



FIRST RECONCILIATION & FIRST EUCHARIST

Important Information 2026 - 2027

Participation in the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist are a significant step in spiritual development. In order for children to receive the best preparation, parents must take an active role. Children look to parents and family members for example and guidance, and the parent/guardian's participation in the catechesis of the child is critical.

It is not always possible for students to miss classes or leave classes early (for reasons such as extracurricular activities, sports, parties, etc.). Please plan your family calendar and activities with the dates and times of sessions / activities in mind.

Failure to participate in the scheduled sessions/activities and/or not successfully completing the program may result in the deferment of the Sacraments.

Eligibility

1. Applicants must be a baptized Catholic whose family is registered in St. Gabriel Catholic Church Parish.
2. Applicants must be a practicing member of St. Gabriel Catholic Church. (Practicing means regularly attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days.)
3. Applicants must be in the second grade or older.
4. Applicants must have participated in a religious education program (Catholic school or a church parish school of religion) for one year prior to application.
5. Applicants must be participating in a religious education program at the time of application. Applicants must adhere to the guidelines and policy set forth for the program in which they are enrolled.
6. Students who are not in Catholic schools must attend the religious education program at St. Gabriel during the sacramental preparation year.
7. A child will not be admitted to the sacramental preparation program once classes have started, unless they are transferred from another program.

The Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist

Reconciliation

God's forgiveness is revealed in the healing presence of Jesus in our lives. Jesus' message is that God our Father is extravagantly generous and joyful in forgiving us. He does this because of His limitless love for us individually. This is why Jesus came to find those who are lost, to heal those who suffer, and to save sinners. This forgiveness is celebrated in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Eucharist

The Eucharist is a memorial of the Lord's passion, death and resurrection. This holy sacrifice is both a commemoration of a past event, and a celebration of the here and now. Christ's sacrifice on the cross and the victory of His resurrection become present in every celebration – through, with, and in the church.

Sacramental Preparation

When you request permission and solicit the parish to help prepare your child to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist in the Catholic faith, it is an agreement between the parish and the ones seeking the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Sacrament of First Eucharist.

It is the policy of St. Gabriel Catholic Church to follow the Canon Laws, Diocesan Guidelines and parish guidelines and policies.

Canon Law 777 states: "In accord with the norms established by the Diocesan Bishop, the pastor is to make particular provision that children are properly prepared for the first reception of the Sacraments of penance and Most Holy Eucharist..."

Canon Law 914 states: "It is the responsibility, in the first place and those who take the place of parents, as well as the pastor, to see that children who have reached the age of reason are correctly prepared and are nourished by the divine food as early as possible, preceded by sacramental confession..."

Diocesan Guideline for Reconciliation #4 states that every parish has the responsibility of assisting parents of candidates by providing:

Adult education for all parents of children preparing to receive a sacrament so that parents are equipped to fulfill their role as the primary teachers of their children, and so that parents have opportunities to continue to grow in the understanding of their faith: these programs should include both the theological understanding of the sacrament and practical ways of preparing children to participate in the celebration of the sacrament and should be designed to nourish the faith life of the parents.

Diocesan Guideline for Eucharist #3 states that immediate preparation for full participation in the Eucharist should include all of the following:

1. A deepening awareness of the activity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in our lives.
2. The gifts of Jesus in His life, death and resurrection.
3. An understanding of the Church's faith in Christ's continued presence in the Eucharist, as well as in the Christian assembly and His word.
4. Familiarity with and opportunities to participate in the whole Eucharistic rite as the central act of worship and primary sacrament of Reconciliation of the Catholic community.

In order to comply with the above Canons and Diocesan Guidelines, it is necessary for the family to be vigilant in their attendance at Mass, as well as a commitment to stewardship of time, talent, and treasure. Records are maintained in the parish office to adhere to this policy. **It is important that your family commitment to and participation in the faith family of St. Gabriel Parish be acknowledged.**

If there are canonical impediments, which limit your participation in the Sacramental life of the Church, please contact the pastor. Examples of canonical impediments may be those who are not married in the Church, those who have not recently received the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist as required by the church, etc.

Be assured of continued prayers for your family and your child as they begin this segment of their faith journey.

First Reconciliation Preparation Commitments

1. Introductory meeting/workshop for parents
2. Three instructional classes (one Saturday each month)
3. Morning of Reflection (Includes practice prior to the reception of the Sacrament. Both candidates and parents are required to attend.)

First Eucharist Preparation Commitments

1. Introductory meeting/workshop for parents
2. Three instructional classes (one Saturday each month)
3. Morning of Reflection (Includes practice prior to the reception of the Sacrament. Both candidates and parents are required to attend.)

Schedule

First Reconciliation

Date	Time	Who attends	Notes
September 9, 2026	6:30 pm	Parents	Information meeting for parents
September 19, 2026	9:00 am	Candidates	Session #1 (9:00 am – 11:00 am)
October 10, 2026	9:00 am	Candidates	Session #2 (9:00 am – 11:00 am)
November 21, 2026	9:00 am	Candidates	Session #3 (9:00 am – 11:00 am)
December 5, 2026	9:00 am	Candidates & Parents	Morning Reflection & Practice
December 10, 2026	6:30 pm	Sacrament of First Reconciliation	

First Eucharist

Date	Time	Who attends	Notes
January 6, 2026	6:30 pm	Parents	Information meeting for parents
January 30, 2026	9:00 am	Candidates	Session #1 (9:00 am – 11:00 am)
February 20, 2026	9:00 am	Candidates	Session #2 (9:00 am – 11:00 am)
March 13, 2026	9:00 am	Candidates	Session #3 (9:00 am – 11:00 am)
April 17, 2026	9:00 am	Candidates & Parents	Morning Reflection & Practice
April 18, 2026	10:00 am	Sacrament of First Eucharist	