

Old St. Mary's Catholic Church

A MINISTRY OF THE PAULIST FATHERS

First Communion Dates 2026-27

Overview

SFF students at Old St. Mary's receive First Communion in 3rd Grade. For the most part, students complete their sacramental preparation during their regularly scheduled class time, with the exception of two Saturday retreats and the First Communion Mass. As part of this process, we will ask parents to join us for three regularly scheduled classes as well. Below you will find important dates to add to your calendar for the coming year. **All events are required.**

Parent Preparation Meeting:

Recorded – be sure to watch before classes start!

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

Saturday, September 26 (10am – 12pm)

Sunday, October 4 (1:30 – 3:30)

Regular Sunday Classes with Parents (9:45 – 10:45am on Sundays)*

September 13, 2026

April 4, 2027

April 11, 2027

April 25, 2027

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.

We realize that between these First Communion events and our full-program Family Classes in the gym, all the dates can get a bit confusing. To help you, here is a list of all the Sunday Faith Formation class dates when you should plan to STAY on campus with your First Communion student:*

September 13, 2026	March 7, 2027	April 18, 2027
September 20, 2026	April 4, 2027	April 25, 2027
November 22, 2026	April 11, 2027	

*If you also have older children enrolled in the program, please note the Family Reconciliation Services in November and February – we hope you will attend these two classes with your older child as well.

Outside of regularly scheduled Sunday Faith Formation classes, we ask you to stay for the following special events:

- First Communion Retreat #1 (choose 9/26 or 10/4)

Please note that Retreat #2 is a drop-off event – while you should add it to your calendar now, parents are not required to stay.