

First Communion & Reconciliation Preparation

2022-2023

Sacrament Preparation at St. Pius X Parish

This is a two-year process beginning in first grade. Students receive the Sacraments toward the end of their second-grade year. We work with each family to ensure that their child is ready for such an important step in their faith journey, including those who missed preparation in first grade, those who are older, and those not yet baptized! We are required to verify that your children have been baptized before they celebrate the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. If your child was baptized at a parish other than St. Pius X, ***please provide us with a copy of their baptismal certificate.***

The process includes four primary areas:

Faith Formation, Required Parent/Child Retreats (Second grade and older students), **Parent's Faith Growth, Support at Home.**

Required Dates for 2022/2023:

- Wed, Sept 21 5:30 or Sun, Sept 25 10am – Parent Meeting
- Sun, Oct 9, 11:30-3pm – Sacrament Retreat
- Sun, Jan 22, 11:30-3pm – Reconciliation Retreat
- Tues, Feb 7, 6:30pm – 1st Reconciliation Service
- Sun, Mar 5, 11:30-3pm – Communion Retreat
- Sun, Apr 16 or Wed, Apr 19 – In-Class Real Presence Retreat
- Sun, May 7 – First Communion Mass
- Sat, May 13 or Sun, May 14 – May Crowning at Mass

Faith Formation

St. Pius X requires that those preparing for First Communion & First Reconciliation participate in regular faith formation. If they are not already registered, we encourage you to enroll them as soon as possible on the parish website. There are two options:

- 1. Religious Education Classes:** The Parish offers weekly classes for grades K-6 on Wednesdays from 5:30-7pm, and Sundays from 8:45-10:15am.
- 2. Home Formation:** The Church recognizes parents as the primary educators of their children and will support you with materials if your family would prefer Home Formation. There is required homework for this option.

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.

In addition, there will be one In-Class retreat which we strongly encourage parents to attend with their child.

Childcare is provided for siblings. See dates above.

Parent's Faith Growth

Each year we ask the parents of children preparing for their Sacraments to participate in faith formation of their own. This year we are offering Alpha! *Alpha* is an engaging series exploring the Christian faith that runs for 9 weeks. Each week looks at a different question and is designed to create conversation and community so you can learn more about Christianity, grow in new friendships at our parish, and dive deeper into your relationship with the Lord.

1. Sundays | 8:45-10:15am, Oct. 2 through Dec. 18
2. Wednesdays | 5:30 – 7pm, Jan. 11 through Mar. 15

Childcare is offered. Please register by Sept 30.

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. Throughout this process, it is important that you talk with your children about their faith. Ask them what they have learned in class. Go to Mass weekly and discuss what is happening and why it is important to you. Ask them questions and see if they have any. Pray with and for them. Model love and forgiveness as Jesus taught us. Read the Bible.

Keep in mind, receiving the Sacraments is just the beginning of what we hope is a strong personal relationship with Christ for you and your children. SPX staff and volunteers are here to support your family on your faith journey in preparation and beyond.

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