

FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CY 2024-2025

Dear Parents,

We are delighted to welcome you and your child to be part of St. Anthony's Parish sacramental preparation. This is a significant milestone in your child's faith development, and we are honored to support you throughout this important time.

Our program is design to provide a comprehensive understanding of the sacrament through engaging lessons, activities and family involvement. We will be using the "Received your Journey to First Reconciliation and Received your Journey to First Communion" program from Ascension Press Catholic. We will journey together with an open heart, encounter God's love in the Eucharist , and experience a joyful witness to His mercy.

We believe that parents play a crucial role in their child's spiritual growth, and we encourage your active participation.

To register, please complete the registration form found in our website and return it to the parish office by September 1, 2024. If you have any questions or need further assistance, do not hesitate to contact us at telephone number 780-872-2883.

We are optimistic that this program will help bring the faith of your child to life and that your family will grow in love for and knowledge of their Catholic Faith. Thank you for allowing us to be part of your child's sacramental journey. ☺

Yours in Christ ,

Gigi Hernando
Pastoral Assistant
St. Anthony's Parish

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Tips to help you prepare your children for these sacraments:

- Pray often as a family. Morning, evening and meal prayers can become wonderful family traditions, and really help your child to become familiar with common Catholic prayers.
- Attending regular Mass, helps your child feel comfortable in the church, builds bonds and friendships in our faith community, and is necessary for spiritual growth, even if it doesn't seem that they are "getting anything out of it".
- Read your children bible stories at their level.
- Receive the sacrament of reconciliation yourself. Your actions are your greatest witness.
- Learn yourself, or refresh your memory about what the church teaches about the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Have easy access to and read often from the Bible and the Catechism of the Catholic Church.
- Insert a little bit of daily "faith sharing" into the life of your family, sharing your own experiences with your children can be a great way for them to learn
- Attend the classes with your child. Ask questions and find opportunities in everyday life to discuss what you've learned that week and work it into real life.
- You as parents read good Catholic Books, watch Movies, or listen to CD's that challenge you to live your Catholic faith more fully.
- Participate fully in the mass. Learn the responses, sing the songs, listen to the readings, homily and discuss it with your child.

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Parents need to be able to answer yes to all questions before they bring their children for the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion (Know by Easter)

- Do I bring my child weekly to Sunday mass?
- Does my child know how to make the sign of the cross (using right hand) and know how to genuflect (go down on right knee)?
- Can my child sit quietly, pay attention and show reverence during mass?
- Does my child understand what a sin is?
- Does my child understand how to go to Reconciliation?
- Does my child understand that by receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation sins are forgiven?
- Does my child understand that during mass bread and wine are changed into Jesus' body and blood? Does he/she know when this happens?
- Does my child understand that when we receive Holy Communion we receive Jesus?
- Does my child understand 'how' to receive Jesus in the Eucharist?
- Does my child understand that we all need to confess mortal sins before receiving Holy Communion?
- Does my child know the prayers from the prayer book?
- Could my child sit quietly while waiting in line for reconciliation?
- Has my child attended a minimum of 11/12 classes and have they (maybe with parents help) completed the homework?

