

St. Mary's Basilica CONFIRMATION AND FIRST EUCHARIST PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS 2023-2024

Our sacramental preparation program for Confirmation and First Eucharist, designed for third grade and above, is called *Together in Jesus*. The program consists of five integrated components that you and your child will need to complete before receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation and First Eucharist:



- Classroom Component with Parent / Caregiver
- Family Component
- Prayer Component
- Service Component
- Retreat Component

Classroom Component

Your child and you together will explore eight lessons throughout the year in a classroom:

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|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. I Belong to a Community. | September 10, 2023 |
| 2. I Prepare for Confirmation. | October 8, 2023 |
| 3. What Happens in Confirmation? | November 12, 2023 |
| 4. Our Community Remembers Jesus. | December 10, 2023 |
| 5. Jesus Gathers People Together. | January 14, 2024 |
| 6. Jesus' Special Supper. | February 11, 2024 |
| 7. Our Community Shares a Meal. | March 10, 2024 |
| 8. My First Eucharist Book. | April 14, 2024 |

For a parent home guide for each lesson visit:

[https://www.pflaum.com/documents/TIJ%20Home%20Guide%20Confirmation-LTv3\[1\].pdf](https://www.pflaum.com/documents/TIJ%20Home%20Guide%20Confirmation-LTv3[1].pdf)

Family Component

These eight lessons will be explored within your family setting. We recognize that what goes on in your home is the most important part of the sacramental preparation. We also recognize that parents and caregivers are tremendously busy these days, so our goal is to assist you in making sacramental preparation an enjoyable part of your family activities. *Together in Jesus* provides three sources of support and involvement for parents and caregivers.

These resources are:

- **Questions Parents Ask about Confirmation and First Eucharist**

These special handouts answer questions parents and caregivers frequently ask and seek to update them on the theology of Confirmation and First Eucharist.

- **Two Family Focus Posters**

Together in Jesus provides two special posters to display at home on your refrigerator or elsewhere and to be used as a focal point for family involvement in your child's Confirmation and First Eucharist preparation. **These posters feature a parent/child activity for each of the program's eight lessons that you will complete with your child and bring to each class.**

Lesson 1: **Due October 8th**

Lesson 2: **Due December 10th**

Lesson 3: **Due December 10th**

Lesson 4: **Due January 14th**

Lesson 5: **Due February 11th**

Lesson 6: **Due March 10th**

Lesson 7: **Due April 14th**

Lesson 8: **After Sacraments Celebrated**

- **Prayer Celebrations**

The *Teaching Guide* contains short prayer celebrations on the Confirmation and First Eucharist themes of each lesson in the *Together in Jesus* program. Parents can use these short prayer services at home during the weeks their children are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist.



*As often as you did it for one
of my least brothers, you did
it for me.*

Prayer Component

Please work with your child to help them memorize the following prayers that correspond to the lessons in *Together in Jesus* Confirmation and First Eucharist program. In addition, your child should have memorized the prayers from their First Reconciliation preparation. **Your child will recite their memorized prayer to their catechist (teacher) to fulfill the requirement.**

Memorize by October 8th

The Seven Sacraments

1. Baptism
2. Confirmation
3. Eucharist (Communion)
4. Penance and Reconciliation (Confession)
5. Anointing of the Sick
6. Holy Matrimony (Marriage)
7. Holy Orders

Memorized by November 12th

The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

1. Wisdom
2. Understanding
3. Knowledge
4. Right Judgment (Counsel)
5. Courage (Fortitude)
6. Reverence (Piety)
7. Wonder and Awe (Fear of the Lord)

Memorize by December 10th

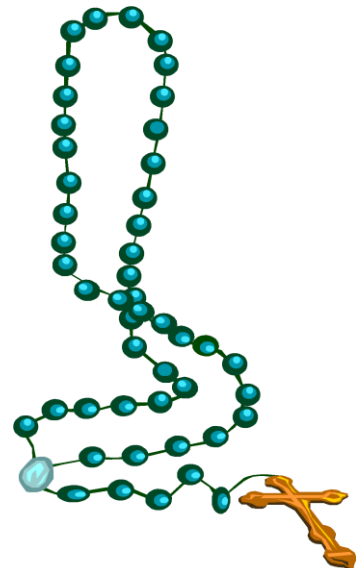
Grace Before Meals

Bless us, O Lord, and these thy gifts,
which we are about to receive
from thy bounty,
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Memorize by February 11th

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the
Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living
and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.



Memorize by March 10th

Hail, Holy Queen

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy,
Hail, our life, our sweetness, and our hope.
To you we cry, the children of Eve;
To you we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this land of exile.
Turn, then, most gracious advocate,
Your eyes of mercy toward us;
Lead us home at last
and show us the blessed fruit
of your womb, Jesus:
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.
Salve, Regina.
Amen.

Reviewed by April 14th

Your child now knows all the individual prayers that together form the Rosary.

Choose one set of the Mysteries of the Rosary each week to pray with your child to help them learn how to pray the Rosary.

How to Pray the Rosary

1. Pray and make the Sign of the Cross and say the Apostles' Creed.
2. Pray the Lord's Prayer.
3. Pray three Hail Marys.
4. Pray the Glory Be to the Father.
5. Say the first mystery; then pray the Lord's Prayer.
6. Pray ten Hail Marys while meditating on the mystery.
7. Pray the Glory Be to the Father.
8. Say the second mystery; then pray the Lord's Prayer. Repeat steps 6 and 7 and continue with the third, fourth, and fifth mysteries in the same manner.
9. Pray the Hail, Holy Queen.
10. Pray and make the Sign of the Cross.

Mysteries of the Rosary

Joyful: The Annunciation of the Lord to Mary; The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth; The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ; The Presentation of Our Lord; and the Finding Jesus in the Temple at age 12.

Sorrowful: The Agony of Jesus in the Garden; The Scourging at the Pillar; Jesus is Crowned with Thorns; Jesus Carried the Cross; and The Crucifixion of the Lord.

Glorious: The Resurrection of Jesus Christ; The Ascension of Jesus to Heaven; The Descent of the Holy Spirit; The Assumption of Mary into Heaven; and Mary is Crowned as Queen of Heaven and Earth.

Luminous: The Baptism in the Jordan; The Wedding at Cana; The Proclamation of the Kingdom; The Transfiguration; and the Institution of the Eucharist.



Service Component

Due April 14, 2024

The Diocese of Phoenix requires that sacramental preparation includes a service component. **Your family and child will engage in 8 hours of parish service.** Practicing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy is a visible sign of lifelong faith. St. Mary's Basilica will make available opportunities for services throughout the year. **Fill out the *Community Service Forms* and return them to your catechist upon completion by April 14, 2024.**

Retreat Component

A retreat for children and their parents preparing to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist is planned a few weeks before we celebrate Confirmation and First Eucharist. This is a time to reflect upon the Church's teachings on the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist and a time to rehearse for the sacramental experience.

Date: To be announced.

Time: To be announced.

Location: St. Mary's Basilica – Diocesan Pastoral Center

Select a Confirmation Name

Due April 14, 2024

A Confirmation candidate is strongly encouraged to be confirmed under his or her baptismal name, or in accordance with the past custom of the Church, select the name of a biblical, beatified, or canonized person as recognized by the Church. If candidates decide to select a name, they should be familiar with the life of the patron of their choice and how this person was a witness to Christ and demonstrated discipleship. **Your child will create a saint poster with the above information and share it during a coffee and donut hour after the 9 AM Mass.**

Select a Confirmation Sponsor

Due March 10, 2024

Every candidate should have a Confirmation sponsor. Candidates may have more than one sponsor, however, only one should be designated as the liturgical sponsor who presents the candidate for Confirmation. It is desirable that baptismal godparents, as extensions of the spiritual family, continue this role at Confirmation. Sponsors should be actively involved in the child's life of faith before, during, and after Confirmation.

Qualifications of a sponsor

Sponsors must be at least sixteen years old. They cannot be the biological or adoptive parents of the Confirmation candidate. They must be fully initiated into the Catholic Faith (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist). They must be leading a life in harmony with the Faith. They must be free of any canonical impediment (RC 5-6; Canon 874, 892-893; CCC 1311; RCIA 10.2).

Child's Readiness

The Diocese of Phoenix states, "Parents discern the readiness of their children to prepare for and celebrate the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist in consultation with their pastor or his delegate." The following are the criteria for readiness at St. Mary's Basilica:

- An awareness of God's unconditional love for them.
- Regular participation in Sunday Mass. (*Determined by attendance at CLOW.*)
- Prayer is a part of the child's life and is also experienced within their family. (*Determined by reciting memorized prayers to the catechist.*)
- Must have previously been prepared for and received the Sacrament of Reconciliation (*ordinarily occurs in Second Grade*).
- Must be properly instructed. (*Needs to complete Together in Jesus Confirmation and First Eucharist program, a curriculum found to be in conformity with the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which is required by the Diocese of Phoenix.*)
- Consistent attendance at formation sessions. (*Does not miss more than three Children's Faith Formation sessions and/or one Confirmation and First Eucharist session.*)
- Must be capable of renewing their Baptismal promises.
- Participation in a Family Sacraments of Initiation Retreat. (*A few weeks before celebrating the sacraments*)
- Willingness to participate in community service. (*Complete 8 hours of Parish Services as a family.*)

Together in Jesus Confirmation and First Eucharist program at St. Mary's Basilica has been designed to fulfill the requirements put forth in the *Diocese of Phoenix Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist Policy and Guidelines 2009*. By completing the above preparation components, your child will meet the above criteria for readiness to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist.

In addition, the Diocese of Phoenix requires that children in Confirmation and First Eucharist preparation be involved in the parish's ongoing catechetical formation program (Children's Faith Formation). To assist overscheduled families we have integrated Confirmation and First Eucharist preparation into our Faith Formation program to alleviate the need for families to participate on a separate night. **Because of this accommodation, your child may miss three (3) Sunday Faith Formation sessions and may miss one (1) Confirmation and First Eucharist session. However, you will need to complete the missed Confirmation and First Eucharist session assignments.** Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.