

St. Pius X's Reconciliation & First Communion Preparation



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!

The process includes four primary areas:

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

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 5:45-7:15 pm*, 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.*

Parent's Faith Growth

Each year we expect the parents 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 9-11 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. 1 through Dec. 17
2. Wednesdays | 5:45 – 7:15pm, Jan. 10 through Mar.

Childcare is offered. Please register by Sept 25.

Required Dates for 2023-2024:

Wed, Sept 20 5:45p or Sun, Sept 24 9:45am – Parent Meeting
Sun, Oct 15, 11:30-3pm – Sacrament Retreat
Sun, Jan 28, 11:30-3pm – Reconciliation Retreat
Tues, Feb 20, 6:30pm – First Reconciliation Service
Sun, Mar 10, 11:30-3pm – Communion Retreat
Sun, Apr 16 8:45am or Wed, Apr 19 5:45pm – In-Class Retreat
Sun, May 5 – First Communion Mass
Sat, May 11 or Sun, May 12 – May Crowning at Mass

Required Parent & Child Retreats

Our parish requires Parent/Guardian participation in three retreats. Parents are expected to attend with their child, and will be guided in leading them throughout the retreat at different stations.

We anticipate that you will attend the 10:30 Mass, then gather for a potluck lunch afterwards. Email will be sent requesting a dessert/side by child's last name.

Childcare is provided for siblings after lunch.

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

See dates above.

Support At Home

As the leader of your Domestic Church, you are called to be an example for and support to your children 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 your Bible.**

This is just a 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 throughout your faith journey.

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.**

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

