

STEPS IN THE PREPARATION PROCESS FOR FIRST COMMUNION AT HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Once you have completed all the preparation steps, we invite you to schedule a date to celebrate the sacrament. Each year 100-110 children celebrate First Reconciliation and First Communion at Holy Family. Coordinating preparation for this many families is challenging. Wherever possible we have offered you a choice of dates and formats. Unfortunately, we are not able to offer make-up sessions.

1. **The Archdiocese of Chicago requires two years of formal religious education** prior to receiving the sacrament.
 - ➔ If your child has been enrolled in Holy Family Catholic Academy (HFCA) or the Family Faith programs for the past two years you will meet this criteria.
 - To register your child in our Family Faith Program you will need a **REALM Account**.
 - a. If you have **not** received your **REALM invitation** [use this registration link](#)
NOTE: Please set your account up ASAP as the link is only active for 24 hours.
 - b. Log in to your realm account
 - ➔ From your new REALM Account, you will see all of your family information. If you see anything that needs to be correct, please do so.
 - c. Click on the Faith Registration Link. Follow the prompts.
NOTE: If you are requesting a full or partial tuition waiver or would like to set up a payment plan for 2022-2023, please [CLICK HERE](#) to register.
 - 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 9, 2022](#).
 - 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 make a Profession of Faith in the Catholic Church. This is a matter of Canon (Church) Law.
 - ☆ Families will celebrate the **Profession of Faith** on [Sunday, April 16, 2023](#) at the **11:00 am Mass**
 - If your child is **not** baptized, contact Dr. Peg Hanrahan, phanrahan@holymfamilyparish.org
3. **Those wishing to receive First Communion must be a registered parishioner in a Catholic parish** (Archdiocesan Policy) Please have this step completed by [September 1, 2022](#).
 - 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.
4. **Regular attendance at weekend liturgy** – worshipping as a family is an important part of the preparation process. We are asking both our first and second year candidates to attend our Family Masses celebrated at the 9:00 am Mass on the following dates.
September 18, October 16, November 20, January 22, February 12, March 19
April 23 and May 14
5. **Parent Formation**
- **Introduction to First Communion** – Two dates are offered, choose one
Option 1: Wednesday, September 21, 7:00-8:30 pm at Holy Family
Option 2: Wednesday, September 28, 7:00-8:30 pm 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.
★ These are in-person presentations for parents only.
There are no make-up dates available.
 - **Exploring the Mystery of the Eucharist**
Parents will be asked to view and respond to five (5) five short online presentations throughout the course of the two year preparation process. These will be available on the Parish website, beginning November 1, 2022.
6. **The Rite of Welcoming.** We offer two dates choose one.
Option 1: Sunday, October 2, 2022 at the 11:00 am Mass
Option 2: Saturday, October 22, 2022 at the 5 pm Mass.
Note: 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.
★ There are no make-up dates available.
7. **Special Presentation on the Mass** for children.
- Presentation during Faith classes (Sunday, Jan 8 2023) 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, Jan 22, 2023 at the 9:00 am Family Mass.
9. **First Reconciliation** on Wednesday, Mar 1, 2023 at 630-7:30 pm in the Church.
10. **First Eucharist Retreat.** Choose one of the two options
- Option 1: Live event** on Saturday, April 15, 2023 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.