



First Eucharist Preparation

The Bishops have this to say about the requirements for sacramental reception:

“Parents have the right and duty to be intimately involved in preparing their children for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Catechesis aims to help parents grow in understanding and appreciation of the sacraments and participate readily in catechizing their children.”
(NDC #122) Requirements for reception of the sacraments are quite basic and upheld by the Pastor.

- Regular class attendance in one consecutive Religious Education academic year directly prior to the reception of the sacrament is required.
- Active participation in the Church community, including regular attendance at Sunday Liturgy is mandatory.
- Attendance at Sacrament preparation sessions leading to reception of the Sacrament are mandatory. Parent(s) are obliged to attend parent meetings as well.

Children are formally invited to prepare for **First Eucharist** in Grade 3. This is only after the preparation and reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation the year prior. Attendance in Religious Education class after First Eucharist is **expected**.

Preparation for First Eucharist involves the child’s participation in eight (8) classes especially designed to form children to receive this sacrament in addition to attending regular Religious Education classes. Parents are required to attend three (3) meetings that serve to disseminate information about requirements for children to be eligible to receive the sacrament, reading materials to help parents to support their child’s classroom learning at home, and to prayer experiences to re-acquaint parents with this sacrament. Families are also required to attend a Mini-retreat which fulfills the children’s requirement for Class #6 and the adult’s requirement for Parent Meeting #2. The Mini-retreat is held on a Saturday morning for a period of two (2) hours.

First Eucharist Preparation Classes are offered on Tuesdays from 6 pm – 7:15 pm and Saturdays from 10 am – 11:15 am. Children are required to attend only one (1) of these offered sessions for each of the eight (8) chapters covered. Families may choose either the Tuesday or Saturday

session that best fit into their schedule. However, each of the eight (8) sessions must be attended. Rehearsal for the celebration of First Eucharist is the Saturday before First Eucharist Sunday. Formal photographs will be taken at this time. Masses in English to celebrate First Eucharist are held at 10 am and 12 noon on the last Sunday of April and at the 1 pm Mass in Spanish. Families may choose which of these Masses that they would like to attend.

All children who will receive First Eucharist must have a valid baptismal certificate on file in the Religious Education Office. The RE office can verify the Baptism of children who were baptized at St. Paul through the parish office, therefore these children do not need to submit a baptismal certificate.