



Sacrament Year Two First Communion Class of 2020

Hello families!

Welcome to our Sacramental Preparation Program! Thank you for choosing St. Ann's and Launch for such a meaningful moment in your family's life. We are here to journey with you every step of the way.

We have an exciting year planned and want to give you a summary of what we will be exploring and learning about this year.

The fall semester of your child's second grade Launch classes focuses on the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Here are some of the key teachings that we will emphasize:

- The definition, importance and role of gratitude in our relationship with family and God
- Prayers – Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, and the Act of Contrition
- How to become a good decision maker and the power of good habits
- The 10 Commandments
- Sin and the power of Grace, Forgiveness and Healing
- The Cross, Resurrection and Ascension
- The 5 Steps to Reconciliation

Following First Reconciliation in January, the remaining semester will focus on the Sacrament of Holy Communion and First Communion Preparation. Here are some of the key teachings that we will emphasize:

- The Eucharist being the food for the soul
- The Creed
- True Presence
- The Last Supper
- Our church family
- The role and importance, and relevance of prayer in our lives

It is our belief that sacramental preparation should center around the family. We are charged with a precious responsibility as parents and caretakers. We go to great lengths and make tremendous sacrifices to ensure that our children are rooted in values and thriving in all aspects of their lives. For that reason, we are excited to offer two new workshops for the family: *How to pray for your child* and *Mass 101*.

Our sacramental workshop *How to pray for your child* will provide you with the knowledge and tools on how to be a prayer warrior for your children. In *Mass 101* we will break down the Mass and hope to change the conversation from “why do I have to go to church?” to “are we going to church?”

In addition to the sacramental workshops, we are offering lots of exciting family-friendly events. Our family events focus on family faith, building community and good works. The purpose of these events is to build a stronger community of Catholic families. Some of our events are just for parents, like Tough Questions. We hope you join us at these events and together create meaningful memories for our children.

Lastly, throughout the year, we will cover your family and lift your special intentions in prayer. We are here to serve your family and provide support; therefore, please reach out to me at any time and join me on any second Tuesday of the month for daily Mass at 9am. I will be available following Mass for prayer and/or additional support. It takes a village and we are here for you!

Blessings,
Jackie Mirabal Kmet, MA, NCC
Launch special events coordinator

First Reconciliation and First Communion Requirements

1. Launch classes

Students are expected to attend weekly Launch classes and are allowed up to three absences per year. Make-up work can be requested for any absence, but it is not required until a student has been absent more than three times. Once the make-up work is completed, the absence is erased from our attendance records. For make-up work, please contact Kristen Ott at kott@st-ann.org
2. Sacramental workshop: How to pray for your child
 - a. **Sunday, October 27** from **2:00-4:00pm** in the **church**
 - b. Student and parent are required to attend.
 - c. Students are to attend this workshop in lieu of their regularly scheduled Launch class on Oct. 27, 28 or 29.
3. Sacramental workshop: Mass 101
 - a. **Sunday, March 22** from **2:00pm-4:00pm** in the **church**
 - b. Student and parent are required to attend.
 - c. Students are to attend this workshop in lieu of their regularly scheduled Launch class on March 22, 23 or 24.
4. Requirements
 - a. Baptismal certificate must be uploaded at <https://form.jotform.com/91635694158165>.
 - b. Family must be registered as parishioners at St. Ann's.

Sacrament Information

First Communion Class of 2020

1. Sacrament of Reconciliation

a. **Monday, Jan. 13** and **Tuesday, Jan. 14**

- i. If your child attends Launch on Mondays or Tuesdays, he or she will receive his or her First Reconciliation during their regularly scheduled time track.
- ii. If your child attends Launch on Sundays, your child will be assigned to receive his or her First Reconciliation on either Monday or Tuesday.
- iii. If your child attends Catholic school, your child will be assigned to receive his or her First Reconciliation **on Monday, Jan. 13**, 3:30-5:00pm

2. Sacrament of First Communion

First Communion registration will open on **Sunday, Jan. 12** at 8:00am. You will register online through Blue Sombrero and pay a sacrament preparation fee of \$35.

To register for your child's First Communion Mass, please visit:
<https://tshq.bluesombrero.com/catholicchurchstann>

Below are the dates and times of the First Communion Masses we will be offering. Rehearsal is mandatory for the First Communicant and a family member. Please register for one of the following:

- Option 1
 - **Saturday, April 18** at 10:30am (First Communion Mass only)
 - Mandatory rehearsal: **Wednesday, April 15**, 7:00-8:15pm
- Option 2
 - **Saturday, April 18** at 5:30pm (with regularly scheduled Saturday Mass)
 - Mandatory rehearsal: **Wednesday, April 15**, 4:00-5:15pm
- Option 3
 - **Sunday, April 19** at 12:30pm (with regularly scheduled Sunday Mass)
 - Mandatory rehearsal: **Wednesday, April 15**, 5:30-6:45pm

First Communion Rehearsal

At rehearsal, we will go through the following:

1. Pre-Mass logistics – Time of arrival, classroom assignments, photographs, etc.
2. Parts of the Mass and First Communion practice – Children will get practice processing into the Mass and a final opportunity to practice lining up and receiving Communion.
3. Pew assignments – Families will have an opportunity to sit in their reserved pew.
4. Dress code
 - o Ladies:
 - o Dresses can be any color – white, ivory, off-white, pastels, florals, etc.
 - o Veils and other headpieces are optional.
 - o Gloves are not permitted during the Mass but can be worn before or after.
 - o Gentlemen – Dress shirt, tie and sports jacket or suit (suits do not have to be white).
5. Livestream – For friends and family that are unable to attend First Communion, they can be part of the special day by watching live online at <https://st-ann.org/watch-live>.
6. Reception – Following each mass, we will host a reception in Nolan Hall. Anyone in your party is welcome to join for refreshments and dessert.

First Communion Video Link

We are excited to announce that First Communion videos will be available via a downloadable link for \$10. To order, please visit: <https://tshq.bluesombrero.com/catholicchurchstann>.

Family Banners

Family banners are a beloved tradition at St. Ann's. Each family will create their own banner to hang from their pew at First Communion. You are responsible for bringing your banner to the First Communion Mass. You are welcome to make your own or purchase a banner kit. The family banner may contain the child's first or last name. Banner kits can be purchased at <https://shop.catholicsupply.com>

First Communion Mass – Family Participation

We invite the family to participate in the mass in a special way by signing up to be a lector, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (EM) or altar server.

Deacon Keith Kolodziej, our director of liturgy, is offering training for all of these roles to our Launch families this year. For your convenience, the trainings have been scheduled during your child's Launch class. If you have specific questions on each of the roles, please contact Deacon Keith at kkolodziej@st-ann.org.

All training sessions will be in the church:

- **Sunday, Oct. 13**, following 8:30am Mass (EM training) and following 10:30am Mass (lector training).
- **Monday, Oct. 14** at 3:30pm and 5:30pm (EM and lectors)
- **Tuesday, Oct. 15** at 4:00pm (EM and lectors)
- **Wednesday, Oct. 16** at 6:30pm (altar servers)

Gifts

Looking for a special gift for your child as they receive their sacraments? Consider these:

1. Personalized Name Prayer by [LarkRoadRhymes](#) on Etsy – Name poems/prayers. If you do not see your child's name or the correct spelling, Stephanie will customize one for you. She can also customize the background and font colors.
2. Personalized Rustic Wood Cross by [Woodstock Rustic](#) on Etsy – A beautiful personalized cross for any child's bedroom or around the house. Be sure to put their First Communion date on the back.
3. Printable Wall Art by [PerkyPaper](#) on Etsy – A beautiful memento that you print yourself and does not break the bank.
4. The Catholic Children's Bible on Amazon – This bible is inviting and kid-friendly, a must-have in each household.