



First Communion 2022-2023

"I am with you always"

Matthew 28:20

ST. LAWRENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH | Tampa, FL



CONTACT ME

Director of Youth Faith Formation & Youth Ministries

Andrew Johnson

☎ (813) 875-4040 ex.206

✉ ajohnson@stlawrence.org

📍 5225 N. Himes Avenue
Tampa, FL 33614

🌐 <https://stlawrence.org/>

DUE DATES

November 2, 2022

Baptism Cert Must be in

Feb 25th, 2023

Retreat 9am - 1pm

RETREAT

Jesus Day Retreat at Park
Feb 25, 2023 Sat. 9am - 1pm

Jesus Day is a day retreat for the First Communicants held at . The day is organized and put on by the Parents of the Communicants, and includes Faith filled activities, food, and a talk by Father. Jesus Day concludes with a Prayer Service led by Andrew Johnson to celebrate the Rite of Completion. Be sure to mark your Calendars for Jesus Day on Saturday Feb 25th from 9am - 1pm.



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First Communion 2022-2023

FIRST COMMUNION SCHEDULE 2022 - 2023

SESSIONS **STL School Celtic Hall** **2022 - 2023**
Blessed

Session 1 Forgiveness & Healing Oct. 26th 6:30pm -7:30pm

To Demonstrate that forgiveness is key to healthy relationships.

To Explain that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, leads us to heaven.

To Teach that, in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, God proves that He is always willing to forgive us.

Session 2 First Reconciliation Nov. 16th, 6:30pm -7:30pm

To Demonstrate that Reconciliation is a lifelong blessing.

To Explain that no matter how far we may wander from God, He will never stop searching for us, and He will never stop searching for us.

To Teach that their First Reconciliation is going to be a great moment in their lives.

Session 3 It's Only the Beginning Dec 7th, 6:30 pm -7:30 pm

To Demonstrate that great habits help us become the best version of ourselves.

To Explain that, daily prayer helps us to hear God's voice and gives us the courage to do what He is inviting us to do.

To Teach that gratitude for God's blessings fills us with joy.

Session 4 The Eucharist Feb 15th 6:30 pm -7:30 pm

To Proclaim that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist.

To Explain that the Eucharist is food for our souls.

To Teach that Holy Communion is a lifelong blessing we should never take for granted.

Session 5 Your First Communion March 8th, 6:30 pm -7:30 pm

To Proclaim that we are ready to say "yes" to God and receive their First Communion.

To Explain That the Eucharist will empower us to do great things for God.

To Teach that we will always have an open invitation from God to share in the great celebration of the Mass.

Session 6 God's Family April 5th, 6:30 pm-7:30 pm

To Proclaim that we are all made for a mission.

To Explain that the Parrish is our spiritual family.

To Teach that God created each of us with a purpose.

Rehearsal / Sacramental Date

First Reconciliation Rehearsal	6pm -7pm in the Church	Dec 11, 2022
First Reconciliation	6pm -7pm in the Church	Dec 12, 2022

First Communion Rehearsal	6pm -7pm in the Church	May 5, 2023
First Communion Mass	10:30am & 12:30pm in the Church	May 6, 2023



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Your Journey Begins

The Sacraments are a wonderful expression of God's presence in our lives. Our God chooses a relationship of intimate love with each one of us. Through First Communion & Reconciliation you will continue the journey that began at your Baptism, a journey that began when God chose you as His own. First Communion & Reconciliation is not the end of a journey; it is only just the beginning. Christ has chosen you; will you now choose Him?

Parent Involvement: The classes for the Sacrament of First Communion & Reconciliation will have a strong focus on the family's role as the "Domestic Church." We encourage you to pray with your youth, spend time in the Word, and as always, attend weekly Mass (if you are able) as a family to stress the importance of one's spiritual formation. We highly encourage parents to take this time and grow as a family, closer to the Lord.

Impactful Curriculum: Using resources from Blessed series. This First Communion & First Reconciliation Program is focused on three big questions - "Can God forgive me?" "Is Jesus in the Eucharist?" and "Why belong to the Church?" This curriculum is designed to be faith forming with an emphasis on walking our youth through the sacraments and how to apply faith in our every day lives.

*Heavenly Father,
the blessings you have given to St. Lawrence parish are too many to count, and we thank you for these and the youth faith families. Please send your Holy Spirit to help us continue to share our faith with the children. May the families have an open heart; increase their faith Lord as we prepare for this 2022-23 year of learning. May the gifts of the Holy Spirit help us all--especially wisdom, understanding and fortitude during this time of preparation. May the clergy, catechist leaders of youth ministry, and volunteers be filled with God's love and peace. May our trust in You be constant, as we desire to do your will.
In Jesus' name, we pray. AMEN*



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First Communion & Reconciliation Preparation Requirements:

- 1.) Practice their faith regularly by participating in the Mass on Sundays and Holy Days.
- 2.) Register for First Communion & Reconciliation Preparation on our website www.stlawrence.org/yff/
- 3.) Turn in a copy of your Baptism Certificate.
- 4.) Attend all sessions on the schedule. **Attendance is required for all sessions, retreats, rites, rehearsal, and the Sacrament.** *(The only excused absences are for illness (to the degree that a child is kept home from school) or a family emergency. A youth who has excessive absences will need to wait until the following year to celebrate the Sacrament. Scheduling conflicts such as sporting events, practices, or other extracurricular activities will NOT be considered an excused absence. Preparation for the Sacrament is expected to take precedence over those other types of activities).*
- 5.) Be a good steward. Stewardship is an integral part of the First Communion & Reconciliation journey. Youth should be involved in experiences that enable them to use their gifts and talents in service of others.
- 6.) To help you build a strong faith life and community with other young Catholics, youth are asked to be active in a Faith Formation program during the First Communion & Reconciliation journey. This can be Catholic school, bible study or an alternate program approved by the Director of Faith Formation.
- 7.) Complete 3 spiritual opportunities

***"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid;
do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you
wherever you go"***

-Joshua 1:9



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SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES

All youth must complete three Spiritual Opportunities, draw a picture of what you did for each opportunity, and turn them in to the Faith Formation Office by January 9, 2023. Stewardship is an integral part of the First Communion & Reconciliation journey.

The spirituality of stewardship should seek to integrate the truths of our Catholic faith, the sacred Scriptures, and the Mass into our daily actions. Spirituality has real meant in our lives and the lives of others because we connect to the source of that meaning, Jesus Christ and His Church. Stewardship is a way of living, not merely a program offered through a parish.

Spiritual Opportunities Ideas:

- Attend Daily Mass (Monday-Saturday).
- Pray the Rosary with your family and/or friends.
- Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet with your family and/or friends.
- Watch a Catholic movie with a good friend or family member.
- Read a Catholic book with a good friend or family member.
- Read a story from the bible with family and/or friends.
- Learn a Traditional prayer of the church that you don't already know and pray them.
- Visit the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays during Adoration in the Chapel.
- Learn about a saint.
- Go to a church event with family

Just a few ideas. More can be found here:

<https://www.catholicmom.com/>

<http://stjudes.org/suggestions-for-at-home-activities/>

"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." - 1 Peter 4:10



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SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Draw here:

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing or writing.

Spiritual Opportunity:



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SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Draw here:

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing or illustration.

Spiritual Opportunity:



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SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Draw here:

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing.

Spiritual Opportunity:



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First Communion & First Reconciliation Preparation Commitment Form:

All youths & parents please read and sign

- 1.) Practice their faith regularly by participating in the Mass on Sundays and Holy Days.
- 2.) Register for First Communion & Reconciliation Preparation on our website www.stlawrence.org/yff/
- 3.) Turn in a copy of your Baptism Certificate.
- 4.) Attend all sessions on the schedule. **Attendance is required for all sessions, retreats, rites, rehearsal, and the Sacrament.** *(The only excused absences are for illness (to the degree that a child is kept home from school) or a family emergency. A youth who has excessive absences will need to wait until the following year to celebrate the Sacrament. Scheduling conflicts such as sporting events, practices, or other extracurricular activities will NOT be considered an excused absence. Preparation for the Sacrament is expected to take precedence over those other types of activities).*
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I _____ have read and understand the requirements for the preparation of the Sacrament. I agree to having all paperwork turned in no later than Nov. 2, 2022. I agree to complete the items and I desire to be part of this process.

I _____ have received the requirements for the preparation of the Sacrament.

Youth's Signature: _____ Date _____

Parent's Signature: _____ Date _____