



DIVINE MERCY PARISH



First Communion Prep | Grade 2

What are the requirements for my child to receive their sacraments?

The Archdiocese of New Orleans requires that children preparing to receive the sacrament of First Holy Communion engage in adequate formation that ideally involves the family and is 1-2 years in length. Children must be validly baptized in order to receive First Communion. Children must also demonstrate sufficient knowledge of the faith and ascent to the teachings about the Eucharist.

How often does my child need to receive their sacraments after their first reception?

The Church requires all Catholic to receive Holy Communion at minimum twice a year, at Christmas and Easter. However, all Catholic are obligated to attend Sunday Mass once a week, even if they are not able to receive the Eucharist. Since the Eucharist is the true presence of Jesus, we ought to desire to receive him as often as possible. In order to best prepare our hearts and minds to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, it is necessary to cleanse ourselves of our sins through the sacrament of Reconciliation. This sacrament can be received as often as desired, but is required in the case of mortal sin. The Church encourages all Catholics to receive Reconciliation once a month.

How can I best prepare my child at home to receive their sacraments?

Begin by praying together as a family. Invite Jesus into your home and into your hearts. Go to Reconciliation as a family and prepare your hearts to worthily receive the Lord in the Most Holy Eucharist. Make Mass a priority in your family and when you go to Mass, really try to participate and engage in the liturgy. Learn more about the Eucharist. Read the various Bible stories about the Eucharist and do not be afraid to let your children ask questions. You can discover the answers together and you may be surprised what they will teach you!

Are guests invited to attend?

Family and friends are welcome to attend, especially the First Communion Mass. During First Communion, children will be seated with their class while family members will sit in their assigned pew behind the children. The pews will be assigned according to a lottery system and will be provided at the rehearsal. All family members are welcome to sit together in their assigned pew. The remaining pews will be considered opening seating. There will be no assigned family seating for Reconciliation. While guests are invited to attend and even participate in the sacrament, we ask that all guests allow the children to receive first.



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What is the dress code?

Girls should wear an all-white, off-white, or cream colored dress that is knee length or longer. A light colored sash is permitted. Any sleeveless dresses should have straps at least three fingers wide. Flat white, off-white or cream colored dress shoes are required (no heels or wedges) with white stockings. A light colored ribbon or bow is permitted for the hair and/or a modest ring of flowers. Veils are permissible, but optional. Veils should not be longer than mid back. Makeup, nail polish, tiaras or gloves are not permitted. Simple and modest stud earrings and a small necklace are permitted.

Boys should wear a neutral solid color suit (white, black, navy...etc.) or sports coat with a tie (traditional or bow tie), dress shirt, and dress pants. Navy blue or beige jackets and pants are allowed. Black or white dress shoes are required. Casual khaki or cargo style pants are not permitted.

The children will be permitted to use accessories such as gloves, prayer books, Rosaries, purses, Bibles...etc. *for the photos before the Mass only*. These items will need to be kept with the parents during the Mass as the children are not permitted to carry anything with them into the Church, including gloves.