

Old St. Mary's Catholic Church

A MINISTRY OF THE PAULIST FATHERS

First Communion Dates 2026-27

Overview

During 3rd Grade, Catholic students enrolled at Old St. Mary's Catholic School will make their First Communion. For the most part, students will complete their sacramental preparation during their regularly scheduled religion classes, with the exception of two Saturday retreats and the actual First Communion Mass. Below you will find important dates to add to your calendar for the coming year. **All four events are required.**

Parent Preparation Meeting (choose 1 option):

TBA

First Communion Retreat 1 with Parents (choose 1 option):

Saturday, September 26 (10am – 12pm)

Sunday, October 4 (1:30 – 3:30)

First Communion Retreat 2 (choose 1 option):

Saturday, May 8 (10:00am – 12:00pm)

Sunday, May 16/23 (1:30 – 3:30pm)** *the Archdiocese has not yet determined which of these dates will be next year's Confirmation Mass – we will hold the First Communion retreat on whichever one it is not.*

First Communion Mass Times (signups available in January):

May 29 – 5pm

June 5 – 5pm** *also a possible Confirmation date*

May 30 – 8:30am, 11am, 4pm

June 6 – 8:30am, 11am

Why Do I Need to Attend with My Child?

Research overwhelmingly indicates that family catechesis is the most effective form of faith formation for children and youth. Children who participate in faith formation programs that engage parents in the learning process are significantly more likely to continue practicing the faith into adulthood and to find a supportive social network through Christian community.

At Old St. Mary's, we are making it a program priority to engage parents in the faith formation process, which is why parents are being asked to attend a preparation meeting and participate in the Fall retreat. We also understand that many parents are unfamiliar or uncomfortable with this approach to catechesis – our faith formation team will walk you through it! By participating in this process, you impact your child's development more than you know. In addition, your engagement shows your child that you consider faith a priority and makes it clear that you are an adult they can comfortably talk to about religion.

While both parents are welcome and encouraged to attend any of these events, only one parent's participation is required. For mixed-faith families, it is important that the Catholic parent attend – YOU will be teaching your child about this Sacrament, so it is important for the participating parent to have had personal experience with it.

Old St. Mary's Catholic School Parents:

There are a few sacrament events traditionally held outside of school hours, just as there were for First Reconciliation last year: you attend a parent meeting, your child attends a retreat on their own (retreat #2), and you ultimately celebrate the Sacrament together on a weekend. To facilitate parent engagement in the preparation process for First Communion, it was necessary to also schedule a parent-child program (retreat #1) outside of school hours. For each of these events, we have provided two dates for you to choose between in order to accommodate busy schedules. In the new year, you will have the opportunity to sign up for your preferred dates. For now, we ask that you mark your calendar well in advance. Particularly, if you know that you will be unavailable on one date, please make sure that you reserve the other for each of these important faith formation events.