 7, March 7, May 2, 2020

Confirmation: SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM GUIDELINES: a 4-year program:

Confirmation is celebrated in the **10th grade**. A minimum of two years of immediate preparation is required (following religious education from grades 1-8) before receiving Confirmation.

- Those young people who postpone Confirmation are invited to enter the **2 year high school program** of faith formation and youth ministry. Students will be required to take 2 years of weekly classes (**Sunday mornings from 8:45am-10am**) in addition to the monthly **Sacramental Preparation classes*** and the **Life Nights**. Mass participation is a must!
- **Service Hours:** Confirmation I candidates are required to do **25 hours of community service**. Confirmation II candidates are required to do **50 hours** of community service (**for a total of 75 hours**) before their Confirmation.
- The preparation and actual celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation are serious and joyful concerns of the entire parish community. Parishioners who attend any of the neighboring **Catholic schools are expected to participate in the Confirmation I and II program requirements** (including monthly sacramental preparation classes and Life Nights) **and to attend Mass every week and as stated above.**

Life Nights (Gatherings that are aimed to be both fun and challenge teens to go deeper in their relationship with God and to know more about their Catholic faith: “I have come that you might have life and have it more abundantly.” John 10:10

There are **mandatory life night meetings** for both Confirmation I and II students, Please call the office if there is an emergency in which a student cannot make a life night. **Please see the schedule for a list of dates and times.**

□ **Dates for students: 7th & 8th grade Confirmation ~**

LIFE NIGHT I Schedule: To be determined

True Love Waits: grades 7th & 8th -: \$25

□ **Dates & Requirements for Confirmation - High School Students**

***Sacramental Preparation Classes:** Students will attend Sunday afternoon classes once a month to discuss the Sacrament of Confirmation, and to learn about the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit which will be conferred upon them.

- ❖ **Sacramental Preparation Class Schedule:** 1st Sunday each month 1:30 pm to 2:45 pm via Zoom
 Oct 4, Nov. 1, Dec. 6, Jan. 10, Feb. 7, Mar 7, May 2,

- ❖ **LIFE NIGHT II Schedule:**

High School
students

To be scheduled

For those receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation THIS YEAR:

- 1) **Saint Report:** Each candidate is to research the life of a saint and write a report (**2 pages typed**) in **his or her own words**. This saint name will become the ‘Confirmation name’ under which the student is confirmed. Students may choose to use their own baptismal name, *if it is that of a saint*, and write a report about a saint with that name. The **report is due at the Confirmation Preparation class, Sunday, February 7, 2021**
- 2) **Sponsor:** Confirmation candidates choose a person to be their sponsor: this practicing Catholic should be 21 years old; someone other than a parent or step-parent, and **must submit a “Sponsor verification form”** which is a recommendation from their parish priest, stating that they have been baptized, confirmed, and attend Mass each week). **Due at the Sacramental Preparation Class on February 7, 2020.**
- 3) **Letter to the Bishop:** Each candidate will write a letter to the Bishop stating one’s intention to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation—**due at the Sacramental Preparation class on February 7, 2020.**
- 4) **Confirmation II Retreat:** TBD
- 5) **Confirmation II Interviews:** Each student will be given a 15 minute interview to demonstrate his or her knowledge, willingness and readiness to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. **TBD**
- 6) **Service Hours:** Confirmation I candidates are required to do **25 hours of community service**. Confirmation II candidates are required to do **50 hours** of community service (**for a total of 75 hours**) before their Confirmation.

- ❖ **Confirmation II Meeting with Sponsors:** Sunday, April 11 TBD

- ❖ **Confirmation: 2021 TBD Practice: TBD**

All dates are tentative; You will be advised of any subsequent changes in the calendar by note through the students.

Please check for any notices sent home weekly.

PARENTS MEETINGS FOR 2020-2021: (all parents are asked to **attend one workshop** Dates and times to be announced.)

All Parents – Sunday, October 11, 2020 via Zoom 1:30pm (English), 3pm (Spanish)

HS Confirmation –Sunday, October 25, 2020 via Zoom 1:30pm (English), 3pm (Spanish)

Confirmation HS2 – Sunday, April 11 , 2021-with students TBD

First Communion (2nd year) Wednesday, February 10, 2021 - TBD

First Communion (2nd year) – Sunday, April 18, 2021-TBD

Additional FEES: Confirmation II Retreat fee ; Confirmation I Retreat fee