



## 2023-2024 Preparing Children for First Sacraments Public/Private (non-Catholic)/Home School Process First Reconciliation (Confession) and First Holy Communion (Eucharist)

The celebration of the Sacraments is central to the life of the St. Bartholomew parish family.

The preparation process for **baptized children entering grades 2-5**, enrolled in **public, private (non-Catholic), or home schools**, seeking to receive **First Sacraments (Reconciliation/First Communion)**, includes **two parts**:

1. Registration and participation in the weekly parish **Sunday Morning Growing In Faith Together (G.I.F.T.) Formation** program, **AND**
2. Registration in the **First Sacraments Preparation\*\*** process.

\*\*The **online parish registration form** allows you to register for **both programs** in the [same registration form](#). You can also scan the QR Code at the top of this page to access the online registration.

- In section 2 (Student Registration), answer “yes” to the question: ***Do you also need to register this child for First Sacraments preparation (Reconciliation/First Communion?)***, to be redirected to the preparation for First Sacraments section.

**NOTE: Catholic Schools Families:** Families with children attending Catholic Schools should complete the separate [Catholic Schools Registration](#). See separate flier.

Preparing children for First Sacraments is a seven month, two-part process that includes:

- **Part 1 - First Reconciliation Parents Only Orientation Session**
  - Select a session in October during the Registration process. First Reconciliation materials will be handed out and reviewed with the expectation that parents complete at-home lessons before attending Activity Learning Stations.
    - **Choose between: Sun., October 8, 11:45am, or Wed., October 11, 6:30pm, RA14**
  - **Activity Learning Stations** will include at least one parent/guardian with your daughter/son. You will have the option during the Registration process to select 1 of 4 sessions in December or January. The Learning Stations provide an opportunity for the candidates to review what they've learned and practice in anticipation of their first confession.
    - **Choose between 1 of 4: Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023, 9:00 – 11:30am OR 1:00 – 3:30pm - or – Saturday, January 6, 2024, 9:00am – 11:30am OR 1:00 – 3:30pm**
  - **Experience the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)** at a Communal Reconciliation Service scheduled for **Thursday, January 11, 2024, 6:30pm**. Parents and older siblings are welcome to receive the sacrament also. After successfully completing part one, your family can move on to part two of the process.
- **Part 2 - First Holy Communion (Eucharist) Preparation** follows a similar process. Included in the registration process, you'll be asked to select a First Eucharist Parents Only Orientation session in February 2024. Parents will once again receive resources to complete at-home lessons before attending Activity Learning Stations.
  - **Choose between: Sun., February 4, 2024, 11:45am, Room A14 or Wed., Feb. 7, 6:30pm, A14.**

- **During this Orientation session you will be provided a Sign-up Genius link to select a scheduled rehearsal date as well as a weekend Mass time at which the candidates will receive their First Holy Communion.**
- **Activity Learning Stations** will include at least one parent with your daughter/son. You will have the option during the Registration process to select 1 of 4 sessions in April. The Learning Stations provide an opportunity for the candidates to review what they've learned and practice in anticipation of their First Holy Communion (Eucharist).
  - **Choose between 1 of 4: Saturday, April 20, 2024, 9:00 – Noon OR 1:00 – 4:00pm - or – Saturday, April 27, 2024, 9:00am – Noon OR 1:00 – 4:00pm**
- **First Holy Communion (Eucharist) Rehearsal** will take place the week before they receive their First Holy Communion. Details provided at the First Eucharist Parent
  - Parents will be given the opportunity to sign-up for a rehearsal date during the February First Holy Communion Parent Orientation session.
  - Candidates will rehearse Mass responses and practice how to receive Holy Communion.
  - Specific instructions will be provided at the rehearsal.
- **First Holy Communion Mass - Candidates' families will select between 1 of 4 weekend Masses, May 4 & 5, 2024.**

[Catholic Schools First Sacraments Registration](#) link or scan the **QR Code** at the top of the page.

Contact Susie Osacho. Director of Faith Formation, ASAP at: [sosacho@st-barts.org](mailto:sosacho@st-barts.org) or 952-473-6601, if:

- your child is **7 years of age or older** and has **not been baptized** or was not baptized **Catholic**; or
- your child is in 6th grade+ and has not prepared for First Reconciliation or First Eucharist; or
- the cost of registration is of concern or prohibits you from registering.

*Updated 8-7-2023*