



First Sacraments Guidelines
Families with Children 2nd Grade and up
Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church
2025-2026 School Year
Updated Sept 3, 2025

Program Overview

Our Lady of the Lake is delighted to support you in preparing your child for their First Reconciliation and First Communion. These sacraments offer families an opportunity to experience the power of God's mercy and love in their lives. We are honored to accompany families on this journey.

Course Structure

First Reconciliation classes run from September through November, with First Confessions scheduled for mid November. First Communion classes run from January through April, with First Holy Eucharist Masses held in May.

Our format aims to support parents by strengthening their Domestic Church while growing our Faith Community at OLL. **Parents and children meet in person for each class.** The classroom setting provides a combination of group and family discussion time.

In-Person Events

Classes

Two First Sacrament sessions will be offered for the 2025/2026 school year. The Alpha session will meet on Sundays from 10:15am - 11am, and the Kairos session will meet on Thursdays from 3:30pm - 4:15pm. Both sessions meet in the OLL Parish Center (school building).

The schedules for each session are all provided at the end of this document.

Space is very limited. We ask families to enroll in one session (either Alpha or Kairos) and attend as many classes as you can according to that schedule. If you have a conflict, you are welcome to make up the class during the other session as needed.

We encourage families to attend ALL in person classes for the best sacramental prep experience. Families **must attend at least six in person sessions, three Lenten/Holy Week events and both retreats.**

In the event of an absence, make-up work will be assigned, based on the content missed. All make-up work will be clearly documented at the beginning of the program and is the responsibility of the family to complete. **Make Up work MUST be completed before the sacraments can be received.**

Lenten & Holy Week Events

The following Lenten & Holy Week events will require class participation. More information will be provided during the second half of the program.

- **Stations of the Cross** service will be led by our class on Mar 6th at 6pm (plan on arriving at 5:30pm)
- **Palm Sunday Mass** will include participation from our class on Mar 29th at 9am (plan on arriving at 8:30am)
- **Holy Thursday** service will include participation from our class on Apr 2nd at 7pm (plan on arriving at 6:30pm)

Retreats & Sacramental Events

The following events will require each family to sign up in advance. This sign up process will be explained further in class.

- **First Reconciliation Family Retreat** on Nov 2nd from 10:15am-12:15pm **or** Nov 9th from 10:15am-12:15pm (families will sign up for one of the two dates - attendance is mandatory)
- **Individual Confessions** on Nov 15th from 11am-12pm **or** Nov 22nd from 11am-12pm (families will sign up for one, 30 min window)
- **First Communion Family Retreat** on Apr 12th from 10:15am-12:15pm **or** Apr 19th from 10:15am-12:15pm (families will sign up for one of the two dates - attendance is mandatory)
- **First Communion Mass** on May 2nd at 11am **or** May 9th at 11am (families will sign up for one of the two Masses)

Our program is designed to help you and your child become fully prepared to receive these blessed sacraments. Retreats will include church tours, time to practice each sacrament, and space to build community with other OLL families. **Please mark your calendar!**

Participation Requirements

Children entering second grade are eligible for this sacramental program. Older children in grades 3-6 who have not had the sacraments are also welcome to participate. Participation in this program requires each family to:

- Be practicing Catholics
- Attend Sunday Mass each week with your child
- Have your child baptized in a Catholic church
- Provide a copy of child's baptism certificate by Dec 1, if not baptized at OLL

Registration

Registration will be open from May 26 - September 10, 2025. Please see Melissa Hanifan for more information. The program fee is \$100 per child. Financial assistance is available upon request.

Ongoing Communication

Each Friday, you will receive an email with information that guides you through the program. If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Hanifan at melissah@ollparish.com.

I look forward to supporting you in preparing your child for their First Reconciliation and First Communion.

Blessings,
Melissa Hanifan
Child & Family Faith Coordinator

2025/26 First Sacraments - Alpha Session

Date	Event	Time & Location
Sept 7	First Day of Class	10:15-11am in OLL Tech Lab
Sept 21	Class	10:15-11am in OLL Tech Lab
Oct 5	Class	10:15-11am in OLL Tech Lab
Oct 19	Class	10:15-11am in OLL Tech Lab
Oct 26*	Knights Fall Family Event	10am-1pm in OLL Cafeteria
Nov 2 & Nov 9, 2025 (Choose One)	First Reconciliation Family Retreat	10:15am-12:15pm at OLL Sign Up Required
Nov 15 & 22, 2025 (Choose One)	Individual Confessions	11am-12:00pm at OLL Sign Up Required
Nov 16*	Thankful & Grateful Event	10:15-11:00am at Parish Hall
Nov 30*	Family Advent Event	10am-1pm at Parish Hall
Dec 14*	Christmas Pageant	10:15-11am at OLL Church
Jan 18	Class	10:15-11am in OLL Tech Lab
Feb 1	Teaching Mass	9am or 11:15am Mass (Choose One)
Feb 8	Class	10:15-11am in OLL Tech Lab
Feb 15*	Family Lenten Event	10am-1pm at Parish Hall
Feb 22	Class	10:15-11am in OLL Tech Lab
Mar 6	Stations of the Cross	5:30pm for 6pm start at OLL
Mar 8	Class	10:15-11am in OLL Tech Lab
Mar 29	Palm Sunday Mass	8:30am for 9am start at OLL
Apr 2	HolyThursday Service	6:30pm for 7pm start at OLL
Apr 5*	Easter Egg Hunt	After 9am & 11:15am Masses
Apr 12 & 19, 2026 (Choose One)	First Communion Family Retreat	10:15am-12:15pm at OLL Sign Up Required
Apr 26	Final Class	10:15-11am in OLL Tech Lab
May 2 & 9, 2026 (Choose One)	First Communion Masses	11am at OLL Church Sign Up Required

*Optional Family Faith Event

2025/26 First Sacraments - **Kairos Session**

Date	Event	Time & Location
Sept 11	First Day of Class	3:30-4:15pm in OLL Nazareth
Sept 25	Class	3:30-4:15pm in OLL Nazareth
Oct 9	Class	3:30-4:15pm in OLL Nazareth
Oct 16	Class	3:30-4:15pm in OLL Nazareth
Oct 26*	Knights Fall Family Event	10am-1pm in OLL Cafeteria
Nov 2 & Nov 9, 2025 (Choose One)	First Reconciliation Family Retreat	10:15am-12:15pm at OLL Sign Up Required
Nov 15 & 22, 2025 (Choose One)	Individual Confessions	11am-12pm at OLL Sign Up Required
Nov 16*	Thankful & Grateful Event	10:15-11am at Parish Hall
Nov 30*	Family Advent Event	10am-1pm at Parish Hall
Dec 14*	Christmas Pageant	10:15-11am at OLL Church
Jan 22	Class	3:30-4:15pm in OLL Nazareth
Feb 1	Teaching Mass	9am or 11:15am Mass (Choose One)
Feb 12	Class	3:30-4:15pm in OLL Nazareth
Feb 15*	Family Lenten Event	10am-1pm at Parish Hall
Feb 26	Class	3:30-4:15pm in OLL Nazareth
Mar 6	Stations of the Cross	5:30pm for 6pm start at OLL
Mar 12	Class	3:30-4:15pm in OLL Nazareth
Mar 29	Palm Sunday Mass	8:30am for 9am start at OLL
Apr 2	HolyThursday Service	6:30pm for 7pm start at OLL
Apr 5*	Easter Egg Hunt	After 9am & 11:15am Masses
Apr 12 & 19, 2026 (Choose One)	First Communion Family Retreat	10:15am-12:15pm at OLL Sign Up Required
Apr 30	Final Class	3:30-4:15pm in OLL Nazareth
May 2 & 9, 2026 (Choose One)	First Communion Masses	11am at OLL Church Sign Up Required

*Optional Family Faith Event