

Sacramental Preparation Parent Process

Dear Parents and Guardians—primary and most important teachers who hand on the Catholic faith to our precious children, and great GIFT to our entire community.

WELCOME HOME! *These simple words of greeting, spoken sincerely and from the heart, express so much about who we are and what we strive for as a parish—a family of faith and love, the family of God. Nothing enables that to happen more profoundly than the celebration of the sacraments. Preparing for our children’s first celebration of Reconciliation and Eucharist is truly one of the most important things we do. However, the most meaningful part of preparing for these sacraments is not just their first celebration, but the life they introduce us to and the on-going and regular celebration of these sacraments as we all continue growing as a family in faith. Without your commitment to making these sacraments a priority in your family faith life, and guiding our children by example, the first receptions are reduced tremendously in their meaning and priority in the life we are called to by our Baptism. The Church invites all of us to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation on a regular basis (our parish offers three communal celebrations each year), and we clearly teach the children that it is our obligation to celebrate Mass each and every Sunday and Holy Day.*

*Our sacramental team will do everything we can to help you fulfill your responsibility as parents and the promise you made at your child’s baptism. We rely on you to make these special sacraments a regular and growing part of their faith lives. May this “sacramental preparation year” be the beginning of a deeper and more fruitful life in Christ, and may God continue to bless you and your family with His love, and always enable you to experience the true meaning of **Welcome Home**. Let us all, **RECOMMIT TO SUNDAYS**, and always remember that **You are the Gift we need**.*

*In God’s love,
Fr. Fred*

Welcome to the Formation Process for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the formation process for your child as they begin to deepen their relationship with the Lord and Savior who is present in the Bread and the Wine of the Eucharist.

Our hope is that as you help your child to prepare for the sacraments, you and your family will rediscover the importance and joy of receiving the *Sacrament of Reconciliation* on a regular basis and participate in the weekly celebration of the *Eucharist* on a weekly basis.

As you experience the excitement of your child as they prepare to receive the sacraments of *First Reconciliation* and *First Eucharist*, we hope that you will reflect on the meaning of each sacrament.

As we reflect on the meaning of the sacraments, our faith deepens as we encounter our Lord and Savior on a new level.

Know that you and your family are in our prayers. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 440-352-8282 ext 105 or bgrgic@st-gabriel.org.

Peace,

Deacon Bob Grgic
Sacramental Coordinator

Meet the Sacramental Team

St. Gabriel Parish is blessed with people who are committed to sharing the *Good News* with your child and with your family. The Team is comprised of individuals who have chosen to answer the call and who work collaboratively with you. As we journey together, we hand on to our children the sacred gift of God's love through the sacraments that have been given to us.

Tina DiFiore, Julie Eckertson, Alicia Henrikson, Amy Holmes, Christina Jones, Laura Keverline, Theresa Schrembeck, Ann Ulrich, and Rosemary Varga, share their gifts by serving as teachers and catechists who work directly with your children in their faith preparation.

Fr. Fred Pausche, our pastor, *Fr. Andy Gonzalez*, and *Fr. Edward Janoch*, Parochial Vicars, and *Maureen Dowd* our pastoral associate, along with *Deacon Bob Grgic* our sacramental coordinator, work collaboratively with these individuals in planning and implementing the sacramental program throughout the year.

Together, with the support and leadership of *Robert Kumazec*, our Day School Principal, *Regina Skrtic*, our PSR Principal, and *Alicia Henrikson*, our Good Shepherd Coordinator, we work together to help our families prepare for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

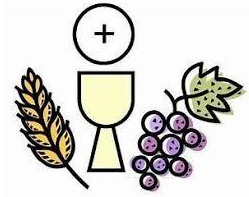
Karen Jubeck shares her gifts by serving as our sacramental secretary who oversees the details of our entire year.

Supporting their roles are *Kevin and Kelly Donahue, Martha Dunford*, our entire pastoral staff, and many volunteers who share their gifts and enable our parish community to celebrate these sacred occasions so well.

Key Components of the Journey

- The journey on **Monday, September 11** or **Wednesday, September 20**. This gathering sets the stage for the sacramental year and is **mandatory** for all parents to attend if you wish to have your child celebrate the sacraments this year. (Attend only ONE September Date).
- Sacramental Preparation meetings for **Parents only** are scheduled for **Monday, October 2** or **Wednesday, October 11, and Monday, November 6** or **Wednesday, November 8** (attend only ONE October and ONE November date).
- **Sacramental Parent Conferences** provide an opportunity for our parish priests/deacons to connect with you and to answer any questions you may have. Sign-ups will begin towards the end of September/beginning of October.
- Our **Reconciliation Retreat is on January 6**, where **both parent and child** will participate in a session filled with activities that will help us all better prepare for God's Gifts of love and forgiveness. We meet in the Church and attendance is mandatory.
- **Celebration of First Reconciliation is scheduled for Saturday, January 20** at 10 AM or 12 PM. or **February 3, 10 AM or 12 PM**. You attend only one date.
- Our **First Eucharist Retreat is scheduled for April 20** in the Church. This is also mandatory for parent and communicant.
- **Our journey for the year culminates with the celebration of the Sacrament of First Eucharist** on the following dates: **April 27/April 28, May 4/5, May 11/12, May 18/19** at the weekend Mass times. You will be able to choose your date and Mass time via sign- up Genius.
- **The Catholic Prayer of the Month**
Each Month you will be asked to pray one of the Catholic Prayers that we will focus on for the month. The prayers can be found on the *Prayer Cards*.
This Month the Catholic Prayer is the *Prayer Before Meals*. Please pray this prayer before your meals with your child.
- **Parent Video**
Parents will receive a video link each month. Please watch before the parent meeting for the month.

2023-2024 SACRAMENTAL CALENDAR



- Sept 11 (Mon) Parents Only (Church) – 6:15-7:15 PM (God gives us His Son)
OR
Sept 20 (Wed) Parents Only (Church) – 6:15-7:15 PM (God gives us His Son)
- Oct 2 (Mon) Parents Only (Church) – 6:15-7:15 PM (Baptism Dying and Rising with Jesus)
OR
Oct 11 (Wed) Parents Only (Church) – 6:15-7:15 PM (Baptism Dying and Rising with Jesus)
- Nov 6 (Mon) Parents Only Meeting–(Church)– 6:15-7:15 PM (Why do Catholics go to Confession?)
OR
Nov 8 (Wed) Parents Only Meeting–(Church) 6:15-7:15 PM (Why do Catholics go to Confession?)
- Jan 6 (Sat AM) Reconciliation Retreat – (Church) Parent and Child (limit 60 families per session)
9:30 AM – 11:45 AM
OR
Jan 6 (Sat PM) Reconciliation Retreat – (Church) Parent and Child (limit 60 families per session)
12:30 PM – 2:45 PM
- Jan 20 (Sat AM) First Reconciliation (Church) - 10:00 AM Parent and Child (limit 30 families)
OR
Jan 20 (Sat PM) First Reconciliation (Church) - 12:00 PM Parent and Child (limit 30 families)
OR
Feb 3 (Sat AM) First Reconciliation (Church) – 10:00 AM Parent and Child (limit 30 families)
OR
Feb 3 (Sat PM) First Reconciliation (Church) - 12:00 PM Parent and Child (limit 30 families)
- April 13 (Sat AM) 1:00 – 3:00 PM Pictures in the Church (Parents can schedule time via Sign-up Genius if desired)
- April 20 (Sat AM) First Eucharist Retreat – (Church) - 9:30 AM – 11:45 AM (limit 60 families each session)
OR
April 20 (Sat PM) First Eucharist Retreat – (Church) - 12:30 PM – 2:45 PM (limit 60 families each session)

**First Eucharist will be celebrated at weekend liturgies:
April 27/April 28, May 4/5, May 11/12, May 18/19**

Sign-up for all meetings, retreats, and sacraments will be via Sign-up Genius