



Voyage Program Information Packet

Sacramental Program Requirements

1. Baptismal certificate

- **Your child's baptismal certificate must be uploaded at** <https://form.jotform.com/91635694158165>, on the Launch Children's Ministry website, unless your child was baptized at St. Ann's. If so, please let us know, so we can look it up on file.
- Your child will not be placed in a class until we receive their certificate.

2. Parish Registration

- **Family must be registered as parishioners at St. Ann's.** To register online, please visit: <https://form.jotform.com/220744474272153> or go to st-ann.org and click on WELCOME.

3. Voyage classes

- Students are only allowed to miss up to three classes, without making up the class. Any additional absences must be made up emailing Kristen Ott at kott@st-ann.org for the make-up assignment.

4. Sacramental Workshops

- Per Fr. Jim's request, all sacramental **parents are now required to attend 7 workshops** that are provided during their child's Voyage year. Workshops are once a month on the following dates:
 - 9/4/24
 - 10/16/24
 - 11/13/24
 - 12/11/24
 - 1/8/25
 - 2/12/25
 - 3/12/25
- Workshops are from **7:15pm-8:15pm in the main church** and are for parents only (no children). One or more guardians of the sacramental child must attend.
- Babysitting will be provided during the workshops.
- Workshops will also be live-streamed and recorded, so if you are unable to attend, you can watch the session and submit a report for credit.
- Workshops will be over the parts of the Mass, and if the family attends the Family Mass at 10:30am the following Sunday, they will see a special highlight of the section covered in the workshop.

5. Service Hour

- Our role as Catholic Christians is to live out the Great Commandment by loving God and loving others. By participating in the Eucharist and Mass, students are living out the first part of that commandment. Therefore, we are adding a service component to Year 2 students to give them the opportunity to live out the second part of the commandment and love others in their community through acts of service.
One hour of community service will be required from Year 2 students before they are fully eligible to receive their sacrament of First Communion. This service hour does not need to be completed on campus; however, the Launch department has multiple opportunities for students

to serve their church community here at St. Ann's. Please email Jenny Kiehl at jkiehl@st-ann.org to sign up to serve.

A service hour form is required to be completed and turned in to the Launch Children's Ministry office. The form can be found on the st-ann.org/launch webpage under the Year 2 section.

Important Dates for Your Calendar

1. Sacramental workshops: (mandatory for at least one guardian in the household to complete)
 - ~~9/4/24, 10/9/24~~, 11/13/24, 12/11/24, 1/8/25, 2/12/25, 3/12/25 ****10/16/24-date change**
 - From 7:15pm-8:15pm in the main church
2. Sacrament of Reconciliation
 - a. **Monday, Nov 11, 2024: First Reconciliation, 6:00pm**
 - b. **Thursday, March 20, 2025: Reconciliation before First Communion, 6:00pm**
3. First Communion registration
 - a. January 6, 2025, opening at 8:00am on the Launch Children's Ministry website.
 - b. First Communion will not be on a designated date for 2025. Per the Pastor's request, First Communions will be incorporated into Sunday or Saturday vigil Masses only. Therefore, we will offer a limited number of available openings for each Mass, following Easter Sunday, in which you can choose from to have your child make their First Communion.
 - c. You will only be able to reserve seating for your immediate household family, with a max capacity of 6, since you will be seated in one of the front row pews, which are small.
 - d. Available possible dates for your child's First Communion Mass: April 26/27, May 3/4, 10/11, 17/18.

FAQs for First Communion

Database

We now have a new way to track all your child's requirements in one place through our Sacramental Database. This is a manual entry system in which the staff enters a check mark of completion next to your child's ID # (which will be provided to you in an email) for any required items for this year. **Please allow up to 72 hours for a completed item to be marked as complete within the system.**

The database is easily able to be located on the st-ann.org/launch website under the button Voyage Database.

Family Banners

Family banners are a beloved tradition at St. Ann's to reserve your child's pew on their special day. Each family will create their own banner to hang from their pew at First Communion. You are welcome to make your own by purchasing a banner kit or you can purchase one already made. DIY felt banner kits can be purchased on Amazon and personalized embroidered banners can be purchased on Etsy. You may choose to display your child's first or last name on the banner. Banners do not need to be turned into the Launch office. Please bring them with you on First Communion.



Family Participation in the First Communion Mass

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 an altar server. If you or a family member would like to serve in some capacity at the Mass, please let Jenny Vasquez, the Liturgy Coordinator, know at jvasquez@st-ann.org.

First Communion Attire

- Ladies:
 - Dresses can be any color – white, ivory, off-white, pastels, florals, etc.
 - Veils and other headpieces are optional.
 - Gloves are not permitted when receiving the Eucharist but can be worn before or after.
- Gentlemen
 - Dress shirt
 - suit slacks or khakis
 - tie, optional
 - sports jacket or suit, recommended but not required
 - suits or sports jackets can be any color

First Communion Masses

In the past, we have had dedicated First Communion Masses that have been apart or combined with a public liturgy. Going forward, Fr. Jim has decided to make First Communion special in several new ways. Please note this year's changes:

- First Communions will be celebrated with the church community during a Sunday Mass or Saturday Vigil Mass. This way the Church can participate and cheer on your child as well.
- When the First Communicant is receiving the Eucharist, their immediate household family will come up and receive with their child as well. Thus showing that the Eucharist is a family event, and that the family supports them in this moment.
- First Communion children will take an active role in the celebration of their Mass by helping to be gift bearers, lectors, or involved in the procession.
- The number of First Communicants at each Mass will be limited to 10-15. This way there can be extra special attention paid to them and their special moment.
- Available First Communion Masses will be any Mass after Easter Sunday for the first 3-4 weeks. However, sign-ups ARE REQUIRED.

Gifts

- If you are interested in getting your child a First Communion gift, we invite you to look at some of our favorite Catholic item suggestions by clicking on the Catholic Parent Resources photo on <http://st-ann.org/family-launch-events> or go to it directly at [https://irp.cdn-website.com/f95d6dd7/files/uploaded/Catholic Parent Resource Guide.pdf](https://irp.cdn-website.com/f95d6dd7/files/uploaded/Catholic%20Parent%20Resource%20Guide.pdf)

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>

Texts

To make sure you do not miss any special dates or announcements for your child's sacrament year, please sign up for our text messages by texting **@sacyear2** to the number **81010**.

SIGNATURE PAGE

I, _____, guardian/parent of

_____, verify that I have read all the Voyage requirements, information, and have saved all the important dates in my calendar for my child's First Communion year.

My child's Voyage student ID for the Voyage database is: _____

Guardian/parent signature

Date

INSTRUCTIONS:

PLEASE KEEP ALL INFORMATION PAGES OF THIS HANDOUT AND ONLY RETURN THE SIGNATURE PAGE TO THE LAUNCH OFFICE BY DOING ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- BY SENDING IT IN WITH YOUR CHILD
- SCANNING IT AND EMAILING IT TO DENISE JONES AT DJONES@ST-ANN.ORG OR JENNY KIEHL AT JKIEHL@ST-ANN.ORG

Checklist for Voyage Student's Requirements

This is for your records only. No need to turn in. Check each box upon completion.

- ☐ Turn in child's baptismal certificate via electronic submission only. Notify Launch Children's Ministry staff if child was baptized at St. Ann's so they can locate baptismal certificate within St. Ann's records.
- ☐ Register family at St. Ann's parish. To confirm a registration is up to date and complete, contact Susan Rhodes at srhodes@st-ann.org.
- ☐ Save the reconciliation dates in my calendar: 11/11/24 and 3/20/25.
- ☐ One or more guardians must attend, or watch, all seven workshops, which dates are: (from 7:15-8:15pm in the church)
 - 9/4/24
 - ~~10/9/24~~ date change: 10/16/24
 - 11/13/24
 - 12/11/24
 - 1/8/25
 - 2/12/25
 - 3/12/25
- ☐ Turn in my child's service hour paperwork.
- ☐ Register my child for the First Communion Mass of our choice. Registration opens on 1/6/25 at 8am.
- ☐ Help my child to complete any make-up work for any missed classes.