

First Reconciliation~First Communion Dates and Activities Checklist

Dear Parents, you are the example your children will follow. Therefore, we encourage you to pray with your children, attend Mass frequently, help them with the activities on the list below, and please attend the scheduled meetings and events throughout the course of the year. All have been planned to aid your children as they grow in faith and prepare for their sacraments.

Since the children of the parish and the elementary school will be celebrating the sacraments together, they will be divided into two sessions, generally broken down alphabetically by their last name.

	<p>Register for First Reconciliation/First Eucharist (Religious Education students and Saint James students are required to register. If your child was not baptized at St. James, a copy of his or her baptismal certificate is required at the time of registration.)</p>	<p>Registration opens October 1, 2024.</p>
	<p>First Reconciliation Parent Formation Meeting 7:00 pm to 8:00pm RBC Meeting Room <i>Designed to help parents understand more fully the meaning of reconciliation, and the details of the program. Children do not need to attend. Two dates have been provided. Parents only need to attend one meeting</i></p>	<p>(Session 1) Wednesday, Oct. 23rd (Session 2) Wednesday, Oct. 30th</p>
	<p>Last day for First Reconciliation-First Eucharist Registration</p>	<p>November 1st</p>
	<p>First Reconciliation Practice St. James Church <i>Please practice the examination of conscience and the Act of Contrition with your children before First Reconciliation</i></p>	<p>Thursday, Nov. 14th Session 1-4:00pm Session 2- 5:00pm</p>
	<p>First Reconciliation St. James Church</p>	<p>Saturday, Nov. 16th Session 1- 9:30am Session 2- 11:00am</p>
	<p>First Communion Parent Formation Meeting 7:00pm to 8:00pm RBC Meeting Room <i>Designed to help parents understand more fully the Holy Eucharist as the source and summit of our faith. Children do not need to attend. Two dates have been provided. Parents only need to attend one meeting</i> First Communion Banner kits will be distributed</p>	<p>(Session 1) Wednesday, Jan. 8th (Session 2) Wednesday, Jan. 15th</p>
	<p>"Acts of Random Kindness" Worksheets due</p>	<p>Sunday, Feb. 16th</p>
	<p>Parish Family Penance Service Saint James Church: 9:30am to 10:30am Families with children in grades 2 through 8 are encouraged to attend NO REP on Sunday, March 9th</p>	<p>Saturday, March 8th</p>
	<p>First Communion Children's Retreat 9:30am-11:30am St. James Cafeteria <i>First Communion children and their parents are expected to attend</i> FIRST COMMUNION BANNERS TO BE TURNED IN AT THE RETREAT</p>	<p>Saturday, April 12th</p>
	<p>First Communion Practice St. James Church Session 1: 4:00pm Session 2: 5:00pm</p>	<p>Thurs, May 1st</p>
	<p>First Communion St. James Church Session 1: 9:30am Session 2: 11:30am</p>	<p>Saturday, May 3rd</p>

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PARENT/GUARDIAN WORKSHOPS

In order to aid parent(s)/guardian(s) as the primary teachers of the child, there will be scheduled parent meetings for those parents who have children registered in Grade 2 (Sacraments of Reconciliation (Penance) and First Holy Communion) and Grade 8 (Sacrament of Confirmation). The schedule for these workshops can be found in the REP Calendar.

These workshops are designed for the parent(s)/guardian(s) to increase their knowledge of the individual sacrament and to give information on how to assist their child in preparing for the sacraments. Important information regarding the theology of the sacrament, as well as guidelines and necessary forms, will be given during these workshops. ***At least one parent or guardian is expected to attend each workshop given prior to the child's reception of each sacrament.***

THE LITURGICAL LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

The Mass, the Eucharistic celebration, is the source and summit of our Catholic faith.

Regular family Mass attendance reinforces and puts into practice the faith and formal instruction presented in the classroom.

Religious Education classes are not meant to be a substitute for attendance at Mass.

The St. James Mass schedule found in the Parish bulletin offers ample opportunity for families to celebrate the Eucharist before or after the class meeting schedule.

In addition to the regular Mass schedule, there are many other opportunities to practice our faith such as Adoration and praying the Stations of the Cross during Lent.

We also encourage parent(s)/guardian(s) to provide opportunities for their child to *frequent the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation once they have received this sacrament for the first time. To assist families in this endeavor, a Family Penance Service is scheduled in the spring. Please check the REP Calendar for the specific date.*