

Ⓢ Old St. Mary's Catholic Church

A MINISTRY OF THE PAULIST FATHERS

First Reconciliation Dates 2026-27

Overview

During 2nd Grade, students in the Sunday Faith Formation program will make their First Reconciliation. Completing First Reconciliation in 2nd Grade is a requirement for receiving First Holy Communion in 3rd Grade next year. For the most part, students will complete their sacramental preparation during their regularly-scheduled Sunday Faith Formation classes, with the exception of two Saturday retreats and the actual First Reconciliation service. As part of this process, we will also ask parents to join us for some classes. Below you will find important dates to add to your calendar for the coming year. **All First Reconciliation events are required.**

Parent Preparation Meeting (9:45 – 10:45am - during class)

December 6, 2026

First Reconciliation Classes with Parents (9:45 – 10:45am on Sundays)*

January 24, 2027

February 7, 2027

January 31, 2027

February 21, 2027

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 (parents drop off):

Saturday, February 20 (1:30 – 3:30pm)

First Reconciliation Service (choose 1 option):

Sunday, March 7 (1:30 – 3:30pm)

Saturday, March 13 (10am – 12pm)

When 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.

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 realize that between these First Reconciliation events and our full-program Family Catechesis sessions 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 Reconciliation student:*

September 20, 2026	January 24, 2027	February 21, 2027
November 22, 2026	January 31, 2027	March 7, 2027
December 6, 2026	February 7, 2027	April 18, 2027

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

- Reconciliation Retreat #1 (choose 1/10 or 1/23)
- First Reconciliation Service (choose 3/7 or 3/13)

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

*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.