

St. Gabriel Catholic Church

FIRST RECONCILIATION
FIRST EUCHARIST



SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION
PROGRAMS



INFORMATION PACKET 2020 - 2021

ST. GABRIEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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August 7, 2020

Dear Family,

We pray and hope all of our families are remaining safe during the Covid-19 pandemic. Health and safety guidelines from local, state and federal governments, as well as the Diocese of Baton Rouge are being implemented on our campus and through the various activities such as the Sacramental Preparation Programs on our campus.

In September, St. Gabriel will begin Sacramental Preparation Programs for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. You may have a child who is eligible to begin preparing for the celebration of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist for the first time. These events are a significant step in spiritual development. In order for your child to receive the best preparation, parents should take an active role in this process. Children look to parents and family members for example and guidance, and so your role in the catechesis of your child is critical.

As our class size is small, we should be able to meet on campus following the necessary safety protocols. If you are uncomfortable with your child or you are uncomfortable attending activities on campus, please contact Myra at the parish office.

We have prepared a packet which contains the information about our Sacramental Preparation Programs. Please review the material carefully. After reviewing the materials, if you and your child meet the requirements for these programs, please complete the registration form and return it to the parish office by **August 25, 2020**. There is a \$35.00 fee per child for this program.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at the parish office. We are looking forward to working with you and your child during this important part of your faith journey.

Sincerely,

Fr. Charles R. Landry, Pastor

Mrs. Myra Tircuit, D.R.E.

GUIDELINES FOR FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST EUCHARIST

ELIGIBILITY

1. Applicant must be a baptized Catholic whose family is **registered** in St. Gabriel Catholic Church Parish.
2. Applicant must be a “**PRACTICING**” member of St. Gabriel Catholic Church. (Practicing means **regularly** attends Mass on Sundays and Holydays)
3. Applicant must be in the second grade or older
4. Applicant must have participated in a Religious Education Program (Catholic School or a Church Parish School of Religion) for **one year prior** to application.
5. Applicant must be participating in a Religious Education Program at the time of application.
6. Students who are not in Catholic Schools must attend Religious Education Program in St. Gabriel during Sacramental Preparation year.
7. A child will not be allowed in the program once classes have started, unless transferring from another program.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

“God forgiveness is revealed in the healing presence of Jesus in our lives. Jesus’ message is that God our Father is extravagantly generous and joyful in forgiving us. He does this because of His limitless love for us individually. This is why Jesus came to find those who are lost, to heal those who suffer, and to save sinners. This forgiveness is celebrated in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.”

SACRAMENT OF EUCHARIST

“The Eucharist is a memorial of the Lord’s passion, death, and resurrection. This holy sacrifice is both a commemoration of a past event and a celebration of the here and now. Through, with, and in the Church Christ’s sacrifice on the cross and the victory of his resurrection become present in every celebration.”

PREPARATION FOR FIRST RECONCILIATION

1. Introductory meeting/workshop for parents.
2. Three instructional classes which will meet one Saturday each month from 9:00 A.M. until 11:00 A.M. in the Kleinpeter Center.
3. During the First Class a parent is to remain with their child for the first ten minutes of class.
4. Morning of Reflection which will include practice prior to the reception of the Sacrament – both parents and candidates are to attend.
5. It is not always possible for students to miss classes or leave class early for extra –curricular activities such as basketball, soccer, pictures, birthday parties etc. Please plan your family calendar and activities with the dates and times of sessions/activities in mind.

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4. The Rite of Enrollment will be held on a Sunday in January during the 10:15 A.M. Mass, where candidates will be presented to the Parish.*
5. Candidates and their families will be assigned as Gift Bearers at a Mass during the Lenten Season.*
6. A Seder Meal will be held for the candidates and their parents on Palm Sunday at 6:00 P.M. in the Parish Activity Center. *
7. Morning of Reflection which will include practice prior to the reception of the Sacrament – both parents and candidates are to attend.

*Tentative depending on where we are in pandemic

When you request permission and solicit the parish to help have your child receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist in the Catholic Faith, it is an agreement between the parish and the ones seeking the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Sacrament of Eucharist.

It is the policy of St. Gabriel Catholic Church to follow the Canon Laws, Diocesan Guidelines and parish guidelines and policies.

Canon Law 777 states: “In accord with the norms established by the Diocesan Bishop, the pastor is to make particular provision that children are properly prepared for the first reception of the Sacraments of penance and Most Holy Eucharist....”

Canon Law 914 states: “It is the responsibility, in the first place and those who take the place of parents, as well as the pastor, to see that children who have reached the age of reason are correctly prepared and are nourished by the divine food as early as possible, preceded by sacramental confession....”

Diocesan Guideline for Reconciliation #4 states that every parish has the responsibility of assisting parents of candidates by providing:

Adult education for all parents of children preparing to receive a sacrament so that parents are equipped to fulfill their role as the primary teachers of their children, and so that parents have opportunities to continue to grow in the understanding of their faith: these programs should include both the theological understanding of the sacrament and practical ways of preparing children to participate in the celebration of the sacrament and should be designed to nourish the faith life of the parents

Diocesan Guideline for Eucharist #3 states that immediate preparation for full participation in the Eucharist should include all of the following:

- A deepening awareness of the activity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in our lives.
- The gifts of Jesus in his life, death and resurrection.
- An understanding of the Church’s faith in Christ’s continued presence in the Eucharist, as well as in the Christian assembly and his word.
- Familiarity with and opportunities to participate in the whole Eucharistic rite as the central act of worship and primary sacrament of Reconciliation of the Catholic Community.

In order to comply with the above Canons and Diocesan Guidelines, it is necessary for the family to be vigilant in their attendance at mass, as well as a commitment to Stewardship of Time, Talent, and Treasure. Records are maintained in the parish office to adhere to this policy. **It is important that your family commitment to and participation in the faith family of St. Gabriel Parish be acknowledged.**

If there are canonical impediments, which limit your participation in the Sacramental life of the Church, please contact the pastor. Examples of canonical impediments may be those who are not married in the Church, those who have not recently received the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist as required by the Church

Be assured of continued prayers for your family and your child as we begin this segment of our faith journey.

**FIRST RECONCILIATION/FIRST EUCHARIST
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
2020 – 2021**

FIRST RECONCILIATION

Sept 09	6:30 P.M.	Information Meeting for Parents
Sept 19	9:00 A.M.	Session for candidates until 11:00
Oct 17	9:00 A.M.	Session for candidates
Nov 14	9:00 A.M.	Session for Candidates
Dec 12	9:00 A.M.	Morning Reflection/Practice Candidates & Parents
Dec 15	6:30 P.M.	Sacrament of First Reconciliation

FIRST EUCHARIST

Jan 06	6:30 P.M.	Information Meeting for Parents
Jan 10	10:00 A.M.	Mass – Rite of Enrollment
Jan 23	9:00 A.M.	Session for candidates until 11:00
Feb 20	9:00 A.M.	Session for candidates
Mar 20	9:00 A.M.	Session for Candidates
Mar 28	6:00 P.M.	Seder Meal - Parents & Candidates
May 1	9:00 A.M.	Morning of Reflection/Practice Candidates & Parent
May 2	10:00 A.M.	Sacrament of First Eucharist

Please be aware that as the situations with COVID – 19 changes we may have to adapt our program.

***Candidates and their families will be assigned as gift bearers at an assigned mass during the Lenten Season.**

Failure to participate in the scheduled sessions/activities and/or not successfully completing the program may result in the deferment of the Sacraments.

