

First Communion & Reconciliation Preparation

2021-2022



Sacrament Preparation - First Holy Communion & Reconciliation

The Sacrament Preparation process at St. Pius X Parish includes four primary areas:

- Faith Formation
- Required Parent/Child Retreats
- Parent's Faith Growth
- Follow-Up and Continued support at home

Faith Formation

St. Pius X requires that those preparing for First Communion & First Reconciliation be participating in regular faith formation. If they are not already registered, we encourage you to enroll them as soon as possible.

- **Religious Education:** The Parish offers weekly classes through our Elementary Religious Education Program for grades K-6 on Wednesdays at 5:30-7pm, and Sunday mornings at 8:45-10:15am.
- **Parent-Directed Sacrament Preparation:** The Church recognizes parents as the primary educators of their children. If your family would prefer Home Formation, St. Pius X has resources to support you and assist you in your child's formation and Sacrament Preparation.

Required Parent/Child Retreats

Our parish requires Parent/Guardian participation in three parent led retreats. Traditionally, we begin the retreat with a potluck lunch after the 10:30 Mass. ***The COVID19 status in our County at the time of the retreat will determine if we are able to do that. We will keep you informed, so please check emails.*

Please mark your calendars for:

- Sunday October 10, 21 from 11:30 -3:00pm –**SACRAMENTS: What are they?**
- Sunday February 2, 22 from 11:30 – 3:00pm – **FORGIVENESS & RECONCILIATION**
- Tuesday February 15 at 6:30pm– **First RECONCILIATION SERVICE**
- Sunday March 13, 22 from 11:30 – 3:00pm – **The MASS**

In addition, there will be an In-Class retreat. Parents are encouraged to attend with their student.

- Wed April 20 at 5:30, or Sunday April 23 at 8:45 - **Real Presence/Bread**

Parent's Faith Growth

We are all called to continue our own Faith journey which includes growing in our knowledge of the Church's beliefs and in our personal relationship with God. Since your child is preparing for a Sacrament, this is a great time to refresh your own knowledge of Church teaching.

Alpha - We have an exciting opportunity for you to attend a program called Alpha starting in January at the same time as Religious Ed classes, that will fulfill this requirement! More information coming soon.

Follow-Up and Continued support at home

As the leader of your Domestic Church, you are called to be an example and support your child on their faith journey. The best way to do that is to attend Mass weekly with your children, pray on your own, and model for your children love and forgiveness as Jesus taught us and is written in the Bible. St. Pius X Parish staff and volunteers are here to support you and your family on your faith journey.

Baptism Records

Because we are required to verify that your children are baptized before they celebrate the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion, if your children were baptized at a parish other than St. Pius X, please provide us with a **copy of their baptismal certificate**. You may send a copy to the Formation Office or contact the parish where your children were baptized and have them send us a copy. Our fax number is 616-538-6340.

**If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Glenda or Elizabeth in the Formation Office:
formation@spxcatholic.org or call us at 616-538-2600 * Fax: 616-538-6340**