

Church of Saint Pius X



First Reconciliation and First Communion Parent Handbook

Church of Saint Pius X

Religious Education Program

Sacrament of First Reconciliation and First Communion Program Outline of Requirements

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to enter preparation to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion at the Church of Saint Pius X, an individual child must meet the following qualifications:

1. Be a baptized Catholic.
2. Be a registered family in the Parish and Religious Education Program of Church of Saint Pius X and the family support the Parish through weekly envelopes.
3. Be a second grade student or older.
4. Have attended Religious Education classes or Religion classes for one year prior to the Sacramental preparation year.

A. If transferring from outside the parish, enrollment in a Religious Education Program or Catholic School Religion class for one year prior to the sacramental preparation year is required.

PREPARATION REQUIREMENTS

Preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Communion consists of the following components:

1. Instruction in the faith through Religious Education classes.
2. Formation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Communion (conducted within class).
3. Testing by the Catechist or Teacher to insure that the student has a basic understanding of the faith.
4. Attendance/participation at the Parent Meeting (parents only).
5. An evaluation for Sacramental readiness by the Catechist, Teacher, Director of Religious Education, and/or Pastor.
6. Attendance and participation at the practice for the Sacrament (conducted within class).

The Pastor and Director of Religious Education in cooperation with the Catechist or Teacher will meet to evaluate the readiness of each child. If any portion of these requirements is not met, the Sacrament of Reconciliation or the Sacrament of First Communion may be delayed until a later date.

PROCEDURE FOR THE RITE OF RECONCILIATION

The following is the procedure the children learn to follow as they prepare for their First Reconciliation. Large type/bold is actual statements the children will say during Reconciliation.

CHILD: While sitting in the pew, take time to think about your sins. What are you truly sorry for? This is your EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE.

PRIEST: The priest greets the child.

PRIEST: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (Child makes the sign of the cross on themselves.)

CHILD: (child answers) **Amen.**

CHILD: **Bless me Father for I have sinned. This is my first confession. These are my sins.**

PRIEST: The Priest talks to the child about their sins, gives them their penance and asks the child to say the Act of Contrition.

CHILD: **My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy. Amen**

PRIEST: The Priest says a prayer over the child and absolves them of their sins. The prayer will end with the Priest saying: "I absolve you of your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." (The child makes the sign of the cross on themselves.)

CHILD: (child answers) **Amen**

PRIEST: Go in Peace.

CHILD: Thank you, Father. (Child goes back to their pew, kneels and prays their penance silently or says a prayer of Thanksgiving. Part of the penance may be an action that they do to show they are really sorry.)
Accept one another as Christ accepted you.

ACT OF CONTRITION

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

The following prayers are basic to our faith. These prayers should be memorized by the children before they receive the sacrament of Reconciliation.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespassed against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen

HAIL MARY

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now, and at the hour of our death. Amen

GLORY BE

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen

Please post on your refrigerator. These prayers should be said daily so the child can easily memorize them.

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

FOR CHILDREN

1. When I make choices, do I sometimes forget to think first about what God wants me to do? Have I done what God wants?
2. Have I used the name of God or Jesus in a bad way?
3. Did I worship God at Mass each Sunday?
4. Have I disobeyed the grown-ups who take care of me?

5. Have I been angry with or cruel to others?
6. Have I forgotten to show respect for my self and for others?
7. Have I taken anything that is not mine or treated others unfairly?
8. Have I always told the truth?
9. Have I hurt someone by what I have said or done? Have I been jealous of others?
10. Have I refused to help people who are in need? Have I been selfish?

Why Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation? (Why not go directly to God?)

Ten Good Reasons

1. Of course, go to God in prayer. We should do so each day. The Sacrament of Reconciliation calls for personal reflection and private prayer, too.
2. There is Scriptural support for the Church possessing the ministry of forgiveness, including:
 - Matthew 16:19 • 2 Corinthians 5:18-20
3. Writings and practices from the first generations of Christianity show a clear understanding of the Church as having the key role in conveying penance and reconciling the sinner with the community of faith.
4. Reconciliation to whom? To self, God and the community. Sin is not just about me and God. The priest represents the community (that has been fractured by one's sin) in his role as confessor.
5. Being alone in the examination of our sinfulness, we may be apt to rationalize sin away...as well as to sometimes judge ourselves too harshly.
6. The penance given in the Sacrament of Reconciliation serves as a reminder that sorrow and forgiveness needs to connect with actions that orient us to a new way of living.
7. The Sacrament of Reconciliation offers a decisive moment of forgiveness in the sacramental process.
8. Experiencing understanding and forgiveness through the priest is often powerfully healing and freeing. The priest may offer insights which can result in a more hopeful perspective going forward.
9. In the case of serious (mortal) sin, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is necessary to restore us to spiritual well-being (state of grace).
10. The Sacrament of Reconciliation conveys a grace that strengthens us for living our baptismal identity more faithfully.

Mortal Sin:

-a serious offense against God -destroys the virtue of charity within us -involves serious immoral acts, or grave matter such as the

Ten Commandments -can cause eternal separation from God -requires full knowledge and complete consent

Venial Sin:

-less serious because they do not destroy our relationship with God -wrong acts committed without full knowledge of just how wrong they are.

Social Sin:

-collective effect of sin over time, which corrupts society and its institutions by creating “structures of sin” -racism, sexism and institutionalized poverty are examples

Capital Sins (Seven Deadly Sins)

-lead to and reinforce all sorts of other sinful actions, thoughts and omissions -increase the tendency to sin and cause us to turn away more and more from God -Pride: believing you are better than others, disrespecting others -Greed: hoarding money or things -Envy: resentment we direct to others who have success, things, privilege -Wrath: strong anger to seek revenge and prevents reconciliation

-Lust: undisciplined, unchecked desire -Gluttony: excessive eating or drinking -Sloth: habitual laziness, failing to put forth effort and take action

Ten Commandments

1. I am the Lord your God; you shall not have strange Gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
- 8.. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE (for Adults)

A. Do I fully give myself to God? Am I seeking the Lord in a deeper, personal relationship? Do I reverence the Holy name of God at all times? Is my daily life a reflection of the gospel values?

B. Do I truly love my neighbor? Do I see God in those whom I live and work with? Have I inspired my neighbor to seek a personal relationship with God? When did I last see Jesus in the least of my brothers and sisters?

C. In what direction is my life going? Do the things I do for the good of others affect my surroundings? Am I a leader in bringing the gospel values to my community?

Examination of Conscience

My relationship with God. What steps am I taking to help me grow closer to God and to others? Do I turn to God often during the day, especially when I am tempted?

Do I participate at Mass with attention and devotion on Sundays and holy days? Do I pray often and read the Bible?

Do I use God's name and the names of Jesus, Mary and the saints with love and reverence?
My relationship with Family, Friends, and Neighbors .

Have I set a bad example through my words or actions? Do I treat others fairly? Do I spread stories that hurt other people?

Am I loving of those in my family? Am I respectful of my neighbors, my friends, and those in authority?
Do I show respect for my body and for the bodies of others? Do I keep away from forms of entertainment that do not respect God's gift of sexuality?

Have I taken or damaged anything that did not belong to me? Have I cheated, copied others work for my own or lied?

Do I quarrel with others just so I can get my own way? Do I insult others to try to make them think they are less than I am? Do I hold grudges and try to hurt people who I think have hurt me?

Examination of Conscience

We quiet ourselves to rid our minds of what we must do or what we must say.

We try to come with an openness to respond to what God has said: God's word and what God has done for us.

*Does my life reflect that I am a believer – a person of faith?

*Am I aware that my life can be a sharing of and a participation in the life of God?

*Do I really believe how important I am to God?

*Am I happy?

*Do I rejoice always in God's love for me?

*Where do I look for happiness?

*Do I carry around security blankets – thinking they are my salvation?

*How joyful it is to say from deep in our heart: God is my Savior.

*How do I react to the way God enters my life? ...through the Scriptures, ...through the Sacraments, ...through the Church?

*I am loved by God dearly and deeply. Does it make a difference to me?

*Do I forgive others as God has forgiven me?

First Communion Attire

The following are few things you should know about First Communion attire.

Girls are asked to wear a white dress, veils are not required but traditional. Sometimes they prefer to wear flowers in their hair or nothing at all. It is completely up to you.

Boys are asked to wear a suit or blazer with dress pants, a white dress shirt and tie. (PLEASE NO SNEAKERS OR JEANS)

Please **DO NOT** have the children wear or bring flowers, corsages, shawls, purses, gloves, rosaries or arm bands before Mass on First Communion Day, they tend to be a distraction. You can give these items to the children after Mass.

If you have any question please call the Religious Education Office at (914) 472-5594.



First Communion Banner

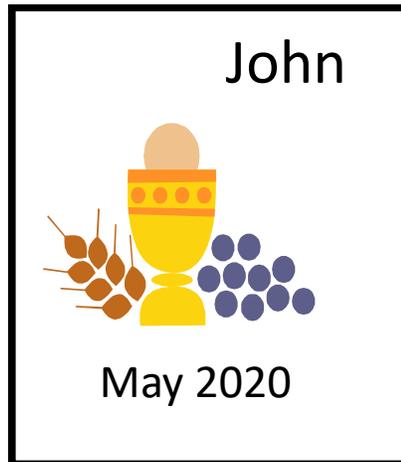
***NOTE: The banner does not reserve the pew for your family.
Seating is first come, first serve.***

Symbols of grapes, cup and host are supplied for you. You may also decorate your banner in your own way by adding beads, sequins, fringe or lace.

Put your child's ***FIRST*** name and **date of First Communion (May 2020)** on your banner. Then return your finished banner to the Religious Education Office.

If you have any questions, please call the RE Office at (914) 472-5594.

Blue felt is given to you.



Decorate with various colors of felt, braid sequins, beads, fringe or lace.



First Reconciliation and First Communion Calendar 2019-2020

Parents' Meeting	Wednesday, October 16, 2019 at 7:00-8:00pm Parish Hall
First Communion Candidate Blessing and Distribution of Gold Books	Sunday, October 20, 2019 at 10:30 AM Family Mass
2nd Grade Reconciliation Parents' Meeting	Sunday, March 4, 2020 after 10:30 AM Family Mass in the Parish Hall
2nd Grade First Reconciliation	Saturday, March 28, 2020 at 10:30 AM
First Communion Family Sacrament Day	Sunday, April 19, 2020 after 10:30 AM Family Mass in the Church
Gold Books and Banners Due	Tuesday, April 28, 2020
First Communion Liturgy	Saturday, May 2020
May Crowning and First Communion Reception	Sunday, May 2020