

First Reconciliation & First Eucharist



St. Catherine Parish
St. Sebastian Parish
2025 - 2026

Updated July 28, 2025

- Process Details
- Schedules
- Registration Form

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. Lessons and example **learned at home** within the family,
2. Activities and lessons **shared with other families** preparing to celebrate the sacraments, and
3. **Formal lessons** related to the sacraments which are part of the parish or school faith formation programs.

Family involvement is integral to sacramental preparation. Parents and families have an essential part in the preparation of children for sacraments:

- They make regular participation in parish liturgy and sacraments part of their family life.
- They model faith and religious practice for their children.
- They assist in the activities and lessons related to sacraments.
- They help determine whether their child is ready to participate fully in the sacramental life of the Church.

First Reconciliation Preparation – Fall 2025

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 2026

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 invite 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

Families who wish to have their children celebrate Reconciliation and Eucharist are asked to follow these steps:

- **Complete the Reconciliation and Eucharist registration.**
 - ★ Sunday Faith Formation & Sacramental Preparation ([click HERE to register](#)) **OR**
 - ★ Sacramental Preparation only ([click HERE to register](#)), if attending a parish day school
 - ★ 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.
 - ★ If you need assistance with registration, please contact Patrick Schley at pschley@saintsebs.org or 414.453.1061 x149.
 - ★ *N.B.: There is no cost to receive any of the Sacraments. The parishes do ask that families cover the fees for materials, administrative costs, etc. We do not keep children from Faith Formation due to financial needs. If you have a financial concern, please contact Joe Sheehan (jsheehan@saintsebs.org) about options and scholarships.*
- Participate in Sunday Mass regularly as a family.
- Participate in faith formation in either our parish Catholic schools or a faith formation program.
- Attend the two orientation sessions (Fall and Spring), at which all materials will be distributed.
- As a family, work through the sacramental preparation book and complete the review pages.
- Attend the Parent/Guardian & Child programs together.

2025 – 2026 Reconciliation and Eucharist Preparation

St. Sebastian & St. Catherine Parishes

(All events held at St. Sebastian unless noted)

First Reconciliation Preparation:

Meetings for Children and Parents/Guardians

Orientation

Sunday, September 28 (9 a.m.) or Tuesday, September 30 (6 p.m.)

Formation Session

Sunday, October 26 (9 a.m.) or Tuesday, October 28 (6 p.m.)

Reconciliation Retreat & Mass

Sunday, November 23 (8 a.m. – 11 a.m.) at St. Catherine

Reconciliation Service

Tuesday, December 9 (6 p.m. at St. Sebastian Parish) or
Saturday, December TBD (at St. Catherine Parish)



First Eucharist Preparation:

Meetings for Children and Parents/Guardians

Orientation

Sunday, January 11 (9 a.m.) or Tuesday, January 13 (6 p.m.)

Formation Session

Sunday, February 8 (9 a.m.) or Tuesday, February 10 (6 p.m.)

Formation Session

Sunday, March 8 (9 a.m.) or Tuesday, March 10 (6 p.m.)

First Eucharist Retreat

Sunday, March 22 (8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)

First Eucharist Liturgies

Sunday, April 26 (9 a.m. at St. Catherine Parish) or
Sunday, May 3 (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 Joe Sheehan (Child Sacramental Minister) at jsheehan@saintsebs.org.