



First Communion & First Reconciliation 2023-24

First Reconciliation

First Reconciliation is celebrated in December. After their First Reconciliation, children should be encouraged to celebrate this sacrament regularly with their families, especially during the Liturgical seasons of Advent and Lent.

First Communion

First Holy Communion is done in the month of May.

Candidate Requirements

According to Sacramental Norms of the Diocese of Memphis and guidelines of Our Lady of Perpetual Parish, the following are required of First Communicants:

- **Grade Requirement** – Children must be at least in the second grade
- **Registration**
 - Complete the Registration Form located on our parish website.
 - New students in our program must supply a copy of their Birth Certificate
 - Certificate of Baptism – A copy of the child’s baptism certificate is required if your child was baptized at a church other than OLPH.
 - Parish Registration – one of the following criteria must be met:
 - § Your family must be registered members of OLPH.
 - § If you are a registered member of another parish but wish for your child to receive First Reconciliation/First Communion with OLPH, you must

provide a letter from your pastor stating your child has permission to do so.

§ If you would like your child to receive First Reconciliation/First Communion in the parish in which you are registered, we will be happy to provide a letter certifying his/her participation in our program, at your request.

- Supply Fee - \$50.00 payable at Registration

· **Mass Attendance** – All children are expected to attend Sunday Mass on a weekly basis in order to connect religious education, sacramental preparation and prayer, to the Liturgy of the Mass. It is almost impossible to teach children the importance of the Eucharist if they do not participate in Mass on Sundays. When out of town, be sure to check www.masstimes.org for churches and Mass times. Please make Mass attendance part of your travel plans.

· **Religious Education Classes** – Child must be attending a Catholic school or be enrolled in Parish Religious Education classes for at least the year prior to the sacramental year. In other words, a child in second grade may receive First Reconciliation and First Communion only if he or she was enrolled in a Catholic school or Parish Religious Education class during their first grade year. Please provide evidence of this enrollment if the child was not enrolled here at St. Francis last year.

IMPORTANT EVENTS:

- **First Reconciliation Family Meeting**
- **First Holy Communion Family Meeting #1**
- **First Holy Communion Family Meeting #2**

Attire for First Communicants:

Girls:

- Simple white dress, no longer than the ankle in length. The dress may be short sleeve, long sleeve or sleeveless. No spaghetti straps please!
- A white veil may be worn, not to hang below the waist. Flowers incorporated with the head piece should be white and miniature in size.

- Appropriate white dress shoes (open-toe shoes are fine) If socks or tights are worn, they must be white.
- No gloves should be worn.

Boys:

- Navy Blue or Black Sport Coat with tan/khaki pants
- OR Gray, navy, blue or black suit may be worn.
- White shirt with simple tie or white Communion tie
- Belt, dark socks and appropriate dress shoes. No tennis shoes.

2023-24 CALENDAR FOR FIRST COMMUNION & RECONCILIATION

Parents are required to attend a total of three meetings - one for Reconciliation and two for First Communion. Childcare is provided for these meetings.

Reconciliation Parent Meeting

**Nov 12th Parent Meeting, First Reconciliation (English)
Room 109 A/B 2pm**

**Dec 2nd First Reconciliation 10:00 a.m
First Communion Parent Meeting**

**Feb 25th Family Meeting, First Communion
2pm Room 109 A/B**

**Apr 21st Family Meeting, First Communion
2pm Room 109A/B**

May 18th Sacrament of First Holy Communion at 10am OLPH