

## STEPS IN THE PREPARATION PROCESS FOR FIRST COMMUNION AT HOLY FAMILY

1. The Archdiocese of Chicago requires two years of formal religious education prior to receiving the sacrament.
  - To register your child in our Family Faith Program go to <https://holyfamilyparish.org/family-and-teen-faith-registration/>
  - If your child was enrolled in another Catholic School or parish Religious Education please provide a letter from that school/program verifying your child's participation.
2. Canon Law requires that those wishing to receive First Reconciliation and First Communion provide documentation certifying they are baptized Catholics. Please submit a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate to the Parish Office, no later September 13, 2021.
  - If your child was baptized at Holy Family all we will need is the month and year the baptism took place.
  - If your child was baptized in another Catholic parish please contact that parish and obtain a copy of their baptismal certificate.
  - If your child was baptized in a Christian Church that was not Catholic (i.e. a Lutheran, Episcopalian...), you must
    - Obtain verification of the Baptism from that Church in the form of a certificate or letter  
AND
    - Have your child prepared to make a Profession of Faith in the Catholic Church
  - If your child is not baptized, you must enroll your child in either our Family Faith Program or Holy Family Catholic Academy (HFCA) AND participate in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Children. See <https://holyfamilyparish.org/r-c-i-c> , for details.
3. Those wishing to receive First Communion must be a registered parishioner in a Catholic parish (Archdiocesan Policy) Please have this step completed by August 30, 2021.
  - If you are registered at a parish other than Holy Family, we will need a letter verifying that fact from your home parish.
  - Registering at Holy Family is a simple two-step process. For more information, contact Sue Geegan, [sgeegan@holyfamilyparish.org](mailto:sgeegan@holyfamilyparish.org).
4. Regular attendance at weekend liturgy – worshipping as a family is an important part of the preparation process.
5. Parent presentations – these presentations are not for children.

**Presenters:** Terry Nelson-Johnson and Laura Field

  - **Introduction to Sacramentality** – Wednesday, September 29, 7:00-8:30 at Holy Family  
**Note:** Materials for preparing children for First Eucharist and First Reconciliation will be distributed to the parents at the end of this presentation.
  - **The Eucharist** - Wednesday, February 16, 7:00pm to 8:30pm at Holy Family
6. The Rite of Welcoming. Two dates are offered, choose one.
  - Sunday, October 3, 2021 at the 11:00 am Mass **or**
  - Saturday, October 16, 2021 at the 5 pm Mass.

A short session will follow the Mass, in the Church, for both the children and their parents. Children will be presented with a First Communion Candle.
7. Special Presentation on the Mass for children. Choose one of the two options
  - Presentation during Faith classes or HFCA Religion class. Dates TBA
  - An online version will be available for families to do at home.

8. Presentation of the Our Father, Sunday, Feb. 6, 2021 at the 9:00 am Mass.
9. First Reconciliation on Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2022 at 6:30-7:30 pm in the Church.
10. First Eucharist Retreat. Choose one of the two options

**Option 1: Live event** on Saturday, April 9, 2021 from 2:30-5:00 pm at Holy Family

Note: The retreat is designed for the children. We will need parents to volunteer to help with this event.

**Option 2: An online format** families can do at home at their own pace. This format includes pre-recorded video presentations families watch together, projects families complete together and prayer experiences for families to do at home.