

First Reconciliation & First Eucharist

2026-2027

St. Catherine Parish & St. Sebastian Parish



- Process Details
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Sacramental Preparation

The preparation for Reconciliation and Eucharist (often called First Communion) is family-centered and shared between St. Catherine and St. Sebastian parishes. We invite children who have completed at least one year of Faith Formation, either through our parish schools or faith formation programs, to begin the formal process of preparing for Reconciliation and then Eucharist.

The sacramental process has three major elements:

1. **Family involvement-** parental expectations of lessons done at home as guided, modeling faith traditions and fruitful prayer habits.
2. **Community involvement-** participation in parish activities, specific to sacramental preparation and family formation.
3. **Catechesis-** formal lessons from both sacramental preparation and formation through school or parish.

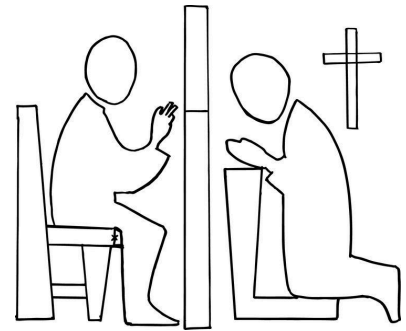
Family involvement is integral to sacramental preparation at this age especially. Parents have an essential part in the preparation of children for these two sacraments. We are requiring that parents discern the ability to do the following things so that their children can best prepare to receive these two sacraments.

- Make regular participation in parish liturgy and sacraments part of their family life.
- Model faith and religious practice for their children, in home and within community.
- Assist in the activities and lessons related to the sacraments.
- Help determine whether their child is ready to participate fully in the sacramental life of the Church.

First Reconciliation Preparation – Fall 2026

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a blessing and gift of God's peace. As sons and daughters of a loving God, we are all invited to celebrate the healing grace that is offered through this sacrament.

Reconciliation is a powerful example of God's presence in our lives. Jesus taught us through parables such as the Good Shepherd and the Prodigal Son that God longs for our presence and is always waiting for and welcoming us when we lose sight of God's way.

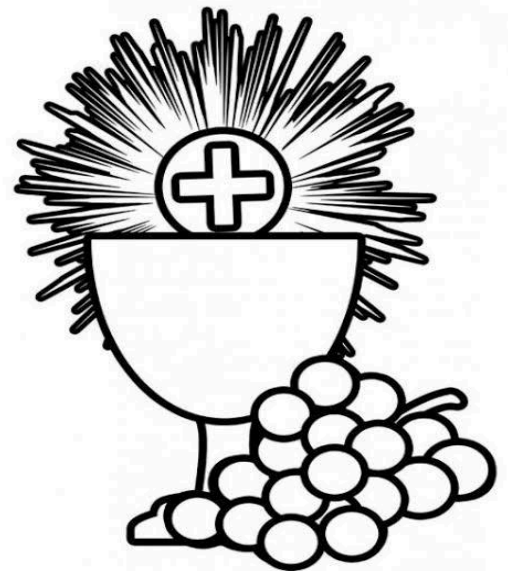


The Sacrament of Reconciliation grows out of the act of communal reconciliation we practice each Sunday at Mass. In this sacrament we come to God with the knowledge that we sin, that our sin hurts our community and ourselves, and that God is anxious to forgive and heal any broken bonds. Our emphasis on the family's role in reconciliation grows out of the reality that it is within the home that most of us learn to love, to forgive, and to be forgiven.

First Eucharist Preparation – Spring 2027

The celebration of Eucharist is at the heart of who we are and what we believe as Catholics. Eucharist teaches us who we are and what we should become. The process through which our children come to the Table and partake in the Body and Blood of Christ is both a parish and family celebration. This "food for the journey" unites us in many ways with Christ and those who share our faith. The Sacrament of Eucharist is an intimate communion with Christ and with those who share our table. It is also a sign for us that we are all servants to one another.

Children who celebrate this sacrament are most often in 2nd grade and are at least seven years old. The parish communities of St. Catherine and St. Sebastian invites children who have completed at least one year of faith formation, either in the parish schools or a faith formation program, and who have celebrated Reconciliation, to begin preparation for First Eucharist.



*It is the policy of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee that children preparing for First Eucharist must first prepare for and celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Registration for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist

[CLICK HERE to complete the registration form.](#)

There are multiple steps on the registration form. You will need to complete registration for a parent or guardian first, then add each child. You may register for all Faith Formation & Sacramental Prep programs at once, on the same form.

The fee for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist sacramental preparation together is \$100. That includes the purchase of two books and a lunch at our spring retreat. You will be prompted to pay this fee when registering your child(ren). We do not want any family, who is unable to pay the fee, not to register. Please speak with Father Peter Patrick or any member of the formation team, if your family needs options regarding the fee.

Registration will prompt you to provide baptism information for your child.

★ If your child was baptized at St. Sebastian or St. Catherine, we can verify it internally.
★ If your child was baptized at any other parish, please attach a copy of the Baptismal Certificate in the registration form or send a scanned copy via email to mlee@saintsebs.org.

❖ If you need assistance with registration, please contact Patrick Schley at pschley@saintsebs.org or 414.453.1061 x149.

We ask that families in the sacramental preparation programs to

- Participate in the family formation events. These are opportunities for parents and children to learn together, for families to build community at the parishes and for parents to model faithfulness for their children. Those events are included in this packet.
- Participate in Sunday Mass regularly as a family.
- Participate in faith formation in either our parish Catholic schools or a faith formation program. *If your child is not enrolled in school at a catholic school, they must also attend Sunday school. They should have attended no less than one prior year of parish formation.*
- Attend both orientation sessions (Fall and Spring).
- As a family, work through the sacramental preparation books and complete the review pages as outlined in the at home schedule. This will be given out at the orientation along with the book.
- Attend the Parent/Guardian & Child sessions together. These are family events and so siblings are welcome to attend.

Family Formation Events- please plan to attend at least 3 of the 5 offered

Tuesday, September 22 ~ Domestic Church in Action ~ @ St. Catherine from 5-7 pm

Saturday, December 19th ~ Family Game Night ~ @ St. Sebastian from 4-7 pm

Ash Wednesday, February 10th ~ Mercy & Families ~ @ St. Sebastian from 4-6 pm

Palm Sunday, March 21st ~ Holy Week ~ @ St. Catherine from 11:30 am - 1 pm

Tuesday, May 4th ~ The 12 Disciples ~ @ St. Sebastian from 5-7 pm

2026 – 2027 Reconciliation & Eucharist Schedule

(All events held at St. Sebastian unless noted)

First Reconciliation Preparation: Meetings for Children and Parents/Guardians:

Orientation

Sunday, September 27 (9 a.m.) or Tuesday, September 29 (6 p.m.)

Formation Session

Sunday, October 25 (9 a.m.) or Tuesday, October 27 (6 p.m.)

Reconciliation Retreat & Mass

Sunday, November 22 (8 a.m. – 11 a.m.) at St. Catherine

Reconciliation Service

Saturday, December 12 (10 a.m. at St. Catherine Parish) OR
Wednesday, December 16 (6 p.m. at St. Sebastian Parish)

First Eucharist Preparation: Meetings for Children and Parents/Guardians

Orientation

Sunday, January 24 (9 a.m.) or Tuesday, January 26 (6 p.m.)

Formation Session I

Sunday, February 28 (9 a.m.) or Tuesday, March 2 (6 p.m.)

Formation Session II

Sunday, March 14 (9 a.m.) or Tuesday, March 16 (6 p.m.)

First Eucharist Retreat

Saturday, April 10 (9 a.m. – 12:30 a.m.)

First Eucharist Liturgies

Sunday, April 25 (9 a.m. at St. Catherine Parish) or
Sunday, May 2 (10:30 a.m. at St. Sebastian Parish)

For ongoing updates, stay connected to www.saintsebs.org and our Facebook page.
If you have any questions, please contact Margaret Lee (Director of Christian Formation) at mlee@saintsebs.org or by cell phone (414) 998-4785.