

First Reconciliation & First Communion Preparation 2018

Greetings in Christ,

This is a very important year in your child's spiritual life as he or she prepares to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist for the first time. Your child will be preparing to meet Jesus in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and receive the very Body and Blood of Christ!

This introductory letter and calendar will provide you with an overview of the events of this year and the information that you need to prepare your child.

The best preparation is to see you practice and live the faith. One of the most important ways to do this is regular attendance at Mass. An integral part of children's faith formation is participation in Sunday Liturgy. Talk with your child about Mass. Emphasize that the Mass is God's family celebrating a sacred meal. To be part of the parish family and to worship together each Sunday is to be part of faith in action. Parents, we expect that you will give your child these experiences so your child will be encouraged to practice and live his/her faith.

For the Student:

Preparation classes are integrated into the religious education classes; consistent attendance is expected. Outside of class, it is expected that students will complete the at-home materials with assistance from a parent or family member. Father Chuck will be meeting with the students in class the Sunday before each sacrament is celebrated.

For the Parent:

There are three parent preparation classes for First Reconciliation and three for First Communion. Your classes will be held during student classes in the Vanderzanden Center Library. During these meetings I will be providing information on the sacraments and how to use the at-home curriculum to prepare your child. Father Chuck will conduct the class on March 1st.

For the Students & their Parents There are two family activities planned.

Church Search on February 3rd at 12:30 pm. This is a fun family activity where each student searches the church for items from a list (like the tabernacle, the chalice, etc.). This is a great way for the whole family to familiarize themselves with the names used for objects we see each week, or items that are not seen during Mass. This is a self-paced activity and should only take about 30 minutes.

Blessing Cups on February 24th at 12:30 pm. Students will paint a ceramic cup (symbolic of the Chalice) with the assistance of their parent/parents. The Blessing Cups will be glazed and fired, and are displayed at the First Communion Mass. If you cannot attend please talk to me about alternatives to make sure your child will have a Blessing Cup for their First Communion.

In His Love,

Wanda

Wanda Kay Van Ortwick Coordinator of Religious Education St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church
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First Reconciliation & First Communion Calendar 2018-19

- Sept 23rd** Reconciliation Parent Meeting at 9:40 am in the Vanderzanden Center Library
- Nov 18th** Parents and children meet at 9:40 in the 2nd grade classroom, we will visit the reconciliation room.
- Dec 2nd** Parents and children meet with Fr Chuck at 9:40 am in their classroom.
- Dec 9th** Reconciliation Service followed by individual Confessions at 12:30 pm in the church
Van Center will be open for your sack lunch for those attending 11 am Mass
Root Beer Floats to celebrate in Van Center Library following Reconciliation,
- Jan 13th** 1st Communion Parent Meeting at 9:40 am in the Vanderzanden Center Library
Information on the activities and Mass for First Communion, including suggested attire, photos, etc.
Banner supplies will be distributed
- Feb 3rd** "Church Search" Family Activity at 12:30 pm in the Church
You are welcome to eat your sack lunch in the Parish Hall before the project begins. Siblings welcome
- Feb 10th** 1st Communion Parents Meet with Fr. Chuck at 9:40 am in the Vanderzanden Center Library
- Feb 24th** Blessing Cups activity at 12:30 pm in the Vanderzanden Center
You are welcome to eat your sack lunch in the Vanderzanden Center Library before the project
- Mar 10th** Final First Communion Parents' Meeting at 9:40 am in the Vanderzanden Center
Completed First Communion Banners are due, Fr Chuck meeting with children in their classroom
- Mar 16th** First Communion Rehearsal 10:00 am in the Church
Rehearsal will take about 45-60 minutes. Please arrive on time so we can start promptly.
- Mar 17th** First Communion – 11:00 am Mass
Seats will be reserved in the front pews –for children, parents, siblings and whomever else you'd like who will fit in one pew. Other guests may be seated in the general pews. We plan to have a picture taking session before Mass begins (starting around 9:30). This will include a group photo; we ask that your child be present for the group photo. There will be cake and punch reception after the Mass for guests and the parish. This is a nice place to open gifts and have Father bless them.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Wanda Van Ortwick, Coordinator of Religious Education

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Messages at 503-543-2110 Ext. 207

Sacrament Preparation Registration Form

Reconciliation – First Eucharist

Child's full Baptismal Name _____

Location of Birth: City _____ State _____

Date of Birth _____

Church of Baptism _____ Catholic Church? YES / NO

Location of Church: City _____ State _____

Date of Baptism _____

City of Residence Currently _____

Father's Name (First & Last) _____

Mother's Maiden Name (First & Last) _____

Email address: _____

Proof of your child's baptism must be provided to the Religious Education Office

- If your child was baptized at St. Wenceslaus, we need the approximate date (or the year) your child was baptized so that we can look it up in the Sacrament Log Book.
- If your child was baptized outside of St. Wenceslaus, you will need to provide a paper copy of their baptismal certificate. These are available by calling the church and asking for a copy. We do not need your original certificate, only a copy.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

A copy of the child's baptismal certificate has been provided. Parish Soft updated with info

St Wenceslaus Parish Sacrament Log reviewed, child was baptized here by: _____

Parish Soft updated

Per phone conversation with: _____ at: _____
Parish

Child was baptized as: _____ by: _____
Full baptismal name priest

On: _____ Sponsor names: _____

Child received First Eucharist at St. Wenceslaus on: _____ and recorded in Parish Sacrament Log and Parish Soft