

First Reconciliation/Communion Requirements

Saint Mary of the Hill Parish offers the following guidelines for those wishing to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion, building upon those listed in the Canon that the First Communicant:

- Have sufficient knowledge and careful preparation so that they understand the mystery of Christ according to their capacity (c.913)

To ensure careful preparation is achieved, those wishing to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion through St. Mary of the Hill need to:

✚ Enroll in and participate in the Family Faith Formation program

“Children require adequate spiritual and catechetical formation in their preparation for the reception of First Communion. However, the approach is not limited to teaching things about the sacrament, but also includes initiating children into a Christian way of living in and worshipping in a community. Catechesis leads children to discover the joy of living in communion with God and with others. A child’s family and the Christian community’s day-by-day living of the Christian life becomes the first step in a child’s preparation to receive this sacrament.” (Sacramental Guidelines of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee)

✚ Participate in Youth Masses

“Catechesis on the Mass provided in systematic parish catechetical programs is an indispensable part of the preparation of children for their first reception of the Eucharist.” (National Directory of Catechesis 36,A,3a)

✚ Participate in Family Focus Sundays

“Catechesis can help strengthen the family bond of interchurch families through hospitality, including everyone in activities and encouraging them to celebrate what is held in common.” (National Directory for Catechesis 61,A,2)

✚ Attend the scheduled Faith Formation classes for Sacramental Preparation. If a child is absent, they will be required to make up the material missed before the next class. The Child Minister will provide the materials missed. Any more than 3 absences will result in a discussion with the Child Minister and Father.

✚ Participate in the 2 Sacramental Retreats with at least one parent: Reconciliation Retreat in December and First Communion Retreat in April. These will be scheduled at the discretion of Father’s availability.

✚ Make a First Communion Banner

✚ Parents will be given formation materials specific to the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist to provide them with:

- An adult understanding of theology and experience of the Eucharist in their lives
- An adult understanding and appreciation of grace, sin & conversion through Reconciliation
- An understanding of the historical development of the sacraments in the life of the Church and the Rites that exist today
- Obtain an explanation of how to assist their child in preparation of First Reconciliation & Communion
(Sacramental Guidelines from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee)

In addition, St. Mary of the Hill encourages parents to participate in the Lifelong Learning program that meets at the same time as the Faith Formation Sacramental prep classes to enrich their own faith.

“The catechesis offered should help parents grow in their own understanding and appreciation of the Eucharist and enable them to catechize their children more effectively.” (National Directory of Catechesis 36,A,3a)

Pastor Signature

Fr. John Pottas, OCS

Date

Sept 8, 2021