

Old St. Mary's Catholic Church

A MINISTRY OF THE PAULIST FATHERS

First Reconciliation Dates 2026-27

Overview

During 2nd Grade, Catholic students enrolled at Old St. Mary's Catholic School will make their First Reconciliation. Completing First Reconciliation in 2nd Grade is a requirement for receiving First Holy Communion in 3rd Grade. 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 Reconciliation service. 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):

Thursday, December 3 (6:30 – 7:30pm)

Sunday, December 6 (9:45 – 10:45am)

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

Sunday, January 10 (1:30pm – 3:30pm)

Saturday, January 23 (10am – 12pm)

First Reconciliation Retreat 2 with Parents (choose 1 option):

Saturday, February 20 (10:00am – 12:00pm)

Sunday, February 28 (1:30 – 3:30pm)

First Reconciliation Service (choose 1 option):

Sunday, March 7 (1:30 – 3:30pm)

Saturday, March 13 (10am – 12pm)

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. 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.

To facilitate parent engagement in the preparation process for First Reconciliation, it is necessary to schedule a few events 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. At the Parent Preparation Meeting, 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.

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. If you are Catholic but have been away from the Sacrament of Reconciliation for a time, reach out to a member of our parish pastoral staff! We are happy to answer any questions you have and help you prepare to set an example for your child. We hope that you will choose to participate in the Sacrament at the First Reconciliation Service along with them!