



Together in Jesus

Together in Jesus is our parish sacrament preparation process for First Reconciliation and First Communion. This program is for all Second Grade children in Holy Trinity School, PSR and Family Based Catechesis who have been baptized and have completed First Grade religious education.

Families must be registered members of Holy Trinity Parish, support their child's practice of the Faith, and provide a recently issued Baptism Certificate with Notations from your child's church of Baptism with the [Sacrament Preparation Registration Form](#).

At the beginning of each school year families will be contacted with program information for the year. Gathering sessions will include a meal, prayer, fellowship, presentations on the Sacraments, table discussion, and activities.


Some gatherings will be for parents, and some will be for parents with their 2nd Grader. Materials will be distributed to parents for use in the home. We will provide parents with the leaflet series "Together in Jesus" from Pflaum Publishing to work with their children at home. At least one parent per family is expected to attend each gathering.

⚠️ This is a working document that will be updated throughout the year. ⚠️




SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Wednesday, August 31st
Gathering I: Parents Night
7 TO 8:30 PM (Gym)

This initial gathering will begin with refreshments, a brief prayer service, engaging videos, table discussion and a guest speaker. See the slide show:  TIJ 8 31 22

Wednesday, October 5th
Gathering II: Parents Night
7 TO 8:30 PM (Gym)

This gathering will begin with refreshments, a brief prayer service, a guest speaker and presentation on the Sacrament of Reconciliation and table discussion. **See the slide show:**  **TIJ 10 5 22**
[God's Gift of Forgiveness: A Pastoral Exhortation on the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation](#)

Wednesday, January 18th
Gathering III: Parents & Candidates
6:30 TO 8 PM (Gym)

We will provide a meal, have a brief prayer service and parents will be provided materials to work with their children at their tables and at home.

Our project will be the “**New Heart Project**” in which parents will help their child decorate a red felt heart. These hearts will be collected at the end of the gathering and placed in the church for parishioners. When parishioners come for Mass they will then be able to pick up a heart and pray for your child. They will be asked to return the heart to the church the weekend of Saturday & Sunday, March 4th & 5th.

First Reconciliation <u>Parents are asked to indicate their preference of First Reconciliation Penance Sign Up Form:</u> <u>Service no later than January 30, 2023.</u>
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We will provide parents with a **Together in Jesus folder** containing 6 At Home Lessons that parents can use with their candidate. Target dates for completion would be:

- *Sunday, January 22nd - Lesson 1*
- *Sunday, January 29th - Lesson 2*
- *Sunday, February 5th - Lesson 3*
- *Sunday, February 12th - Lesson 4*
- *Sunday, February 19th - Lesson 5*
- *Sunday, February 26th - Lesson 6*

Pflaum provides videos that can be accessed online for free There is one video supplement for each lesson. [Use this link to access Together in Jesus: Reconciliation videos for use in the home.](#)

To view lesson preview videos, [use this link.](#)

Saturday, March 4th
First Reconciliation Penance Service
9 AM and 11 AM (Church)

After a penance service and examination of conscience, several priests will be on hand to hear confessions. This is a celebration of First Reconciliation for our Second Graders, however, parents are welcome to approach any of the priests for confession if they wish. Candidates will be seated with their parents at the end of each pew.

Order forms for individual portraits will be made available to parents who opt for one of the group First Communion Masses. Please see the section “Wednesday, May 3rd - First Communion Practice & Photo (Group Option Parents/Candidates) 6 PM (10 AM Group) ~ 7 PM (1:30 PM Group)” for more information on individual portraits.



Parish Mission - Sunday, March 19, 2023
7 PM Evening Prayer and Presentation on the Holy Eucharist with Bishop
Michael Woost followed by Eucharistic Adoration (GYM)

Holy Trinity Parish is pleased to announce that we will be visited by Bishop Michael Woost, our newly consecrated Auxiliary Bishop.

On Sunday, March 19th at 7 PM Bishop Woost will lead us in Evening Prayer and will speak on the Holy Eucharist. A time of Eucharistic Adoration will follow Evening Prayer.

We are inviting our TIJ parents to participate in this event in lieu of the gathering we originally planned for March and requesting that at least one parent from each family attend.

Before leaving the school that evening, TIJ parents are asked to stop in the Notre Dame wing outside the Grade 2 classrooms to pick up their child's First Communion banner kit and TIJ First Eucharist folder.

Specific information pertaining to the celebration, and the sign up form, is already provided in this document. Please see the link below.

First Communion Sign Up Form:	<u>Parents are asked to indicate their preference of First Communion no later than March 30, 2023.</u>
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The First Communion banner will adorn the end of your family's half-pew on the day your child celebrates their First Holy Communion.

Your Together in Jesus First Communion folder will contain 6 At Home Lessons that will guide you in your preparations at home. Target dates for completion would be:

- *Sunday, March 26th- Lesson 1*
- *Sunday, April 2nd - Lesson 2*
- *Sunday, April 9th - Lesson 3*
- *Sunday, April 16th - Lesson 4*
- *Sunday, April 23th - Lesson 5*
- *Sunday, April 30th - Lesson 6*

Wednesday, May 3rd

First Communion Practice & Photo (Group Option Parents/Candidates)

6 PM (10 AM Group) ~ 7 PM (1:30 PM Group)

UPDATED 5-2-23

Practice will take place in the church. Each practice will last approximately 45 minutes.

At least one parent should remain with their child in the church.

Children should be brought to the church for practice wearing their First Communion clothes ONLY if parents are having individual portraits taken. First Communion attire is not required if parents are not getting the individual portraits in the makerspace classroom (see below).

There will be no group photo at practice or immediately following First Communion Masses on Saturday, May 6th. There will be photo opportunities in the gym following the Masses.

A photographer from Lifetouch will be in the Makerspace classroom in the school Wednesday Evening from 5 PM to 7 PM for individual portraits for those parents who wish to have them. Order forms have been distributed to parents. Please use the North doors of the school to get to the makerspace classroom. This is a walk in service... no appointment necessary.

Girls: Traditionally, girls wear a white dress, which is a symbol of purity and a reminder of their Baptism. We do not require a white dress or a veil. If your daughter does not wear dresses, a nice pants outfit is fine. If she wants to wear pink, or a dress she wore as a flower girl in a wedding, that's fine, too. We do not require a veil. Some girls wear veils, others choose flowers, ribbons or a tiara. Because the Catholic Church no longer requires women to cover their heads at Mass, it's acceptable if our girls wear nothing on their head.

Boys: We do not require you to purchase a suit or a sport coat. If you have one, or want your son to wear one, that's fine. Some of the boys wear a sport coat on First Communion day. Boys should wear a shirt with a collar. A tie is good, but not required. Dress pants are fine. No specific color of pants, shirt or tie is required. Many wear khaki pants, a white or blue shirt and a blue sport coat. Others wear dark pants and a white shirt with no sport coat. Because attire for weekly Mass has become more casual, some of our children don't own "dress" shoes. If your child doesn't and there is no plan to buy them, they should wear their best shoes.

At least one parent should remain with their child in the church for practice.

Saturday, May 6th
First Communion Masses (Group Option)
10 AM and 1:30 PM (Church)

The Candidates should be brought directly to the church prior to the beginning of their Mass. They will be seated in the front pews of the church.

Parents may take photographs before Mass begins, but no photographs or video should be taken during the Mass. Photographs may be taken outside the Church after Mass weather permitting.

First Communicants will be seated in the front pews. Each family will be assigned to a half-pew. Parents will determine who is seated with them in their family's half-pew. Families will be able to hang their child's First Communion banner on the armrest of their half-pew.

There will be some limited seating available in pews set aside for guests. For those who are unable to attend, the First Holy Communion Masses will be live streamed at our parish website htavon.org. Please pass this on to anyone who may not be able to attend.

First Communion certificates will be provided during Mystagogy.

Any Sunday in May
Sunday Mass First Communion (Family Option)

Parents who choose this option will receive a **signupgenius link** to sign up for a Sunday Mass for their child's First Communion. The family would be seated in a front pew and would hang their child's First Communion banner on the armrest of their pew. The child would be the first to receive Holy Communion at that Mass with their family. The family will receive their child's First Communion certificate at that time.

Month of May
Mystagogy

This is a Greek word meaning “to lead through the mysteries.” In the weeks that follow First Communion we will continue to accompany our children as they discover what it means to fully participate in the sacramental and liturgical life of the Church. This will take place in the context of their faith formation classes in the day school, PSR, or Family Based Catechesis.



Q & A

Q. My child has not been baptized. Can my child participate?

A. If your child has never been baptized, your child is eligible to participate in the Order of Christian Initiation adapted for children. This process would prepare your child to receive Baptism, Confirmation, and First Communion at Easter. Please contact the parish office for information.

Q. What if I can't bring my child for one of the scheduled penance services for First Reconciliation?

A. You are welcome to bring your child on any Saturday at 4 PM during regular confession times in the Church after the at home lessons are completed on February 26th. You also have the option of making an appointment with Fr. Hawk for your child's First Reconciliation.

Q. We are registered parishioners of another parish. Can our child receive First Communion at Holy Trinity?

A. In order for your child to receive First Communion at Holy Trinity, a letter of permission is required for your child's First Communion at Holy Trinity. This letter should be submitted to the Parish Office well in advance of the celebration.

Q. My child has Celiac Sprue Disease. What should I do?

A. Please read this information on [gluten intolerance and the reception of Holy Communion](#) and then contact Fr. Hawk on particular instructions for the celebration.

Q. What should the children wear for First Communion?

A. Girls: Traditionally, girls wear a white dress, which is a symbol of purity and a reminder of their Baptism. We do not require a white dress or a veil. If your daughter does not wear dresses, a nice pants outfit is fine. If she wants to wear pink, or a dress she wore as a flower girl in a wedding, that's fine, too. We do not require a veil. Some girls wear veils, others choose flowers, ribbons or a tiara. Because the Catholic Church no longer requires women to cover their heads at Mass, it's acceptable if our girls wear nothing on their head.

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Q. What if there is an emergency on the day we planned our child's First Communion and we cannot attend? How do we notify parish staff?

A. Please send an email.

If you chose the Group Option, please contact the DRE at rcamp@holytrinityavon.com.

If you chose the Family Option, please email Fr. Hawk at frvhawk@holytrinityavon.com.

You will be contacted to reschedule your child's First Communion.



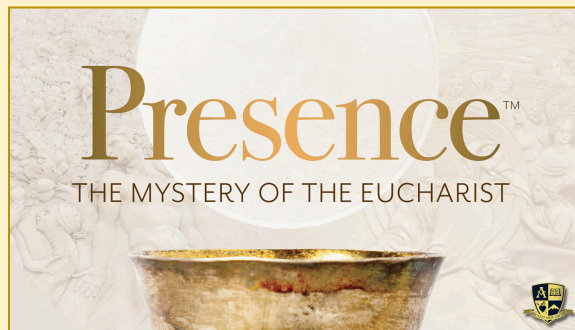
Resources

Did you know that FORMED is a free gift from Holy Trinity Parish for all of our Holy Trinity families. To sign up, go to www.formed.org/signup. After you sign up, check out...



Forgiven: The Transforming Power of Confession

Forgiven: The Transforming Power of Confession, explores the grace and healing offered in Confession and shows how this sacrament of mercy reveals the depth and bounty of God's love. By looking at God's revelation of his mercy in Scripture and making a step-by-step examination of the Rite itself, Forgiven communicates God's invitation to each one of us to come experience his indescribable love in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist

Although the Eucharist appears to be simple bread and wine, it is actually the "source and summit" of the Christian life. Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist explores the truth and beauty of Christ's real presence in the Eucharist, from its origins in Sacred Scripture, to its profound role in the life of the Church and her members. It is the crescendo of the entire story of salvation.

Catholic Family Crate: making faith fun and engaging!

<https://catholicfamilycrate.com?aff=87>

MagnifiKID: to follow at mass

<https://us.magnificat.net/magnifikid>

Dynamic Catholic “BLESSED” - first Reconciliation & First Holy Communion Prep - its FREE!
You just pay for shipping.

<https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/blessed.html>

The Sunday Connection - Prepare for Mass Today (Loyola Press)

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/>



For More Information

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