

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. Families can complete our First Communion Family Preparation Activities over the course of the two-year preparation period.

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. To set up your REALM Account [use this registration link](#). Click on **Sign Up** and follow the prompts.

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. To enroll your child in Our First Communion Preparation Program, whether registered at the Academy or in Family Faith you will need a **REALM Account**.
 - a. To set up your REALM Account [use this registration link](#) Click on **Sign Up** and follow the prompts.

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.
3. **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 8, 2023](#).
 - 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 21, 2024](#) at

the 9:00 am Family Mass

- If your child is **not** baptized, contact Karen McHale, kmchale@holyfamilyparish.org
- 4. **Those wishing to receive First Communion must be a registered parishoner in a Catholic parish** (Archdiocesan Policy) Please have this step completed by **September 8, 2023.**
 - 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.
- 5. **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 17 (11:00 am), October 15, November 12, January 21, February 11, March 17, April 21 and May 12.
- 6. **Parent Meeting: Introduction to First Communion** on **Wednesday, September 21, 7:00-8:30 pm** in the Church

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.
- 7. **Participate in The Rite of Welcoming** on **Saturday, October 21, 2023 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.
- 8. **Special Presentation on the Mass for children.**
 - a. Presentation during Faith classes or HFCA Religion class (dates TBA)
 - b. An online version is available for families to do at home.
- 9. **Participate in the Presentation of the Our Father**, **Sunday, Jan 21, 2024 at the 9:00 am** Family Mass.
- 10. **First Reconciliation** on **Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 6:30-7:30 pm** in the Church.
- 11. **First Eucharist Retreat.** Choose one of the two options

Option 1: Live event on **Saturday, April 13, 2024 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.