



ST. GREGORY THE GREAT
CATHOLIC CHURCH | VIRGINIA BEACH

Preparation for First Reconciliation & First Communion 2026-2027

Dear Parents,

We are looking forward to working with you during this very important and exciting year! This letter is to provide you with registration information and important dates for our sacramental preparation program for First Reconciliation & First Communion.

Who can prepare for First Reconciliation & First Communion?

Beginning at the age of 7, which typically coincides with 2nd Grade, a child who has already been baptized becomes eligible to prepare for and receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. This does not mean, however, that every 2nd Grade child and family is *ready* to prepare for and receive Holy Communion. As parents, it is your right and responsibility to discern with your child whether he or she is ready to begin preparation for Holy Communion by considering the following questions:

- Is your child interested in receiving Holy Communion?
- Does your child have a sense of belonging to the Catholic community?
- Does your child participate in Sunday Mass according to his or her ability?
- Does your child pray at home?
- Does your child relate to Jesus as one who loves and cares for him or her?
- Does your child understand that he or she is expected to care for others?
- Is your family active members of St. Gregory the Great Church? Please note, your child must receive the Sacraments at the church you attend.

Registration Forms:

- **Sacrament Registration Form** – All families need to complete this form: <https://www.stgregoryvabeach.org/sacraments/eucharist> and email it to Marjorie Lamb at Marjorie@StGregorysVa.org or drop off in the church office. Hard copies are also available on the bulletin board outside the church office.
- **PREP Registration** – Only those families who **do not attend** a Catholic school need to register for and attend our **Parish Religious Education Program** on Tuesday nights. Registration for PREP is being done online at <https://www.stgregoryvabeach.org/religious-education-programs/k-8>.

Baptismal certificate:

We need a copy of your child's Baptismal certificate, dated no longer than 9 months ago, if they **were not** baptized here at Saint Gregory's. You will need to contact the church of Baptism and ask for an "updated annotated Sacramental Record". Please submit this as soon as possible.

Cost:

- The cost for **Sacramental Preparation** is \$50 per student by August 31st. It will increase to \$60 on September 1st. **All** families pay this fee.
- The cost for **PREP** is \$50/student or \$150/family by August 31st. It will increase to \$60/student \$180/family on September 1st.
SGGS families **do not pay the PREP registration fee.**

Schedule:

Please make sure that you put the following dates on your calendar so there will be no delay in the reception of these Sacraments. The dates are **mandatory** and there will be no makeup sessions.

Sacraments Parent Meeting: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 @ 6:30 PM in the Church

Reconciliation Retreat & Parent Workshop:

Saturday, October 17, 2026
9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

First Holy Communion Retreat & Parent Workshop:

Saturday, January 23, 2027
9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Celebration of First Reconciliation: Tuesday, April 20, 2027 @ 6 PM

First Holy Communion Rehearsal: Friday, April 23, 2027

5:30-6:30 PM (A-L) 6:45-7:45 PM (M-Z)

Sacrament of First Holy Communion: Saturday, April 24, 2027

10 AM Mass (A-L) 1 PM Mass (M-Z)

Please reach out to me with any questions or concerns you may have. We are here to support you and journey with you toward each child's first experience of the graces of Reconciliation and Holy Communion with our Lord. I look forward to working with you all during this special year.

Blessings,

Mrs. Janet D. Ficca, Coordinator of Religious Education K-8

(757) 497-8330 x306

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