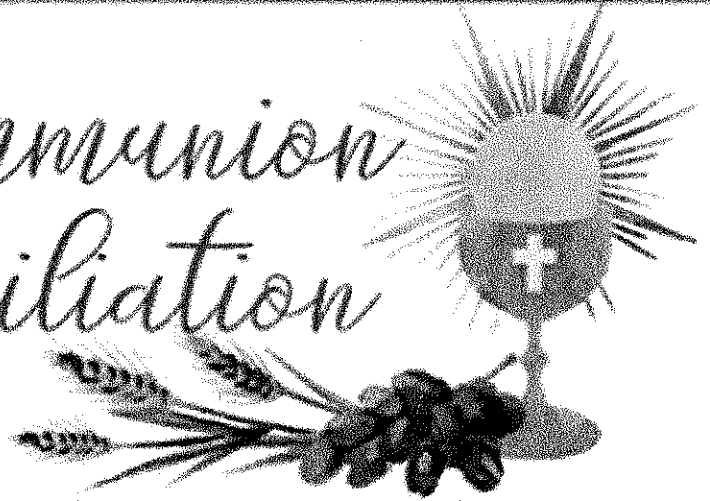


# Parent Meeting

First Communion  
& Reconciliation



First Reconciliation

week of March 10<sup>th</sup> during class time.

First Holy Communion

May 3rd, 2025

10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION**

We will be having a Required Mini Retreat on The Mass – A Life-Giving Prayer.  
We will walk through the parts of the Mass explaining every beautiful moment as we go.

**This is a Mandatory Event (for students & parents)**

**Saturday, March 1st from 10:00 – 12:00**

**First Holy Communion Rehearsal**

Children will meet in the social hall.

Parents will go to assigned seats in the Church.

**For First Holy Communions on May 3, 2025 @ 10:00 A.M.**

Monday – Mrs. Fiorile & Mr. Morea	Thursday April 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2025	6:00 pm
Tuesday – Mrs. Saglibene	Thursday April 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2025	6:00 pm
Saturday Communion Prep Class Mrs. Morales	Thursday April 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2025	6:00 pm

**For First Holy Communions on May 3, 2025 @ 1:00 P.M.**

Wednesday Mrs. Falcone & Mrs. O'Donnell	Thursday April 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2025	7:30pm
Thursday – Mrs. Boccasini	Thursday April 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2025	7:30pm

**First Holy Communion**

**Children arrive 30 minutes prior to scheduled Mass time.**

Children will meet in the social hall.

Parents will go to assigned seats in the Church.

**For First Holy Communions on May 3, 2025 @ 10:00 A.M.**

Monday – Mrs. Fiorile & Mr. Morea	Saturday May 3, 2025	9:30 am
Tuesday – Mrs. Saglibene	Saturday May 3, 2025	9:30am
Saturday Communion Prep Class Mrs. Morales	Saturday May 3, 2025	9:30am

**For First Holy Communions on May 3, 2025 @ 1:00 P.M.**

Wednesday Mrs. Falcone & Mrs. O'Donnell	Saturday May 3, 2025	12:30 pm
Thursday – Mrs. Boccasini	Saturday May 3, 2025	12:30pm

## PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR FIRST RECONCILIATION

Over the next 7 weeks we will ask you to watch with your child 1 episode per week (they are only 2-3 minutes long) of the Signs of Grace – You are Forgiven series on Formed. After watching it, speak with your child about it and have them (with your help) write 3-5 sentences explaining what they learned from it and draw a picture. 😊.

**Have them hand this into their Catechist.**

### SIGNS OF GRACE: YOU ARE FORGIVEN

EPISODE 1 ~ God Wants You to Be Happy.	DUE: Week of Jan 20th
EPISODE 2 ~ Rules Aren't Bad.	DUE: Week of Jan 27th
EPISODE 3 ~ Jesus- The Greatest Superhero	DUE: Week of Feb 3rd
EPISODE 4 ~ The Sacraments – God is here with us!	DUE: Week of February 10th
EPISODE 5 ~ Choosing What is Right.	DUE: Week of Feb 17th (via email)
EPISODE 6 ~ God's Awesome Gift	DUE: Week of Feb 24th
EPISODE 7 ~ For Children: How to Make a Great Confession	DUE: Week of March 3rd

### **TO SIGN IN TO FORMED GO TO**

FORMED.ORG

Hit the button SIGN UP

Hit the button SIGN UP AS PARISHIONER

IN THE SEARCH BAR "FIND YOUR PARISH" TYPE Holy Innocents  
(they'll be a drop and you'll see our parish address Holy Innocents 431 Bedford Rd.)

Highlight and click that button.

They will then ask you to create a new account.

Type in your name, email, then hit the SIGN-UP button and you are all set!!

Also, on Formed there is a great video on preparing your child for First Confession.  
Scroll down again to The Sacraments and click on the Forgiven link.

<https://watch.formed.org/forgiven/season:1/videos/for-parents-preparing-your-child-for-first-confession>

This video is broken down into several segments. You can tackle it however you'd like. A few at a time or the whole 45 mins at once! It just gives a perspective that could help you in preparing your children and your whole family.

## HELPING YOUR CHILD PREPARE FOR FIRST RECONCILIATION

How can we help our children get comfortable with this “thought to be” scary Sacrament?

First, let’s remember, it might not seem scary to them. Maybe that’s our old feelings coming up. So, the way we talk about it will be how they see it. Let’s talk about it as the beautiful Gift that it is.

### Here are some ideas for you!!

1. **Why not show them it’s not!** How about sometime between now, and them making their First Reconciliation, you make a little family trip to Church on a Saturday or Sunday before Mass or a Tuesday Evening during Adoration, so that you (and dare I say... the rest of your family), receive the Sacrament yourself. This is perfect timing with Lent coming upon us! Let’s prepare our hearts again... we just prepared them for His coming at Christmas, and now we prepare our hearts for His sacrifice during Lent! You can all sit in Church together. You can even have your child/family sit in the pew near Mother Mary while you are in the confessional, your child can be praying in front of Mother Mary. We ALL know the POWER in teaching by example! Let them see, it’s important to YOU! Showing your child that you can take the time to go to confession makes a deeper and longer-lasting impression than anything else you or we may say or do! Perhaps a trip to get ice cream afterwards is a good idea. 😊
2. **Watch the 7 Video’s on Formed Signs of Grace – You are Forgiven.**  
1 per week – hand in “God-Work”. The breakdown and due dates are in this packet.
3. **Pray with and for your child, asking God to prepare him or her for this great Sacrament.** Remember, through prayer, we join in an intimate conversation with God. We ask Him to open our hearts to Him, show Him our weaknesses, and ask for His infinitely merciful forgiveness. There’s a good chance they’ll receive prayer as their penance so take some time to sit with your child and not only ensure they “know” their prayers but that they know them in their hearts. Prayers are so beautiful when you really crack them open from the heart!
  - A. **Pray the Lord’s Prayer** ~ Fr. Luke reminded us once at a mini retreat, when we pray the Our Father during Mass and get to the part where we say...*Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven...* it’s the closest we ever get to that reality on this side of heaven... I find that so comforting. When you pray it with your child, talk about forgiveness. You may consider pausing as you pray after saying, “Forgive us our trespasses.” Think about forgiving yourselves. Then continue praying, “as we forgive those who trespass against us.” Pause here to give children a moment to think about that, saying out loud your willingness to look around and say, “Yes, I forgive you.” Here are some questions you can talk about as a family after you pray the prayer.
    - a. Is there someone today that I need to ask to forgive me?
    - b. How can I be more loving to someone who has hurt me?
    - c. When did I neglect to make a loving choice?
    - d. What can I do about that now or in the future?
  - 3B. When you **Pray the Hail Mary**, remind them she is OUR Mother too! And like a good mama, she wants to help us. She takes us by the hand and leads us to her Son because she knows how much He loves us and wants us! We ask her for protection and guidance, and she gives it to us!
  - 3C. When you **Pray the Glory Be** - remind them of the great mystery of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and how each person of the trinity helps us and guides us in different ways!

**3D. Make a big deal out of the first prayer they learned! Amen** The sign of the Cross!

It is the shortest, most beautiful, and powerful prayer! When we say *In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*, we are calling upon God's name! That's pretty powerful! And when we say *Amen*, we are saying YES! WE BELIEVE!

There's a Catholic Author and Speaker, Dr. Edward Sri who explains it is as...

We are invoking His Presence into our lives ... and by "marking" ourselves we are receiving His protection. That's a paraphrase!! You should look him up. The book is called *A Scriptural Walk Through the Mass* (you can also access this on Formed). He reminds us that it's not only a Priest who can bless us and encourages us to place the sign of the cross on our children's foreheads daily asking God for protection. So, start doing this! 😊

3E. Together, you can **Pray the Act of Contrition and the Prayer to YOUR/their Guardian Angel** to help them make good choices and be ready to receive God's mercy.

**4. BRING CHILDREN TO ADORATION**

**WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO BRING YOUR CHILDREN TO ADORATION!**

What better way to prepare them to receive our Lord!! To sit in front of The Real Presence of Jesus!

It's a way for them to appreciate Who it is they will be receiving on their special day!

A quiet time for them to "talk to Him" and prepare their hearts for Him! Start small!

Go for 15 minutes. We have Adoration every Tuesday Evening at 7:00 p.m.

Coming at the beginning or the end is beautiful – they get to see what happens!

We also have on the First Friday of every month The First Friday Devotion – to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Adoration is from 1-6 ending with a Candlelit Mass.

(You could bring them after school for 10-15 minutes OR come closer to the end and stay for Mass!!) Here's a few tips for you.

**5 tips to go to Adoration with children**

- Tell children about going on a special visit to Jesus.**  
Let them know they can talk to him!
- Bring faith-related books.**  
Bibles, saint stories, and journals can help inspire prayer time in Adoration.
- Pack pens, pencils, and coloring pages.**  
Little ones can color pictures of saints and Jesus while you pray.
- High hopes, low expectations.**  
Remind yourself that Jesus delights in your children! Keep expectations low and give yourself and your kids grace if they're a little noisy.
- Go!**  
Encourage littles to say "Hi, Jesus!", and pray a favorite prayer together with all ages. Your time—even if short—is well-spent!

[www.somedaysaints.com](http://www.somedaysaints.com)

There is a very special event coming up... On **Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>** we are blessed with the **celebration of Candlemas** (In the "old" days, this would end our Christmas Season - the presentation of our Lord).

In Fr. Luke's words... We have a special opportunity to draw close to the Lord as we celebrate The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord when the infant Jesus was brought to the Temple. When Simeon saw Him, he announced that He would be a "light for all nations." Because of this prophecy, this Feast is always connected to candles and to light. On this day, therefore, come to the church and light a candle anytime between 12pm and 5:00. We will have special candles available for you to light in the sanctuary of the church and special prayer cards (*see the text below*).

Candlemas will end with our 5:15 Mass. You are welcome to bring your own candles from home so that they can be blessed at the beginning of the Mass. You may place your candles on the provided table before Mass begins to have them blessed.

***Truly, Jesus in the Eucharist is our "true light" which illuminates even the deepest darkness.***

*Here's the prayer if you just stop in church after school to light a candle!*

***Candle-Lighting Prayer:***

Lord may this candle be a light for You to enlighten me in my difficulties and decisions.

May it be a fire for You to burn out of me all pride, selfishness, and impurity.

May it be a flame for You to bring warmth into my heart for my family, neighbors, and all those who meet me.

Through the prayers of Mary, Virgin and Mother, I place in Your care all those I come to remember.

I cannot stay long with you here, but in leaving this candle, I wish to give You myself.

Jesus, I trust in You, and I love You.

**5. Don't just let it be about Confession. Let it be about CELEBRATION!!**

**They're receiving ANOTHER Sacrament!** Celebrate their 1<sup>st</sup> Sacrament. Have a "Baptism Party" beforehand. It's better than a birthday party! They became a Child of God on THAT day! Deck the halls, pull out the pictures of their baptism, light their baptismal candle, and invite their Godparents. Minimally, ask them to write your child a letter of encouragement, as they get closer to receiving this Sacrament. Make it extra special as they prepare for their next important Sacrament! We can't encourage you enough to make this day of their Reconciliation special for them!! Don't forget, this is their 2<sup>nd</sup> Sacrament they are receiving... and most likely the 1<sup>st</sup> that they'll remember! Make the day special! Have them dress up for their special day! And do something special with them afterwards... perhaps their favorite meal at home or out to a special place! Invite their godparents, grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, to come to this special day! And have their baptismal pictures/certificates out for them to see! We celebrate so many things in their lives in special ways... let this be the MOST special! 🌟

## How Can I Help My Child Prepare for the Eucharist?

The most important thing you can do to help your child prepare for the Sacrament of Eucharist is to know, love and receive the Sacrament yourself. The whole purpose of Eucharist is for your child to grow in his or her relationship with Jesus Christ. All the Sacraments have this as their purpose. You can help by being a good witness to your child. If you have not gone to Mass in a long time, the simplest way to remedy the situation is to start going again (be sure to go to Reconciliation before receiving Eucharist again). If you don't know exactly what to do, approach a priest and explain the situation. If children see that their parents have a strong connection with their church and take their faith seriously, they will naturally follow.

We must say... it's been so lovely seeing the children attending Mass! Lovely celebrating Mass together as a Class and their reflections have JUST been wonderful! This is the MOST important thing you can do for your child! Bringing them to HIM... can only grow into a beautiful relationship between them and GOD.

Spend time together at Adoration! Show them how important it is to sit in front of Jesus and just PRAY!

The second most important thing you can do to help your child with this Sacrament is to take time to talk to them and teach them. Explain in your own words what the Sacrament of Eucharist is. Then ask them how they understand the Sacrament. Help them to learn the responses at Mass. Practice together.

And third, pray for them during their preparation. Here is a prayer for you to pray.

### FIRST COMMUNION PARENT PRAYER

Lord, give us the wisdom and the courage to help our children as You would  
to develop in them a Christ-like love for all people...

To nurture in them a desire to give and not simply to take...

To teach them to be doers of Your Holy Word.

Guide us in our parental responsibilities.

Strengthen our love as a family so that we may work together  
in coming closer to You.

May we be the expression of Your love to our children  
so that each day will be as today...

Your love received and shared... to help us be one in the Body of Christ.

Amen

**To understand Mass more intimately, go to FORMED and search for  
Dr. Edward Sri - A Scriptural Walk Through The Mass**

**Embrace every moment of this time with your child & may God Bless you!**

Crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Sunday ~ May 11, 2025 at the 11:00 Mass

We will begin with Rosary at 10:35  
led by our First Holy Communicants.

The crowning ceremony will immediately follow Mass.

We will have a procession after Mass,  
sing, bring roses to and crown our outside statue  
of Our Sweet Mother Mary



*First Holy Communicants are invited  
to wear their Communion attire.*