

---

*Saint Michael the Archangel Church*

**RECONCILIATION  
AND  
FIRST  
COMMUNION  
HANDBOOK**

---

# MISSION

Saint Michael's Reconciliation and First Communion program is a sacramental preparation program focused in catechesis and formation to prepare each child to receive the mercy and love of our Lord in these two Sacraments.

## PREPARATION REQUIREMENTS

- Attendance and participation in catechesis at Saint Michael's Family of Faith programming for 2nd grade, following the prerequisite of participation in 1st grade
- Attendance at a 4 part in person series for Reconciliation | 6:15-7:15
  - **November 9th: One parent and child**
  - **November 16th: Child only**
  - **November 23rd: Child only**
  - **November 30th: One parent and child/  
Penance Service**
- Attendance at a 3 part in person series for the Eucharist | 6:15-7:15
  - **April 12th: One parent and one child**
  - **April 19th: Child only**
  - **April 26th: Child only**
- First Communion Mass: **May 1st | 1pm**

# FIRST COMMUNION MASS

## **Arrival:**

Children should arrive no later than 30 minutes before their scheduled Mass time, unless you have scheduled an appointment before Mass for individual photographs with the photographer. Parents will check in at the welcome table, and take a moment to double check student's attire, take them to the restroom and assist them to their line for the procession. Parents can then take a seat in their assigned pew/row.

## **Seating:**

Students will be seated together in a group at the very front of the church. Families will be assigned seating by a lottery system, in pews behind the students. Each family will be given one pew. Any additional family members or guests that cannot fit in the pew with the family will have the option of sitting towards the back of the church behind all of the assigned pews.

## **Attire:**

Boys: Dress pants with a white button down shirt and a tie. Jackets are optional.

Girls: White dress with a length below the knee. Be careful that the length isn't too long that it will cause them to trip! Veils, headbands, flowers in the hair, and gloves are optional. If gloves are worn, they must be taken off before receiving the Body and Blood of Christ.

Parents/Guests: Sunday Best! Don't let your children be dressed better than you!

**Photography:**

We will have a professional photographer to commemorate this important and sacred day for your child and your family. Individual photos can be scheduled before Mass, and a group photo will be taken after Mass. Fr. Dinovo and Fr. Herge will remain for a few minutes after Mass for children who wish to have their picture taken with them. Out of respect for the solemnity of the Mass and in order to provide all with the opportunity for full, active, and prayerful participation in the Liturgy, there will be no photography or video permitted during Mass. The photographers will be sure to capture the moment of reception of their First Communion on film and/or video, so that you can fully enjoy the celebration. Photography and video order forms will be made available in the spring. Only approved professional photographers will be allowed to take pictures during mass. Parents and families are welcome to take their own photographs after Mass if they wish. After the procession of the clergy, children and parents will remain in their seats. The children will be lined up in front of the sanctuary for photos by the photographer. Please remain seated until the photographer has finished taking the group photo. Then, parents will be dismissed by pew to take their own photograph of the group.

# CONTACT US

Katie Roden, Director of Evangelization  
[kroden@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto:kroden@saintmichael-cd.org)

Maggie Maurer, Director of Catechesis  
[msimon@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto:msimon@saintmichael-cd.org)

Website: [saintmichael-cd.org](http://saintmichael-cd.org)